



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE *of*
OTTAWA

EMBRACING GOD'S FUTURE WE ARE READY TO GO!

Prepared for Synod, November 2014

A STRATEGIC ROADMAP
FOR THE DIOCESE OF OTTAWA



INTRODUCTION

Embracing God's Future (EGF) is an exciting journey, calling us to joyfully live a dynamic faith as disciples of Jesus. We have prayed, listened to scripture, and talked to one another.

First, we asked, "What is God's dream for the church?" Hundreds of people participated across the Diocese. Then, by grace, the *EGF Prayer* emerged (see back cover).

As the *Prayer* was prayed in dozens of gatherings throughout the Diocese, we asked what we are being specifically called to do at this time. What priorities and practices should we adopt?

Many people were inspired, excited and inclined to action. And, as the *Prayer* revealed a call to embrace changes, many also expressed feelings of being overwhelmed, wondering how such a call could ever be realized. One response seemed to sum up the effect of the prayer: "God is calling us to do something, not everything."

The *Prayer* revealed to us a remarkable vision of God's dream for our church. Like any prayer, it will continue to reveal things as it is prayed, and we will grow and evolve as we listen for God's reply.

The *Prayer* is both an expression of our hope and a way to guide us into living a grace-filled, dynamic faith. Our responses to the *Prayer* were critical to the discernment of the practices and priorities contained in this *Strategic Roadmap for the Diocese of Ottawa* (Roadmap).

The Spirit of God has given us some points of the compass to follow in faith, and we are ready to go!

WHO WE ARE CALLED TO BE

We are in the midst of a very exciting time for our church. People throughout the Diocese have prayed and spoken to a strong sense that our hearts and minds – our attitudes about ourselves – are changing. We are ready to embrace new ways of being church.

Even if we sometimes warily name the challenges we face, we share a joyful desire for transformation, discipleship, risk-taking, and deep collaboration across the generations, communities and parishes of the Diocese.

The *Prayer* gave voice to a rich, renewed understanding of who we believe God is calling us to be:

- rooted in God, disciples of Jesus
- empowered by the Holy Spirit
- grounded in a biblical, sacramental and liturgical tradition
- diverse and open
- aware of the challenges currently facing us
- ready to be risk takers, to courageously embrace change
- called to action, to live and share a dynamic faith
- called to engage people of all ages and in every stage of life
- called to be in relationship with the world, locally, nationally, internationally
- called to pursue justice and compassion
- serving together with transparency, authenticity, flexibility and self evaluation
- serving together collaboratively and supportively whenever we can
- driven by love, for God and for our neighbours

WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO DO

The ministries of our Diocese and parishes have been going on for many years, and some changes are already afoot, just as solid, valuable ministry continues to happen in many places. We are not called to set a course for every aspect of diocesan life, but we are called to address five key priorities for the immediate future that were discerned in the *Prayer*. More than one member of Diocesan Council wrote in response to the Roadmap that “the real work is just beginning.”

Some of these priorities for the immediate future will be addressed by the Diocese as a whole, through the leadership of the Bishop and Diocesan Council. Others will be addressed by parishes through the leadership of incumbent clergy and lay leaders, with support from the Bishop and the Diocese.

The conversations ensuing from the *Prayer* also identified several practices to be followed as we address five key priorities for the immediate future. As we move forward, we are called to try new things in new ways.

WE ARE READY TO EMBRACE NEW WAYS OF BEING CHURCH.

PRACTICES

1. We will pray and listen for the prompting of Spirit

We understand ourselves to be a people of prayer, abiding in the love of God. We will continue to pray, including the *EGF Prayer*, to ensure that our strategic thinking and acting reflect who we are as disciples of Jesus.

2. We will work collaboratively

We have overwhelmingly cried out that we must work collaboratively: between the Bishop's Office and the parishes, among parishes, among clergy, between clergy and laity, between rural and urban communities, and with our partners as we engage the world. We eschew congregationalism, competitiveness and negativity. We will commit in all things, especially in areas of great challenge with many interests, to hold to the imperative of working collaboratively.

