

Super Saturday!



Parish Conversation Planning Kit

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At the 107th session of the Diocese of New Westminster in May 2008, ten Priorities were adopted for the diocese as we move forward in mission towards the year 2018. These are:

- **Nurturing Spiritual Journeys**
- **Supporting Christian Education**
- **Deepening Anglican Understanding**
- **Renewing our Worship**
- **Caring for God's Earth**
- **Nurturing the Parish Community**
- **Building a Community of Parishes**
- **Participating in Local Communities**
- **Cultivating Interfaith Understanding**
- **Addressing Issues of Poverty**

Please consult fuller text in Appendix B, pg. 9.

These strategic priorities are grounded in our Vision and Values:

- **God in our lives**
- **Centred in Jesus Christ**
- **Building Community**
- **Love in Action**
- **Growing in Faith**

Please consult fuller in Appendix B, pg. 8.

Much of the implementation of these priorities takes place at the parish and regional level, where mission and ministry are grounded. These priorities were crafted from the people of the parishes, together expressing our hopes and desires in mission.

Therefore Parish Councils are being asked to participate in Parish Conversations and SuperSaturday in March 2008, vital instruments in bringing the next steps of implementation to Plan 2018.

The Co-Chair of Plan 2018, Dean Peter Elliott gives a more personal approach to the Parish Conversation and SuperSaturday on YouTube.com: <http://tinyurl.com/SuperSaturdayMar28> (You might have to do a cut-and-paste).

For more information please call:

*The Rev. Paul H. Borthistle 604 684-6306 (219)
or email pborthistle@vancouver.anglican.ca*

Parish Conversations (March 1st to 27th, 2009.)

Newly elected Parish Councils are asked to take time at the **first meeting of the council in March 2009, or another meeting specifically called for this purpose**, to explore and examine the relationship of the parish priorities with the newly adopted diocesan priorities (Plan 2018), and to name their PASSION for mission.

Participants

Parish Conversations should include the following participants:

- All Parish Council members
- The Parish Clergy
- Plan 2018 Parish Champion
- Youth Delegate(s)
- Members who attended Nov. 2008 SuperSaturday
- Others with a passion for particular ministries that reflect the priorities

Questions for Reflection, to be facilitated by Council Chair

The following questions will assist in shaping the conversation and to be a support in filling out the Parish Response Sheet (Appendix C)

1. For which priority do you personally have the greatest degree of PASSION?
2. Which of the diocesan priorities are people passionate about in our parish? *(Not in the abstract, but with energy, people, and resources.)*
 - at a personal level *(what are parishioners asking for?)*
 - at a parish level *(what do people have PASSION about doing?)*
 - at a regional level *(what do we want to do together with other parishes and other area community partners?)*
 - Name potential partners (if known).
3. What can we see ourselves doing around each of the chosen priorities?

Please restrict the priority(s) to a maximum of three and note that they may be priorities or ministries in which the parish is already engaged in, not necessarily new ministries.

Process

- 1.) Parish Incumbent and Wardens are to recruit the participants, naming their value to the process; after all, it wouldn't be the same without that person.
- 2.) Distribute the questions (**Appendix A**), along with the Diocesan Priorities, Values, and Vision (**Appendix B**) to all participants **in advance** and ask them to prayerfully consider their responses.
- 3.) At the regular meeting of March Parish Council, (or a special meeting called for this purpose if preferable) allow sufficient time for the conversation.
- 4.) Here is the suggested meeting process,
 - open the conversation with prayer:

*Reshape us, O Holy God,
until in generosity, in faith,
and in expectation that the best is yet to come,
we are truly Christ-like.
Make us passionate followers of Jesus
rather than passive supporters.*

*Make our hearts as well as our churches
places of radical discipleship
and signposts to heaven,
then, in us, through us,
and - if need be - despite us,
let your dream for earth come quickly.*

- introduce all the participants
*Do not assume everyone knows each other,
it is a courtesy for the one who knows others the least,
and please wear name tags.*
 - go around the circle asking each person in turn.
 - For which priority do **you personally** have the greatest degree of PASSION?
Please allow 1 minute per participant, and do not allow interruptions or conversation, this is the information gathering stage, not the dialogue stage.
5. Have a plenary conversation, addressing the questions asked in Appendix A.
 6. Have a scribe (secretary) record the conversation, and especially the consensus or the points made with the greatest degree of commonality, utilizing Appendix C.
 7. **Appoint at least one warden, the clergy, and two to four additional participants (at least one of which should be a lay delegate to Synod) to attend the March 28th SuperSaturday.**

The participants may not necessarily be the persons who hold particular responsibility for the areas represented by the priorities, but who speak for the PASSION of the group as a whole.

Archdeaconry SuperSaturday (March 28th, 2009)

(Bring your own bag lunch, coffee, tea and muffins provided)

The SuperSaturday will be an occasion to share your parish priorities with other parishes, identify priorities with regional passion and energy, and to begin crafting regional implementation.

