

Report on the Five Year Plan, 2010 (Advisory Board response to Vestry Motion)

Background

In 2006, a motion was passed at Vestry that the wardens and board develop a 5-year plan for St. John's outlining its future viability in light of current financial pressures and demographics, this report to be presented to Vestry no later than 2007.

In 2007, a report was presented and discussed. The report showed the recent history of financial and attendance declines at St John's (not unusual in Anglican churches throughout the country) and presented 6 recommendations from the Board and wardens. A motion was made and carried that these recommendations be implemented, and that a further report be made the following year (2008). Rector, Paul Walmsley, departed following Easter 2007.

In 2008 there was a further report on actions taken: 2 days of parish discernment had taken place in January 2008 led by new incumbent Rev. Ruth Ferrier. A full report was distributed to the vestry in February 2008 as a supplementary document.

Further work (other than the NCD's ongoing process) was slowed at the end of 2008 and into 2009 by the departure of Ruth Ferrier and the search for another new rector. In 2009-10 the finalized NCD surveys to determine St John's core values and future aspirations were administered and the results compiled and distributed to the Advisory Board and congregation. The Advisory Board requested that the NCD Team develop strategic directions and implementation actions reflective of the most significant aspirations for the Board to consider.

2010 update

With reference to the 6 recommendations from the Wardens and Board in 2007:

1) "That the congregation of St John's be requested to participate in conversation, provide input, review proposals, reach concurrence, in general work with Christian love, praying for spiritual inspiration and guidance." Besides the parish discernment days which occurred in 2008, the ongoing process has been and is being continued by NCD.

2) "That the Natural Church Development Team continue its program of evaluation and improvement of the quality of St. John's with full support of the congregation and with Vestry encouragement to the team to implement initiatives with the utmost diligence and timeliness." NCD has been and continues to be diligently pursuing its initiatives through regular meetings and in consultation with the parishioners.

**3), 4) and 5) "That the congregation meet and define identifiable Christian purpose(s) for the existence of St. John's. [suggested timeline — May 12, 2007]
4) That the congregation meet and define St. John's congregational mission(s) that is/are consistent with the purpose of St. John's.[suggested timeline — December 15, 2007] and 5) That the congregation meet and develop ways and means to fulfill the**