3. We will be courageous, embrace change and take risks

A new spirit is upon us, and we feel called to be open to change and willing to take risks. We feel a sense of urgency and a need to take action now. We will courageously explore new ways of being church. We will give ourselves permission to experiment, and to succeed or fail when trying new things.

4. We will monitor, review and renew our ministries and initiatives

We asked what we needed to relinquish, renew and embrace as we listened to what the prayer revealed. We will be transparent and thorough about the faithfulness and effectiveness of our ministries. We will self-evaluate and will learn from both our successes and mistakes.

5. We will budget to implement our priorities

We are called to undertake changes that will impact our financial stewardship, requiring the realignment of our resources consistent with these practices and priorities. Our next diocesan budget will be guided and informed by this *Roadmap*.

PRIORITIES

1. Buildings and the shape of parish ministry

Consistently, and overwhelmingly, our *Prayer* revealed an imperative to make the stewardship of our real estate and the reshaping of parish ministry a priority. A great many responses named the call to develop, repurpose or dispose of buildings. Closely aligned to this was a frequent call to reduce the number of parishes through amalgamations and to examine the methods by which clergy and parishes delivery ministry. Through the stewardship of our buildings and people, we are now driven by a realistic, renewed sense of vision for ministry in our time.

Action to be taken

The **Bishop** and **Diocesan Council**, in **collaboration with people throughout the Diocese**, will initiate as soon as possible a comprehensive process to explore and take action on issues surrounding the stewardship of our buildings and the reshaping of parish ministry.

2. Engagement with the world

Our *Prayer* revealed a call for more active and intentional engagement with the world through service, social justice, evangelism, partnerships, or ecumenical and interfaith relationships. We acknowledge God's grace already at work through others and we humbly seek to be in relationship with all God's people. This is a priority that already impacts many aspects of our common life. Our Community Ministries engage the world in direct service and social justice around issues such as homelessness and mental health, often in dynamic partnerships. The Bishop's Office engages the world in many ways, including, for example, the Government Relations Advisory Panel and our companionship with the Diocese of Jerusalem. Parishes engage the world through evangelism, social service and neighbourhood partnerships.

Action to be taken

The **Bishop** and **Diocesan Council** will explore the various ways we currently engage the world, to clarify roles and responsibilities, discern new initiatives, and set particular priorities. The **Outreach Committee** and the **Parish Ministry Committee** will collaborate to provide ways of empowering parishes to strategically discern how to actively engage the world in their unique contexts.

3. Lifelong formation

Our *Prayer* revealed a specific call to engage youth and young adults, and also to place importance on being a dynamic, multi-generational church, where people of all ages are engaged. Particular emphasis was given to knowledge of scripture, spiritual practice, education, stewardship, and intentionally engaging children and their parents.

Action to be taken

The **Parish Ministry Committee** will focus on providing resources and events to support parishes in cultivating a culture of lifelong formation. Staff and resources of the **Bishop's Office** will support specific parishes seeking to enhance their ministries in lifelong formation.

4. Worship and hospitality

Our *Prayer* revealed the integral call to gather for worship and to welcome newcomers and those already in our midst. Worship and hospitality are named as central to our identity and critical to our future. We are called to full expressions of worship and inclusivity in our parish communities.

Action to be taken

The **Parish Ministry Committee** will focus on providing learning events to support parishes in enlivening worship and increasing capacity for hospitality. Staff and resources of the **Bishop's Office** will be offered to parishes seeking support to address issues around worship and hospitality.

5. Communications

Our *Prayer* revealed an urgent need to improve communication. We are called to immediately increase our ability to share information with each other across deaneries, communities, parishes, and the Bishop's Office. We must develop communication that is multi-faceted and embraces new technology and social media.

Action to be taken

The **Communications Advisory Panel** will consult widely and make recommendations to the **Bishop** for improved communication throughout the Diocese.

