



The Venerable The Archdeacon of Saint Francis
Anglican Diocese of Quebec

9th September 2015

Dear Friends,

During the last two months the Parish of St Barnabas, North Hatley has been actively engaged in the first phase of its discernment process about its future. This first phase will be coming to an end after three one and a half hour coffee gatherings. In order to ensure that everyone will have an opportunity to be heard, the Corporation decided to hold three different gatherings on different days and at different times. It is expected that individuals will come to only one of the three:

13TH SEPTEMBER AT 4PM
16TH SEPTEMBER AT 7PM
18TH SEPTEMBER AT 10AM.

Three questions will be asked and answers and ideas will be posted:

- 1) GIVEN WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE PAST DURING THE LAST MEETINGS, DOES THE PARISH NEED A PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION?
- 2) WHAT SHOULD THE FUTURE LIFE OF ST BARNABAS AND ITS MINISTRY AND MISSION BE?
- 3) WHAT TANGIBLE THINGS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE PARISH TO MOVE FORWARD (FINANCES, PERSONNEL, VISION, MISSION, WORSHIP, STRUCTURES)?

These will be held at the house of the Rector's Warden, Joan Drinkwater at 21 Hatley Acres. Direction may be found at the end of this letter.

On Sunday the 20th of September at 4pm in the church hall a gathering of all those who have participated thus far will be held to review all the ideas that came out of the three coffee gatherings earlier in the week.

This will conclude the first phase of the process. Thus far we have explored various congregational development modules to help better understand and be better prepared for the task of discernment. The modules used were:

- 1) UNDERSTANDING TRANSITION AND MANAGING CHANGE
- 2) HISTORY TAKING AND UNDERSTANDING
- 3) CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT 101
- 4) CONFLICT AWARENESS
- 5) POWER, INFLUENCE, AUTHORITY AND CONTROL IN THE CONGREGATION
- 6) GOAL SETTING FOR EFFECTIVE MINISTRY: HEARING GOD'S CALL

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I have been very pleased with the high turnout at these meetings. Considering the average attendance at church we have had between a 50% to 60% turnout. For those of you used to this type of work you will know this is quite remarkable. I have been even more encouraged by the growing freedom of participants to express personal points of view and personal history about being a member of the parish. Some of the issues discussed have brought up unpleasant aspects of congregational behaviour in the past and the healthy way the participants owned this and looked positively to the future is laudable.

The second phase of the discernment process has already begun and has been running parallel with the first phase. The Corporation or I have been meeting with community leaders to listen to their concerns about the wider community and take their advice about what we might be able to do to both better the life of the people of North Hatley, the Canton as well as the surrounding areas. Five visits have already been made. Once the visitations are completed a list of suggestions will be put to the congregation and a report by the Corporation made available.

The third phase of the discernment will focus on the practical aspects of the short term and long term future of the parish. This process will take into account all of the information gathered during phases one and two, the gifts and charisms of the parish, as well as the practical financial and personnel requirements. This process will be undertaken by a smaller group of those who have already been part of the discernment process. Their suggestions will be made to the whole parish and discussed at Vestry.

I hope those of you who have yet to express views about the parish's future will undertake to attend one of the upcoming coffee gatherings. I would like to thank the Corporation for its hard work during the last two months. We have been meeting every two weeks for two hours, which has been rather a strain. I would also like to thank the many people who have attended the discernment meetings and expressed themselves so openly.

*Yours in Christ,
Edward OGS*

DIRECTIONS TO THE COFFEE GATHERINGS

GO ALONG MAIN STREET PAST THE POST OFFICE AND LIBRARY THEN TAKE THE LEFT FORK GOING UP THE HILL WHEN STREET DIVIDES. CONTINUE ON THIS ROAD PAST THE GOLF COURSE CLUB HOUSE YOU GO PAST THE FIRST ROAD (HIGHLAND) TO THE 2ND TURN TO THE RIGHT HATLEY ACRES (MARKED BY STONE PILLARS) TO THE FIRST DRIVEWAY TO THE LEFT. IT'S A WINDING ONE AND LEADS TO A DARK BLUE HOUSE WITH CREAM TRIM.

JOAN DRINKWATER: 819 842 2640