

The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara  
Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Evangelism Working Group  
Thursday, March 11, 2003  
at 12:00 p.m. in the Geddes Room  
Cathedral Place

Present:

Michael Patterson  
Trevor Jones  
Dan Brereton  
Lynda Mee  
Jim Newman  
John Bowen  
Carol Summers

Sue Nicholls  
Cindy Blades  
Mark Tiller  
Dorothy Grant  
Renee Dejardins  
Gloria Maddox

Regrets:

Beth Kerley  
Robert Hurkmans  
John Ripley

David Ponting  
Hugh Haney

**1. Opening Prayer**

Michael opened the meeting with a reading and prayer

**2. Introductions**

Everyone went around the table and introduced themselves.

**3. Update from Director of Evangelism**

- Michael reported that he has visited 35 parishes in the diocese since he started last October. He has been in parishes that are alive and thriving and others that are fearful and lifeless. Some parishes see the evangelist as their only hope.

- Michael spoke about the Natural Church Development program as an effective tool for evangelism. To date there are 11 parishes using this program. There are 10 people trained as coaches to help parishes. Michael speaks very highly about the NCD program.

- Bishop Ralph's vision has caught on in other dioceses across the country. Michael has received many calls about the work that he is doing. He is the only Director of Evangelism in the country. He will travel to Dryden in May to consult in the diocese of Keewatin. Michael and Bishop Ralph have spent several hours doing a piece for Vision TV., which has already been shown.

- Bishop Ralph and Michael traveled to Texas to meet with Bishop Claude Payne who has written a book titled "Reclaiming the Great Commission". The book speaks about Maintenance Church versus the Mission Church. Maintenance church is rearranging the furniture where Mission Church is one that goes out and brings people

## Evangelism Working Group Meeting - March 11, 2004 page 2.

in. Bishop Payne believes that a parish and the diocese must work together, instead of trying to reinvent the wheel they should work co operatively. Dysfunction in a parish is unacceptable, there should be trust, respect and care. Evangelism is not about healing but islands of health and hope and we need to support communities so that they can grow in health and hope. We need to celebrate our success not our failures. Bishop Ralph and Michael spent several days with him and thoroughly enjoyed the time spent.

### a. Evangelism Logo Discussion “Branding”

- Michael gave the group 5 sheets of paper with different logo's and asked the group to decide in numerical order which one they preferred. Michael will report on the results at the next meeting in April.

### 4. Feedback from “Day on Evangelism for Frightened Anglicans”

- “Great day” There was 150 people who attended that morning. There were three speakers Dr. John Bowen, Professor Wycliffe College, Author: Evangelism for Normal People, Dr. Connie Denbok and Dr. Allan Hayes, Professor of Church History. The group met from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., had a short question and answer period at the end of the day. Jim Newman wrote up a report for Michael.

#### - Next Steps

- need practical decision on where we go from here
- need to see what happens with New Niagara
- parishes want to do something but don't know where to begin, part of Michael's job is to help parishes decided what they want to do whether it is NCD New Niagara or Alpha. **WE MUST REQUIRE PARISHES TO DO SOMETHING** and give us a date.
- the cost for a parish to do the NCD program is \$300.00, it is ongoing and gives the clergy a plan for the next five years.
- Michael is busy until June
- a letter should go out to each parish asking them what they are doing now and needs to be signed by the Bishop, they will then be required to get back to Michael and the Bishop with the answer.

### 5. Magnetic Church conference - September 2004

- The conference will be held on September 24-25/2004 at St. Christopher's Church in Burlington. The quest speaker is Andrew Weeks, a gifted lay evangelist and humorous . He is the author of Welcome! Tools and Techniques For New member Ministry. Michael attend a conference last Fall in Vancouver along with Jim Newman. The following persons have agreed to help facilitate this conference. Mark Tiller, Carol Summers, Dan Brereton, Cindy Blades and Gloria Maddox (registration). Andrew will provided all the information and handouts for everyone attending as well as the parish.

## **6. Tools**

### **a. Ministry of Mentoring - Program Introduction**

-There are many tools that can be used for evangelism, one of these is the Ministry of Mentoring which is a follow up to the Andrew Weeks program. It is a program where a parish meets, greets and integrates new people in the parish. It can take as long as 18 months to integrate a person or family into the parish, however if you do nothing you can lose these people in five months. There are several steps that need to be taken ie: met and greet , send letter of greeting from Rector, phone calls, connect them with another family, more follow up, make these people feel that we care about them and that they are important to us. This should continue for at least one year and longer if needed.

#### **- Training of Facilitators**

It was agreed that we need to train people to become facilitators the following have agreed to be trained: Sue Nicholls, Dan Brereton, Cindy Blades, Trevor Jones, Jim Newman, Lynda Mee, Dorothy Grant, Renee Dejarin.

### **b. Program “ How to Share Your Faith Without Losing Your Friends”**

Another resource for Evangelism is this book written by Canon Waight.

## **7. Connecting With parish Evangelism Representatives**

Suggestions were made on how we can connect with the evangelism representatives. We can update the file, send letters to the Reps and Rectors, do a one page newsletter with perhaps minutes of our meetings, invite the reps to be trainers for Mentoring program, more time at meetings for questions and answers, get an update from Grace Church, Milton on the NCD program , have another meeting.

## **8. New Business**

- John mentioned that Canon Kevin Martin from Texas will be speaking at Wycliffe College on November 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. John will pass on more information to Michael concerning this event.

- Dan Brereton, Sue Nicholls and Lucy Reid are doing a session on prayer at the Church of the Incarnation on June 1<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

- It was mentioned that Harold Percy has another book out titled “Your Church can Survive”.

- Michael encouraged parishes to do corporate advertising in their local papers, however not in the religious section, perhaps in the front section where everyone will take notice. If it is in the religious section it could possibly be lost with all the other ads. If parishes are willing to do this type of advertising Michael will subsidize the cost.

**page 4.**

**9. Next meeting date - location and time**

Next meeting April 22, 2004 at 12:00 p.m. in the Niagara Room at Cathedral Place. Lunch will be served.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m. with the saying of the Grace