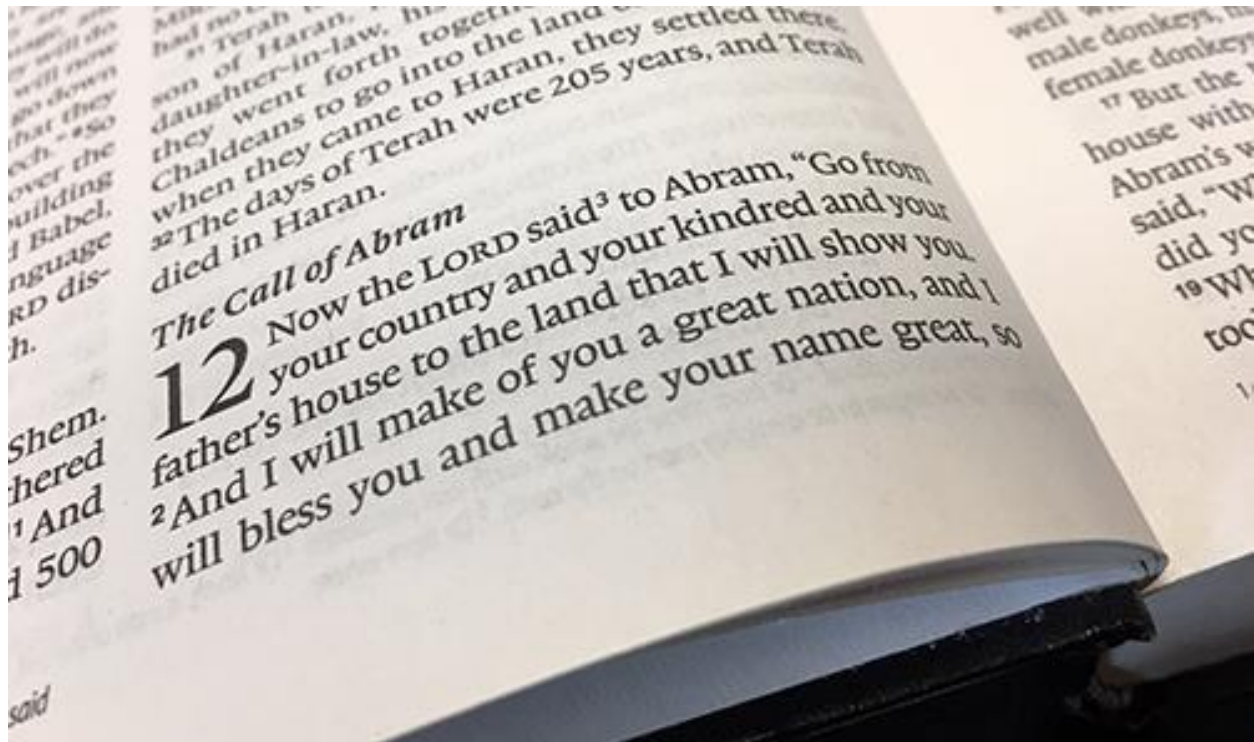




DIOCESE OF ONTARIO

The Anglican Church of Canada

**A Covenant between the
Stewardship and Congregational Development Committee
and the Anglican Diocese of Ontario**



Preamble to the Covenant

We are a People of the Covenant. We have a long history in the Diocese of Ontario of using the word “Covenant”—it is a rich biblical concept.

By far the most common use of the term has its roots in what the Bible tells us happened in the early days. The Old Testament stories, especially those of Abraham and Sarah, of Noah, and of David tell of us of God’s promises to our biblical ancestors—promises of what the future will be like.

Implied in this Covenant is the fact that God is completely and totally in charge. This promissory covenant suggests that we need to let go of our need to be in control, and that we get used to the idea of sharing the world with God, confident that we do not face the future alone.

By choosing to take part in this Covenant, we choose to work together as a diocese, to work with God, to make God’s dream for all of creation come to reality.

PART I: Strengthening an existing ministry

While we acknowledge that all areas of the Ministry Task Force report, and the Diocesan Vision and Strategy are equally important, during the next two years, we will intentionally focus our time and energy on strengthening our current efforts toward implementation of the Diocesan Vision and Strategy.