**WORSHIP AND HOSPITALITY ARE
NAMED AS CENTRAL TO OUR IDENTITY
AND CRITICAL TO OUR FUTURE.**

BACKGROUND

Embracing God's Future is an initiative of Diocesan Council launched in January 2013. Diocesan Council mandated that this ongoing process of prayerful discernment and strategic thinking be guided by spiritual practice and theological reflection; that it honour the diversity of the Diocese; that it be open and transparent; and that it face the ministry and fiscal challenges of our day. This *Strategic Roadmap for the Diocese of Ottawa* is the result of many months of discussion and reflection by hundreds of people from every part of our Diocese.

Conversations was the first phase of the EGF initiative, involving eleven gatherings across the Diocese, as well as an e-version on the diocesan website. Participants responded to the question "What is God's dream for the Church?" The *Conversations* phase wrapped up in November 2013, having included over 500 participants and generating over 2,000 responses. After analysis and reflection, key themes emerged in the form of a prayer for the ministry entrusted to the Diocese of Ottawa (reproduced on the back cover of this document).

The *Prayer* is our quest to understand, in a comprehensive way, God's call to us as a church at this point in time. In the spring of 2014, the *Prayer* was set before the Diocese by way of a self-directed Toolkit that enabled groups and individuals to pray and reflect on its words. During a three-month period over 750 people from across the Diocese, in more than 125 events and individual engagements, responded to the *Prayer*. (A sample of the responses to the *Prayer* is found in the Appendix.) This *Roadmap* is the product of these responses.

WHAT IS GOD'S DREAM FOR THE CHURCH?

APPENDIX SAMPLE OF RESPONSES TO THE PRAYER

This appendix includes rough data from the round of conversations in the spring of 2014. The *EGF Prayer* was set before the Diocese and a number of questions asked as a means for people to respond to the prayer. The purpose was to identify priorities and practices for a strategic roadmap.

Below is a brief summary of the spring's conversations:

- There were seven training sessions, attended by 160 people throughout the Diocese equipping parish leaders to use the EGF Toolkit in their parishes or other contexts in order to respond to the *EGF Prayer*.
- There were 135 entries into the online data collector, 80 from group events and 55 from individuals.
- While not all entries included the number of attendees, at least 652 people participated in an EGF conversation this spring (a conservative estimate).
- Multiple parishes from each deanery participated in EGF, sometimes facilitating more than one event per parish.
- Committees of Diocesan Council were also active participants.

The data that follows in this appendix has been pulled from the responses to questions 3 and 4 that were discussed in the spring conversations:

3. As a diocese and in our parishes, how are we called to act? What do we need to relinquish, renew or embrace in response to this prayer? What do we need to stop doing, continue doing or start doing?
4. What priorities and practices need to be in place to enable these things to happen?

The statements have been categorized and aligned with the priorities and practices of the *Roadmap*. The statements appear here more or less in the same form as the larger dataset. Thus, issues of grammar, spelling, syntax, and punctuation have not been addressed. Statements that were repeated more than one time are marked with an asterisk.

PRIORITIES

1. Buildings and the shape of parish ministry

- *Relinquish some real estate
- Called to face the problem of what to do with our buildings that are no longer sustainable – sharing buildings with other groups; opening our buildings to be used by schools; or for ecumenical activities
- In the longer term, we should be focusing on issues like: How we use the building?
- What can we learn from the many efforts to re-use church buildings?
- Think about our buildings – are they being used to their fullest?
- We have too much infrastructure that carries too much cost
- *We definitely need to look at the number of church buildings and merging to become more dynamic and mission focused. Have larger, more dynamic congregations with less focus on survival and the ability to develop programs that appeal to those presently outside the church.
- We have to stop making the walls of the church the only place where we can worship
- Relinquish our inordinate love of buildings. Stop worshipping our buildings
- *Relinquish: a too-proprietary attitude to the real estate... At the least there must be some repurposing of significant amounts of church property.
- *Stop pouring money into crumbling / underused buildings
- Gradually eliminate dying parishes
- *Also look for ways to join or connect churches together (could also be different faiths)
- *Stop building large single purpose facilities. Start making use of multi purpose buildings.
- Drop the edifice complex.
- We will not make progress in consolidating or repurposing until we solve the riddle of why people will fight to their last breath or nickel to preserve their distinctiveness
- Buildings
 - The burden has to be relinquished, can we divest of 40?
 - Is it surely a hope to be more visionary in repurposing?
 - The need for presence vs. the reality of needing fewer buildings; the manner of forming that fits to the vision.
- Using building creatively reclaim our heritage of being community centre
- Look at our property portfolio (essential) need a dynamic Synod Office
- Go outside the church buildings look to some contemporary gathering spaces
- Reduce infrastructure (building space) by 10% in the next 5 years – what then to do with new available resources? Keeping land and using another space for church with less \$ costs.
- *Turning church buildings into affordable housing with congregational component “place for people”
- Does the parish ministry model work in today’s world?
- Priority: allocation of human resources—especially clergy

