

MAP and Financial Future

As requested by the diocese for all parishes, we started the process of discovering our Mission Action Plan – MAP – in 2021. Developing a Mission Action Plan is a tool that helps a parish or mission base develop their focus for ministry. Traditionally, in Anglican contexts, the role of the parish is to care for the cure of soul within its region. The question comes in how that care is exercised or lived out. Depending on the community or neighbourhood of the parish, this will look very different across the province. A MAP is to develop missional disciples who want to impact their neighbourhoods and communities.¹

1 <https://nb.anglican.ca/resources/mission-action-plans>

Our Good Shepherd MAP process began in May with a presentation to seek input from the congregation regarding their observations of our church neighbourhoods and opportunities for community engagement. That information was collected and documented throughout the late spring and summer. The second phase was completed in the fall with a summary of these observations and potential outreach opportunities submitted and reviewed by vestry.

A Financial Future Committee was also formed in the fall. The sustainability of our MAP will be directly affected by the financial future of our church and we believe the reverse is also true, our financial future depends on our ability to engage with the people in our neighbourhoods in a mission-focused way. This will not only serve the Lord, but help grow our congregation. The work of these two committees cannot be mutually exclusive.

It has become obvious to both committees that our building and land may be the most valuable resource that we have to offer. The MAP committee visualizes turning our building into a “hub” of activity by Church of the Good Shepherd developing new and existing church programs that appeal to the wider community, filling our spaces and time slots with outside community groups and events etc. That effort has already started with new members at LIFT meetings and Bell Choir practices and “non-church” volunteers on the Romero House and Christmas basket projects. The Financial Future committee recognizes that this valuable resource (land and building) comes with high maintenance costs that have become a growing and significant portion of our budget - pulling valuable dollars away from potential mission work and long-term financial sustainability. Their goal is to be proactive and develop a sustainable plan while we still have the ability to explore virtually all potential options. We must find a way to make our building pay for itself and contribute to expanding mission work.

There are three quotes made to Anglican parishes in general in 2021 that have helped set the tone for both the MAP and Financial Future committees:

- 1) “Who would miss you if you were gone?” - Shawn Branch – Parish Development Officer
- 2) “Be Bold! The diocese will support you!” – Bishop Edwards
- 3) “Find the gifts your group has. We need to be using our property and buildings not just on Sunday...” – Archbishop Linda Nicholls – Primate of Canada

We have indeed tried to be bold! Our discussions and research have led the Financial Future Committee to 5 potential options to date. Business models are being developed for each. They are:

- 1) Affordable Housing - Convert large hall including kitchen into 12 small apartments (on two floors) for 1 or 2 people each.
- 2) Adult Day Care – Hire a director and staff to operate. Renovate Small Hall, bathrooms etc. and provide parking plus accessibility on St. Rose side of church.
- 3) Full Time Child Day Care – Renovate Gym to comply with regulations, perhaps partner with existing day care for licensing, expertise etc.
- 4) Catering Business – Hire chef or partner with existing business such as Riverview’s Finest. May require some renovation of Chapel for “store front”. Target simple and healthy dinner menus for seniors living on their own and in senior complexes.
- 5) Sell the building and move to a smaller location.

There are multiple implications and potentially other renovations for each of the first four options to ensure we can accommodate our church activities under each scenario. Option #5 is obviously the least preferred but must be part of the review process.

We encourage everyone to attend the AGM when we will be able to provide more detail on both the MAP and these Financial Future options as we continue to move both processes forward. We value and appreciate input from everyone and welcome anyone who is interested in participating more fully, to join either or both committees.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Ricketts and Susan Jack
MAP and Financial Future Committee