Agenda:

- 9:30 for coffee
- 10 am to 3 pm meeting
 - welcome and worship
 - introduction and process
 - Session 1: Plenary (Sharing the parish PASSIONS)
 - lunch (*bring your own bag lunch*)
 - Session 2: Deanery Meetings
 - Session 3: Plenary (next steps)
 - Going Home

Locations:

- **Capilano Archdeaconry**
St. Catherine – North Vancouver. (1058 Ridgewood Dr.)
Note: access via Edgemont Blvd, to Emerald, then follow sign to St. C.
- **Vancouver Archdeaconry**
St. Anne – Steveston (4071 Francis Rd.)
- **Fraser Archdeaconry**
St. Andrew – Langley (20955 Old Yale Rd.)
- **Westminster Archdeaconry**
St. Laurence – Coquitlam (825 St. Laurence St.)
- **Burrard Archdeaconry**
St. Thomas – Vancouver. (2444 East 41st Ave.)

Appendix A.

Parish Conversation regarding Priorities.

Questions for Reflection, to be chaired by Council Chair

The following questions will assist in shaping the conversation and to be a support in filling out the Parish Response Sheet (Appendix C)

1. For which priority do you personally have the greatest degree of PASSION?
2. Which of the diocesan priorities are people passionate about in our parish? *(Not in the abstract, but with energy, people, and resources.)*
 - at a personal level *(what are parishioners asking for?)*
 - at a parish level *(what do people have PASSION about doing?)*
 - at a regional level *(what do we want to do together with other parishes and other community partners?)*
 - Whom do you see as partners in bringing this priority to life?
3. What can we see ourselves doing around each of the chosen priorities?



Appendix B.

Diocese of New Westminster

Toward Plan 2018

Vision and Values

God in our lives: we affirm the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life. We want to share this good news of God's presence and power with those with whom we live and work. For us, God is relevant to the issues that face Canadian society day in and day out. We envision a church that makes the connection between faith and life.

"Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

(Acts 2: 38-39)

Centred in Jesus Christ: our life as a church is about the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. We seek to follow Jesus as we meet him in scripture and encounter him in the sacraments. Christ is the common ground of all our life as a church.

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear."

(Acts 2: 32-33)

Building Community: in a multicultural and secular society we seek to build inclusive communities of faith that express love of God and neighbour. We find great strength in worshipping together, supporting one another and reaching out with compassion to the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people" (Acts 2: 46-47)

Love in Action: we are not afraid to use the word "love" to describe our life together. It is God's love that brings us together and in the community of the church we seek to express that love through compassionate action.

"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need."

(Acts 2: 44-45)

Growing in Faith: for us, faith is a journey, not a destination. We envision that our communities will grow in their capacity to reach out in action for justice as we deepen our commitment to Christ and to God's call to love. We seek to support the spiritual growth and development of each person as they come to know themselves as children of God.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers".

Strategic Priorities

Nurturing Spiritual Journeys

- Support people in their personal spiritual development and open the doors to spiritual seekers who do not identify themselves as Christians.
- Develop a wide and inclusive approach to encounter and know God, including spiritual development through connection with nature, exploring spirituality in other faiths, understanding spirituality in our West Coast context, and developing a deep prayer life.

Supporting Christian Education

- Enhance understanding of the Christian faith and explore what it means to be Christian.
- Develop Christian education opportunities that would bring people together to learn and to grow in community.

Deepening Anglican Understanding

- Learn more about Anglican tradition, theology, worship, practices and how the Canadian Anglican church is structured and funded.
- Help people in their personal faith journey as Anglicans and to understand the questions facing the church today.

Renewing Our Worship

- Make Anglican worship relevant to people of all ages, at all life stages and from diverse communities.
- Create new, more inclusive approaches to worship while maintaining and respecting the Anglican tradition.

Caring for God's Earth

- Address environmental issues.
- Engage in and initiate environmental action.
- Support environmental concerns.

Nurturing the Parish Community

- Nurture the parish community to ensure sustainability.
- Welcome new people, re-engage those who do not attend regularly, and continuing to engage those who are involved in parish life.
- Recognize and support a range of parish models, both large and small, within the diocese.

Building a Community of Parishes

- Build stronger relationship between parishes.
- Build stronger relationship between parishes, the Synod office, and the wider national and international structures.
- Develop the environment of sharing, support, education, partnership and communication throughout the diocese.

Participating in Local Communities

- Parishes, as active participants in the local community, engage in initiatives and partnerships that bring to life the social mission of the church.
- Learn about their communities: the demographics (e.g. cultural, linguistic and age composition); the organizations at work there; and the specific issues, concerns and needs that exist.
- Parishes and Diocese to contribute to community life here and in the wider church.

Cultivating Interfaith Understanding

- Foster interfaith relationships and create opportunities to encourage interfaith dialogue.
- Work toward greater harmony, respect and understanding among different faith groups.

Addressing Issues of Poverty

- Address the issues of poverty, homelessness, and addictions/mental health.
- Act in partnership with other organizations and groups in the community.
- Engage in direct service delivery.
- Increase awareness and understanding of the issues.

Appendix C.



Parish Response Sheet

Parish Name and location: _____
(there are six St. John's!)

Contact Name: _____

Phone and email: _____

1. Which of the diocesan priorities are people passionate about in your parish? *(Not in the abstract, but with energy, people, and resources.)*
 - Name the top priority(s) for your parish. *(To a maximum of three.)*
 - Name potential partners (if known).

2. How does your parish envision 'living' its commitment to the top three priorities? What can you see yourselves doing around each of the three priorities?

(Please bring this sheet to SuperSaturday March 28th with you.)