2. Engagement with the world

- *Continue mission and outreach; start reaching out to the local community
- Learn about other religions, start being aware of the communities in our neighborhoods, rid of prejudice
- We must be good stewards of the world, advocate for peace and social justice and reach out to those in need
- Share our resources – develop partnerships
- *We need to embrace the work we are already involved with in terms of ministry to the community and ecumenical and inter-faith relationships. Need more active engagement by congregations in the public square.
- Continue:
 - developing partnerships (especially on outreach)
 - start getting political!
- *We need to embrace immigrants and people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds
- We need to cultivate a more humble image, acknowledging that we don't hold the only truth
- Start:
 - being more prophetic / outspoken in the cause of homelessness, poverty, discrimination, inequity
 - taking on the fight against those who fear those who are different (race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic statistics, mental health, addiction)
- Continue:
 - to respond to needs of homeless
 - to advocate for social justice and systemic solutions to issues of poverty and homelessness
 - to pressure politicians to continue to address issues of inequality and poverty
 - to repurpose churches to have multiuse
- More teachings about what happens in our communities re outreach
- *We are involved in community even when the result is not necessarily new parishioners
- *Clergy need to be out in the community
- Need to continue supporting Anglican social services

3. Lifelong formation

- Learn more about our faith
- Our faith is the priority—put this first
- *We need to invest resources in children and youth
- The living water makes us rooted in relationship with God and one another—more teaching and conversation to help people become more deeply grounded
- *Embrace spiritual practices such as centering prayer / Christian meditation as part of mainstream
- *Living a dynamic faith
- We are called now, as always, to keep and to pass on the faith
- Renew passion, forthrightness, forgiveness and love
- *Listen to younger people
- More lay and youth involvement in music and liturgy
- More CLAY or camp events
- Encourage our young people to be creative in liturgical style.
- *Youth ministry should be about doing ministry not having ministry done to you
- This prayer calls for a wider role for stewardship
- Accept people for who they are and where they are in their faith journey
- *Renewal of faith – Embrace prayer life of church; spiritual practice; deliberate focus on evangelism.
- We need to do more real prayer (individual and group)
- Removal of the "cultural commute" experienced by young adults by embracing their culture and contributions (in select parishes, there is room for multiple expressions)
- Increase involvement of young families
- People to get re-engaged with their faith through people telling their stories; small groups making connections
- Guided group prayer
- Reaffirm our commitment to God & Christ – take time to reflect
- Pray
 - have open healthy discussions
 - embrace a spirit of abundance
 - living a dynamic life celebrating our diversity

4. Worship and hospitality

- *Continue the Welcoming newcomers ministry
- Renew/continue – maintain tradition, creative use of liturgy
- Accepting of others/hospitable
- Encourage people to worship where/when it is most meaningful as opposed to where they live
- We need to relinquish our devotion to the prayer book, the unbending rules and procedures, the often outdated music
- As disciples...we invite others to connect with God
- *Step out in faith – In a loving, welcoming, joyful way
- More experimentation and exploration in worship, liturgy, and ministry, cool music that will attract young people
 - music is personal
 - stick to what we are good at and be authentic
 - explore who we really are. IDENTITY
- *Being an open, welcome and loving parish
- Make the liturgy accessible
- We need to renew our liturgy – need different liturgies at different times during the week. Need to use different language (such as some of the prayers in the New Zealand Prayer Book) that reflect who we are called to be in the world
- We need to spend some time focusing on and unpacking what it means to be welcoming, both in liturgy and beyond
- We need to welcome all who wish to come—babies included

