

REPORT OF THE BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH BUILDINGS

As our inventory of church buildings grows older, the list of their needed repairs inevitably grows longer. At the same time, as money gets tighter, those repairs are costing more. The consequence is of an accumulating backlog of pending work.

In order to address what might be becoming either an intolerable, embarrassing or dangerous situation for individual parishes, the BACCB exists to remind them that there is help available.

That help comes, most particularly, by remembering the value of priority planning and by accepting that cosmetic work is really no substitute for maintaining the foundation and the fabric. In the same way, so much more can be accomplished with every dollar if every piece of work is subject to strict description and specification and the calling of not less than three(3) competitive bids. Spending money is easy. Spending it wisely in order to get the most from it requires particular diligence and care: Not just in the planning and design but in the management processes and in the financing of every project.

Members of the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings can help with that work; either to assist in the analysis of problems or to suggest the economic options to solve them. Members of the Committee are parishioners themselves who are familiar with the difficulties we all face. Their collected career experience was earned in the construction industries, in building services, as engineers and as architects. Their knowledge is available to every parish, at no charge, whether it's a simple matter of building maintenance or an issue of new investment.

Over the past year Committee members have provided advice to the parishes of St. Aidan's, Oakville, St. Luke's, Palermo, All Saints', Hamilton, St. John's, York, St. Paul's, Caledonia, St. David and St. Patrick, Guelph, the Church of the Transfiguration, St. Catharines, St. John the Divine, Cayuga, Christ's Church, Port Maitland and St. John's, South Cayuga. Generally, it has been well received!

There is a description of the resources offered by the Committee, and of the diocesan requirements around new construction projects, that can be viewed on the diocesan website under "Resources-Church Buildings Committee" or you can call the BACCB Secretary, Karen Nowicki at (905) 527-1316 x 380 for immediate service, or you can contact the Committee Chair, the Reverend Ian Chadwick at (905) 988-7873.

If, in your parish, you are anxious about some structural weakness in the church fabric, or some maintenance issue with the potential to cause trouble, call Karen, or Ian, and get yourself some expert advice: it could save you some sleepless nights and save the parish a bundle.

A particular thank you to the dedicated volunteers who are the Committee members. Those long drives to evening meetings at the other end of the Diocese may be a satisfaction, but we recognize and appreciate that they come at the personal price of time and effort. But what we maintain and build together is not just good stewardship, but a glory to God.

**REPORT OF THE BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH BUILDINGS
(continued)**

Committee members

Ms. Brenda Brownlee
The Reverend Ian Chadwick, Chair
Mr. Brian Culp
Mr. William Filer
Mr. Don Hicks
Mr. John Layfield
Mr. Ian Milroy

Mr. David Ricketts
Mr. Ken Schroeder
Mr. Steve Swing
Mr. Roy Shoalts
Mr. Christopher Walker (Chair of BDIC)
The Venerable Michael Patterson
The Right Reverend Michael Bird

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Canon Ian Chadwick, Chair