

Vision for 2025 – Day 1: Report to Parish

On November 7, 2015 the first Parish Visioning Day was held to begin the development of a 10 Year Parish Vision and Plan. It was a very successful event that was attended by more than 25 members of the Parish.

The day opened with the Rev. Herbert O'Driscoll whose talk provided context on the history of church development, current trends in the global church, and a vision of the future of the Church and Spirituality. It was a very thought provoking address, challenging us to acknowledge our personal choice to commit to the Church and our individual and shared spiritual journeys. Following Herbert O'Driscoll's address the attendees worked in small groups to discuss and provide responses to three questions:

1. What excites you about the coming decade?
2. As we look to 2025 and St. Philip's 100th Anniversary, what are you hoping St. Philip's will look like then?
3. What are your concerns for St. Philip's over the next ten years?

After a lovely coffee and tea break provided by the Fellowship Committee, a brief review of past parish strategic visioning and goal setting reports was presented. St. Philip's has embraced the previous processes and been very successful in achieving identified goals. The small groups formed again to discuss these questions:

1. What do we want to be known for?
2. What should we be doing now?
3. What should we be doing in 2025?

After a brief presentation of images from the last 10 years the full group participated in an open ideas generation discussion followed by an ideas exercise. Seven categories were presented to organize ideas for new initiatives and demonstrate support for current activities.

The Venerable John Stephens wrapped up the day with reflections on his attendance at the Annual General Meeting of the Compass Rose Society in London, UK and a meeting he attended with the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop named his three priorities for the coming year and some of the steps being undertaken to achieve those goals: Prayer, Evangelism and Reconciliation of the Anglican Communion.

Participants were enthusiastic and provided a great deal of input through all three feedback and answer sessions. The responses received throughout the day are summarized below organized under the seven themes and reflecting the most frequent or consistent responses shared throughout the day. The original question and response sheets as well as the original ideas posters have been kept to continue to inform the visioning process. More opportunities will be provided to gather input to the visioning process. Please watch the bulletin and Parish emails for future events and opportunities.

Summary of Responses and Ideas from

Visioning Day 1

1) Community Formation & Support

St. Philip's strives to be a vibrant, dynamic, hopeful community providing support to individuals and our community while ensuring relevancy in a constantly changing society. We are enthusiastic about maintaining and growing our relationships in the community including building multi-faith and multi-cultural connections.

Sample Ideas for Action

- Communications design: social media – facebook, Instagram, twitter; email; website improvements; and bulletins
- Expand social events for all ages
- Invite in the community by offering a variety of informal activities: Daily 'open door' for meditation, music making, story time (kids), creativity, or reading.
- Ensure an inviting, non-threatening space
- Support a refugee family
- Discussions of current social issues

2) Spiritual Formation

We support, learn from and challenge each other on our personal spiritual exploration. St. Philip's acknowledges our responsibility as God's stewards of the earth working to incorporate our faith in the environmental context.

Sample Ideas for Action

- Prayer groups for specific issues
- Discussion groups on theology and social issues
- Offer morning prayer and evening prayer on the website
- Expand Christian Education events that bring people from outside
- Speakers on spirituality and modern life
- Interfaith speakers

3) Worship

As a spiritual community we are centred upon a liturgy which is life-giving and relevant to our daily lives and supports celebration and growth in our faith and spiritual development.

Sample Ideas for Action

Sunday Morning:

- Thought of the day (week) presented by a parishioner of any age
- Continue a variety of liturgies
- Consider web broadcast of our services – would make great use of our sound system
- Create a stronger sense of community in worship – eg. worship in the round

Other Times:

- Evensong once a month
- Worship at a variety of times and styles (eg. celtic tradition)
- Environment center theology - Environmental discussion group open to general community
- Weekly vigil for peace for general community re: weekly news all faiths invited

4) Music

Music is an integral part of the life of our Parish. We will remain active in including and expanding the variety and opportunities for music in our worship, fellowship and spiritual formation.

Sample Ideas for Action

Worship:

- Children's choir
- Musical celebration for each of the Church's festivals
- More Musica Intima

Reaching Out:

- Love the idea of a community sing-a-long
- Public music events- great acoustics in the church
- Continue and expand concerts and evensong – eg. gospel, jazz
- A singing drop-in – maybe Friday night – a dynamic leader – perhaps Gospel or pop music- for people to de -stress. Doesn't matter if you can sing.

5) Developing the Church Family

We are a multi-generational community of diverse individuals that strive to ensure all are and feel accepted, included and safe. We will listen and respond to our children and youth creating a

community of young people and their families who find support through shared experience and faith. Our elders provide the invaluable contributions of continuity, experience and wisdom that build and maintain the Parish as society continues to change. We will ensure inclusivity in worship and all of our programming.

Sample Ideas for Action

- Youth events occurring weekly/monthly and advertised in wider community
- Using and showcasing talents- art displays, talents shows, etc
- Continue pastoral care tradition
- Have a variety of services and times for activities to include all ages and stages
- Consider accessibility of events

6) Building and Space Use

Our physical facilities, both buildings and property, provide value through their support of St. Philip's mission to the parish community and the local neighbourhood. We will continue to engage the community by inviting the use of the buildings and gardens for gathering, for inspiration, for reflection, and for healing. We are committed to ensuring our physical assets be maintained and renewed to ensure they support the current and developing needs of the Parish

Sample Ideas for Action

Worship Spaces:

- Better use of space particularly renewal of the chapel
- Alter space to accommodate changing needs
- The buildings and community must be welcoming to all
- Advertise when the church will be open so people can drop in for reflection

Other Spaces:

- Work towards improving or rebuilding the hall, office spaces and bowling alley
- Make church a greener place (gardens & buildings)
- Have space available for a multitude of groups and interests – community, art sessions, music events, etc
- Redesign gardens and grounds – for example create vegetable garden with plots; meditative gardens, etc.
- Consider: buildings as an emergency resource; forming a school; seniors facility, etc.

7) Other - Sample Ideas for Action not associated with another heading

- Continue fiscal responsibility and fiscal development
- Recognize that our parish boundaries mean nothing now
- Parish nurse – connects with comments on pastoral care and developing the church family
- Be willing to risk for 2025