5. Communications

- We need to work harder in assuring there is communication in our parishes and more communication from parishes to diocese
- *Make use of social media and marketing
- *Multifaceted communications
- Communication, communication, communication!! Please!
- More communication about successful rural churches to encourage and support others that are struggling
- The brand has to be redefined.
- *Efficient, reliable communication is essential.
- *Learn to utilize technology
- Embracing communication technology tools
- Be real, communicate ceaselessly and expertly with a voice we can all recognize, convene the difficult conversations
- *Embrace technology
 - provide training
 - better communication
- Community building discussions (this process is an excellent example)
- Electronic messages after service could include some educational points
- Communication (of Plan) recognize & discuss challenges & opportunities

PRACTICES

1. We will pray and listen for the prompting of Spirit

- Listen attentively to God's call for each parish
- Listening—need to be praying about it
- Put God first
 - driven by prayer
 - synergy between parishes, diocese, and congregations
- Go with the Spirit
- Listen attentively to God's call for each parish
- Embrace a fresh look at the gospel
- Be more deeply rooted in scripture – then improvise
- Be open to new and deeper understanding of God's truth
- Act with prayerful discernment and vision focused passion
- We must ask for God's help and constantly pray
- We are called to act in keeping with the goals of this prayer
- Listen to God's spirit in the world
- We should be deeply rooted in God/Christ
- Pray to God and listen to see where God calls us to serve
- Prayerfully being led by the Holy Spirit
- Renew our commitment with God
- Take the traditions of the church and do things in new ways
- Listen to the spirit maintain healthy balance between past and innovation
- Focus on listening to the spirit
- Leave room for us to listen to God with the ear of our heart
- Free ourselves to leave ourselves open to the spirit
- Listen to God, avoid pushing personal agendas
- Put God first—driven by prayer

2. We will work collaboratively

- Use our resources to support ministry of people, not competing for resources, working more collaboratively need to help people get more involved
- Recognizing we're not doing enough as a diocese, deanery... we forget the people next door are doing the same things we are... We can facilitate opportunities to gather more often, help reduce the sense of competition.
- *Be more of a diocese rather than parochial, start to be more aware of diocesan resources and how they can help the parish live a dynamic faith
- *We need to renew parish and diocesan relationship
- We need to get over the boundaries among parishes – Rampant Congregationalism that masquerades as an Episcopal system.
- In reality the Diocese is all of us
- *Stop thinking negatively that the church will not be here in a few years
- Encourage people from rural churches to share... amongst each other
- Empower laity to take leadership of missions in partnership with clergy
- Perhaps the role of the Diocese here is to create a brainstorming group on some of the big issues on resource use – what can we learn from past experience about different ways to develop our human resources, paid and unpaid?
- *Act together – start out on deanery models – not too big; think beyond our own parish and work together sharing resources between parishes (money, ministry, time)
- Help other parishes find a way to drive their vision/ministry instead of judging or imposing decisions.
- *Start thinking positively
 - look at things as abundance
 - stop complaining about things
 - start working together
- Foster inter-parish communication i.e. best practices of... fundraising... music... liturgy... messy church... youth involvement. Tear down silos...
- Avoid fault-finding and defensiveness
- The Diocese is seen generally as a faceless demand on resources – unless people have direct involvement and know the value
- Would be nice to hear what other churches are doing
- Relinquish a full-time priest and do more for ourselves

