

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

These two questions begin each meeting and probably explain why our Regional Council is still functioning.

Undermount Region is made up of eleven parishes stretching from the agriculturally rich lands of St. John's, Winona through the communities of the Hamilton-Wentworth Region below the escarpment, including such places as Stoney Creek, Bartonville, Jamesville, Kirkendall, and Westdale. Its downtown Hamilton ministries as well as its community-based parishes include a wide spectrum of people very much like those throughout the rest of the diocese.

Undermount Regional Council meets bi-monthly from September to June. Its meetings run for two hours and are hosted on rotation by one of the parishes. With light refreshments and an optional tour of each host parish, the meetings enable the representatives to enjoy themselves while learning more about the needs and interests of the people we represent at Synod.

Undermount Region also contains the significant ministries of St. Matthews House, the Mission to Seafarers and the McQuesten and Jamesville Centres. Mission is right in our midst!

We are one of the two functioning Regional Councils in the Diocese of Niagara. As such we are an example as to how and what a Regional Council can and does accomplish. At each meeting, our Regional Archdeacon, Rick Jones, the Regional Dean, Reverend Dianne Distler, and our Synod Council reps describe what is happening at Synod Council and the Diocese.

Often what seems to be a 'dull' item of business at a Synod Council meeting can sometimes contain an issue that turns out to have a specific impact upon one or more of our parishes. It is the solidarity of such a group with both lay and clergy representatives, that Regional Council can act as a powerful tool for action, understanding and growth for all concerned.

Each meeting contains a portion of time for parish reports. This is the most energizing part of the evening for most! Arising from our reports, we often discuss styles of worship, Parish programs, special events, and other activities that are going on around us.

Sparked by the questions asked at the beginning of each meeting (What role does our Regional Council serve? and What do we hope to gain from tonight's meeting?) our representatives strive to inform and be informed about what is important to the people of the Diocese...at least in the Undermount Region of it!

Respectfully submitted  
Susan Little, Chair