

November 12, 2016

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In 2015, the clergy in the Deanery of West Quebec, under the guidance of Archdeacon Mavis Brownlee, prayerfully decided to convene a group of lay leaders and clergy from across the Deanery to discern God's plan for the Anglican Church in our region.

Over the past several decades church numbers have been in decline, churches have been struggling to keep open, been converted to chapels or have closed completely. Perhaps God was calling us to reflect on how we are to be church in the 21st century; become a new vessel for worship, proclaiming the gospel, making disciples and loving our neighbours.

In April 2016, almost 40 lay leaders and clergy met to discern God's plan for the churches in our Deanery. This resulted in "**Vision 2021**" highlighting **Ten Key Strategic Outcomes (KSO's)** that describe what we believe God's church will look like in West Quebec by the end of 2021, the rationale and other supporting information.

Using the Vision 2021 as a foundation for action, in September almost 50 gathered again to determine, in the context of the Ten KSO's, what actions needed to be taken in the next year at the Deanery level to move us all forward to becoming this church.

This day long process resulted in the thirteen Deanery Objectives highlighted in the attached report "**Deanery Operating Plan – 2017**" that will start the process of becoming a new church.

Bishop John in the strategic diocesan document "**Embracing God's Future**" published in 2014 and most recently in his comments at our September meeting in Shawville, encouraged us to determine for ourselves the future of our churches in West Quebec. The shape and design of our churches must come from the people and the Diocese will assist and support those plans.

Embracing God's Future established five practices and concluded with five priorities that, when laid alongside the work we have done for the Deanery, are amazingly well aligned. We, who worked on this Deanery vision and plan did not intentionally set out seeking this, but then who should be surprised at how God works to renew the church.

The five practices are as follows:-

- 1. We will pray and listen for the prompting of Spirit**
- 2. We will work collaboratively**
- 3. We will be courageous, embrace change and take risks**
- 4. We will monitor, review and renew our ministries and initiatives**
- 5. We will budget to implement our priorities**

The five priorities at the diocesan level are:-

- 1. Buildings and shape of parish ministry**
- 2. Engagement with the world**
- 3. Lifelong formation**
- 4. Worship and hospitality**
- 5. Communication**

The lay leaders and clergy who have worked on this project over the past eight months are now publishing the Deanery Operating Plan - 2017 to all the churches in the Deanery. We are also publishing Vision 2021, (Parts 1 and 2) and the Ten KSO's to our Deanery work team to have as available support documents should any church member wish to read about the whole process we followed.

We hope to inspire and engage the churches in West Quebec to develop prayerfully their own activities and initiatives consistent with the Deanery Objectives, as the Holy Spirit leads.

We invite each of you who read this to prayerfully review and respond to Vision 2021 and its Ten Key Strategic Outcomes and the Deanery Operating Plan – 2017 and its 13 Deanery Objectives. Please share your thoughts and ideas with the lay leaders and/or clergy in your church who worked on this over the past eight months and most of all let's all get down to transforming and renewing our churches.

God bless you all

Reverend Canon Allan Budzin

The Venerable Mavis Brownlee

Interim Archdeacon Deanery of West Quebec Archdeacon, Deanery of West Quebec