2. We will work collaboratively (continued)

- Give up parochialism – embrace our community labeled "Anglican"
- Encourage volunteerism, empower the laity
- A priority: parishes and the diocese working together in a trusting relationship
- Decentralization of power, lay/volunteer empowerment
- We seek out in terms of "bring it to us" instead of Parish Ministry Committee going out to the deanery meetings and asking what the regions need.
 - Ask how we can meaningfully be involved, be inclusive, and more broad-based
- Diocese needs to know the talents and skills of different parishes to enable us to work together, showing the expertise (and using it) within the Diocese
- *The Congregational Resource Days are an excellent way of strengthening congregations, but perhaps there could be some other ways of reaching more individual members
- Stop whining
- Speakers (from the Diocese) to give brief talks during or after the service might be another possibility.
- Learn from each other. Innovation takes place in parishes, and we should create the means for sharing those stories (e.g., mentorship networks)
- Set some priorities and create some practices for shared learning, which will draw in participation from parishes and also seed new initiatives at the parish level
- Vision from above and below. Great communicators to inspire. Support for parishes trying to respond to change in terms of facilitators, animators, professionals and sometimes dollars.
- (???) – Another visioning session? / more resources? and the Diocese's elephant is still standing in the room. We need to treat the diocese as a community.
- *Develop & share best practices
- Need to think of ourselves as individual parishes but also a part of something bigger (diocesan "collective")
- Remain open and receptive to all ideas and voices; let all voices be heard.
- Forums to discuss new ideas, involve new people, keep dialogue going with small groups, encourage meetings with other churches and denominations.

3. We will be courageous, embrace change and take risks

- Called to a radical restructure of efficiency of priestly services
- Be open to change / go with the Spirit, act outwardly not just inwardly, relinquish fear, need to control
- Embrace a fresh look at the gospel
- *Called to act out of hope not fear, don't get trapped in our tradition
- Maintenance of the institution should not be top priority
- Need to prioritize – can't do it all. Open to taking risks – embrace change and transformation.
- Called to act:
 - time to get off butts
 - let go of past and be open to taking risks
- Accept new ways of doing things
- *Be open to change
- We need to enable and encourage a select number of parishes, ministries and missions to do things in new ways and to find new ways of being church
- Embrace the spirit of curiosity
- *Don't be afraid to adapt, evolve, and change
- *We are called to act courageously, with joy and hope
- We need to renew our commitment to being open to taking risks and empowering change
- Diocese needs to stop being so bureaucratic! (It is Ottawa, eh?)
- *Embrace change as a new chapter to grow, flourish
- Embrace change of role of clergy in financial stewardship
- We are called to stop being stuck in our old ways. Be flexible, embrace newness, change
- Called to act as catalysts for change

3. We will be courageous, embrace change and take risks (continued)

- Allow prayer to push us further & to be courageous – go the extra mile.
- Relinquish the business model, our current processes and procedures are the conduits through which we function and they are killing us
- Step outside of our comfort zone
- We need to become risk takers – be willing to accept change – be brave and courageous
- It is a priority to invest in clergy, they can make this happen
- Need to help incumbents to take these risks
- Take the ideas and go with them...change that practice of spending all our time talking about what we “should” be doing, and actually start doing them
- Be bold and tenacious, lead smartly with integrity and without apology
- Encourage and support church planting and fresh expressions of church
- It was interesting in the early stages of the consultation to see how unconstrained people were in talking about the need for change, and what that future church could look like. How do you take off the blinders so that those conversations can continue to fuel a spirit of transformation?
- *Try new initiatives that are "outside" of tradition.
- *Be willing to take risks
- Room for freedom; we cannot be afraid to fail
- Be patient; give enough time to get people to take ownership of prayer
- Need to have people eager to let go, and enthusiastic to move forward – embrace change as desirable and necessary for the survival of an effective church
- How do we initiate and sustain the conversations that lead people to risk taking action?