The mandate of the Stewardship and Congregational Development Committee is:

To promote a diocesan-wide understanding of stewardship and to assist every congregation in developing its own long-range plan. The SCDC also supports and develops resources for congregational stewardship committees, stewardship representatives and other key leaders who seek to provide year-round stewardship education to their parishes. Important to the work of the SCDC is the development of best practices that would see effective utilization of volunteer time and talent in all congregations.

In our efforts to fulfill this mandate, the committee will strive to ensure its plans and programs provide the assistance parishes and congregations require to plan and achieve their respective goals and objectives. The SCDC's efforts will include, but not be limited to the following:

- To promote a Diocesan-wide understanding of stewardship and to assist every congregation in developing its own long-range plan.
- Emphasizing Jesus' relevance in people's everyday lives
- Develop resources for congregational stewardship committees, stewardship representatives and other key leaders to build healthy and mission driven congregations.

What specific action(s) do you propose to accomplish? How will it strengthen ministry you are already doing?

- Identify candidates at the Deanery level to attend the 2017 Resources in Mission conference with a view toward a sharing of the information within their respective deaneries.
- Continue to research, identify, and share best practices in the areas of stewardship and congregational development.

Who will champion these efforts?

The committee as a whole will take responsibility for these efforts with individual committee members leading individual programs or objectives.

What is the proposed timeline?

The identification of candidates for attendance at the Resource in Mission Conference will be completed by the end of July for registration in August. Any additional people required will be identified by the end of the 3rd quarter 2017; trained and deployed by the end of the 1Q 2018.

How will you communicate (internally and externally) about this initiative?

Communication will be done via articles in Dialogue and Enews as well as presentations at various diocesan, deanery, and parish presentations.

PART II: Stepping out in faith

While we acknowledge that all areas of the Ministry Task Force report, and the Diocesan Vision and Strategy are equally important, during the next two years, we will intentionally focus our time and energy on strengthening our current efforts toward implementation of the Diocesan Vision and Strategy.

The mandate of the Stewardship and Congregational Development Committee is:

To promote a Diocesan-wide understanding of stewardship and to assist every congregation in developing its own long-range plan. The SCDC also supports and develops resources for congregational stewardship committees, stewardship representatives and other key leaders who seek to provide year-round stewardship education to their parishes. Important to the work of the SCDC is the development of best practices that would see effective utilization of volunteer time and talent in all congregations.

In our efforts to fulfill this mandate, the committee will strive to ensure its plans and programs provide the assistance parishes and congregations require to plan and achieve their respective goals and objectives. The SCDC's efforts will include, but not be limited to the following:

- Provide training and support to parishes in Delivering Ministry that Connects with People in a Modern Context
- Assist parishes in Identifying and Establishing Community Partnerships, that will achieve the parish mission and ministry objectives while Promoting Good Works in the Community.

What specific action(s) do you propose to accomplish? How will it strengthen ministry you are already doing?

- Assist parishes in developing Mission Driven Stewardship initiatives that will support and serve their respective communities.
- Search for, and take advantage of opportunities to connect the SCDC with parishes in conversations about stewardship and congregational development.

Who will champion these efforts?

The Stewardship and Congregational Development Committee

What is the proposed timeline?

Work will begin this year with attendance at the Resources for Mission Conference with the objective of having specific programs in place for the 2nd Q of 2018

How will you communicate (internally and externally) about this initiative?

Communication will be done via articles in Dialogue and eNews as well as presentations at various diocesan, regional, and parish presentations.

Covenant Agreement:

Preamble to Covenant

We, the members of the Stewardship and Congregational Development Committee enter into this Covenant, in partnership with parishes and other committees within the Diocese of Ontario. As God's stewards, and disciples of Jesus, we will use our best efforts to carry out the aforementioned ministry initiatives in 2017/2018.

Agreed to by:

Members – Stewardship and Congregational Development Committee

The Venerable Wayne Varley, Executive Archdeacon; the Venerable Nancy MacLeod, Archdeacon of the St. Lawrence; the Venerable John Robertson; the Reverend Sue Beare; the Reverend Donald Ford; Douglas Cowley.

Signed by:

Douglas Cowley
Chair, Stewardship & Congregational Development

Date: 26 April 2017