

## **REPORT OF THE UNDERMOUNT REGIONAL COUNCIL**

The Twelve Tribes of Undermount have now become the Ten Tribes of Undermount

Undermount Region lies below the mountain (Niagara Escarpment) from Winona on the east to west of McMaster University and north to Hamilton Harbour and Lake Ontario. It is a region of agriculture, educational facilities, shipping and both light and heavy industry. We have ten parishes including the Cathedral. We also have St. Matthews House and three community outreach centers located in Undermount Region. The Mission to Sea Farers, situated in the Hamilton Harbour area, which serves the visiting sailors from ships of many countries that are docked in Hamilton, is also located in our Region. We are the smallest in mileage but powerful in spirit! Our welcoming parishes are a very diverse people, from the street folk to the descendants of the founding fathers of Hamilton; we offer a great diversity of theology from Anglo-Catholic to Evangelical, from Liberal to Conservative. Undermount also offers many sizes of spaces and buildings from the Cathedral to St. John's Winona, from organs and hymn books to guitars and power point, from the traditional inspirational quiet services to lively, invigorating worship. Many of our parishes are working locally with faith groups of other denominations and are active in their vicinities with Bible Study, Prayer Groups, Out of the Cold, Open Doors Hamilton, senior's activities, youth clubs, breakfast programs, and AA groups. We have something for everyone.

We were sorry to say goodbye to our Interim Archdeacon Marion Vincett in January and also to our Regional Dean the Reverend Sandy Copland. All of us are happy to have the Reverend Canon Dr. Rick Jones as our new Archdeacon and the Reverend Dianne Distler as our new Regional Dean. A warm welcome to our new member parish, St. Paul's, Westdale.

We've been through some anxious, challenging, exciting, frustrating, thrilling, exhilarating times which allowed 'all things to become made new'. As part of our Greening initiative many of our parishes have held meetings around Al Gore's, "An Inconvenient Truth", and Environment Hamilton's, "Peak Oil". Many of the Undermount parishes have formed Greening Committees working to improve the environment in and around our buildings and grounds.

It is one of the mandates of Regional Council to "support, encourage and facilitate the mission of the church in response to local and regional needs" Canon 1.10, 5(a). This has taken a on a variety of appearances over the years from Praise All Ways, the Children's Festival, assisting with St. Matthew's House and the Out of the Cold Program. As an Outreach Program this past year we distributed Greening packages to all our parishes and missions. These included recycling bags of various sizes, energy efficient light bulbs and environmentally friendly hand cleansers. This year we are continuing with our Greening Niagara concept. From the information given out at our meetings, many of our parishes have upgraded their lighting and heating to more energy efficient units thereby reducing their energy costs. They have also reduced water and paper usage. Most have considerably, reused, recycled and reduced what formerly had been discarded into landfills.

Undermount Regional Council, in the spirit of change, decided to change to a more outward focus of tackling environmental and poverty issues. Out of our initial meeting with several environmental organizations have come a flood of ideas, visions, and plans. We are currently part of the Greening Niagara Committee at the Diocesan level.

## **REPORT OF THE UNDERMOUNT REGIONAL COUNCIL (continued)**

We hold bi-monthly Regional Council meetings. Each parish attending the meetings informs others of their success with the events they have held and also future activities. That way we all share in the spread of great ideas that each of us can take back to our own parishes. The Council reps are also made aware of the Diocesan programs that may be new to them or that they need to take action on in their home parishes. All of us feel it is truly thrilling to be a small part of something far greater, because we too can make a difference!

Respectfully submitted,  
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