4. We will monitor, review and renew our ministries and initiatives

- Every new idea can be measured against the prayer, as if it's a roadmap
- *Don't be afraid to reevaluate – recognize when something doesn't work and be willing to stop it and try something else
- How are objectives measurable?
- God is calling us to do something, not everything
- We need to be accountable to the prayer, to honour its scope and considered truth
- Need a critical look at each category and focus statement to evaluate our current status, and analysis of everything we do before we are able to determine what we need to relinquish, renew or embrace.
- Continue or start debriefs and proper planning for events, objectives to ensure goals are met
- Being open and transparent
- Creative budgeting process, three-year budget process works
- Honest & continuing assessment of how we line up. Be Joyful.
- *Consider a group whose mandate it is to stop things that are no longer needed, in a compassionate way
- *Be open to listen
- *There is a need for reassessment on an ongoing basis
- Stick to what we are good at and be authentic – explore who we really are. IDENTITY!
- We need to change the lens by which we see and evaluate things
- Need to rationalize the resources that we have, including human resources in ways that bring churches together and make people feel part of a gathering with momentum
- Worry less about filling pews as an end in itself; concentrate on our mission and the rest will follow
- Priority should be on compliance with the vision described in the "Embracing God's future"
- Time focus on financial issues/challenges of church and develop a realistic solution
 - including a look at HR, benefits, etc.

EMBRACING GOD'S FUTURE: A PRAYER OF THE DIOCESE OF OTTAWA

As a living church whose IDENTITY is deeply rooted in the love of God we pray that we will, with God's help...

Embrace a living Anglican tradition, inspired by and rooted in the Word of God through liturgy, scripture, reason, and sacrament.

Live a dynamic faith that calls us to be spirit-filled, transformative and deeply rooted in the witness of Jesus Christ.

Authentically, with freedom and trust, live out our discipleship as a people of joy and hope.

Respond prophetically to God's call, being open to taking risks and empowering change.

***Lord in your compassion,
hear our prayer.***

As the body of Christ in RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD we pray that we will, with God's help...

Courageously advocate for peace, and ignite a passion for social justice in our communities and beyond.

Develop partnerships with the wider community, tearing down barriers that will enable us to be a visible, relevant presence in the world.

Commit to outreach, addressing the varied needs of those who are most vulnerable in our society.

Foster ecumenical and interfaith relationships of mutual understanding, working for the common good within our pluralistic society.

Respond to, and be in dialogue with, the issues of the public square.

***Lord in your compassion,
hear our prayer.***

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for our faith and the many gifts you have entrusted to us. In your compassion, revealed to us fully in Jesus, hear our prayer so that by your Holy Spirit we may joyfully strive to be your dream for the Church. Amen.

As disciples of Jesus committed to lifelong FORMATION we pray that we will, with God's help...

Courageously doubt and question, live our faith with meaningful spiritual practices, pastoral care, and worship with joy that leads us beyond ourselves.

Learn and be transformed by scripture in multi-faceted ways for people of many interests, needs and ages.

Celebrate and cultivate the diverse gifts of lay and ordained leaders, continually developing and sharing these leadership gifts in innovative ways.

As evangelists, invite others to connect with God, telling the story of our discipleship so that the gospel may be heard afresh in our day.

***Lord in your compassion,
hear our prayer.***

As stewards of many STRUCTURES AND RESOURCES we pray that we will, with God's help...

Embrace a spirit of abundance, free from worries about money, and growing into a Church that is sustainable and financially sound.

Use our buildings creatively, unburdened by the stresses surrounding them, as flexible assets that enable us to sustain a dynamic presence across our diocese.

Develop our human resources, paid and unpaid, allowing us to work together, using our many gifts, as elective participants in God's mission.

Embrace technology and communication tools to promote, integrate, and share key messages and information with each other and those around us.

Live in a responsible and sustainable way, conscious of the footprint we leave, becoming active stewards of the earth.

***Lord in your compassion,
hear our prayer.***

As gathered communities embracing a SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY we pray that we will, with God's help...

Welcome newcomers and those already in our midst, providing safe places, activities, worship and fellowship that foster belonging and meaning.

Truly celebrate our diversity in culture, age, lifestyle, language, and perspective; ensuring all are welcome.

Enable a multigenerational community of faith to participate together in meaningful and dynamic relationships.

Energize and deepen our faith through music and liturgy that is renewed by the spectrum of tradition and practice across our Church.

***Lord in your compassion,
hear our prayer.***



71 Bronson Ave.
Ottawa, ON K1R 6G6
www.ottawa.anglican.ca