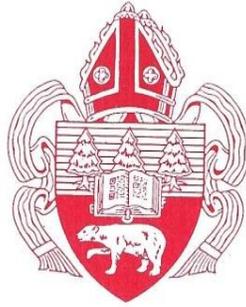


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DIOCESE OF YUKON ✚
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Ministry of Presence

A Historical Introduction to Ministry of Presence

At its peak, about 15 - 20 years ago, the Diocese of Yukon had 15 stipendiary clergy employed. The two big reasons that this was financially possible were that the mines were thriving and they required their employees to live on site and the financial state of the Anglican Church of Canada, which supports the Diocese of Yukon through the Council of the North, was in a much better financial position.

By the time I became the Bishop of Yukon in 2010 the situation had drastically changed. The mines had closed and the employees either moved or, in the case of many, became unemployed. In many cases the mines saw the value of the Church and directly assisted them with supplying buildings and labour. Today, as new mines open up, they do not require their employees to live on site but fly them in and out again at the end of their shifts. There is little contact with the local community.

The financial state of the Anglican Church of Canada had also changed. In the last 15 years the grant given to the diocese has been cut by over 40%. For the upcoming year of 2013 the cuts for the Diocese of Yukon through the Council of the North totaled 5% of the total Diocesan budget.

Over the years these changes have caused the diocese to make significant changes. Many clergy had to be let go. This resulted in a drop in attendance in those parishes which also meant a drop in local offerings making the situations worse. Some parish had to be shut down. Others were dependent on lay ministry, which in most cases were ill equipped to run a parish. Add to this the effects of the Residential Schools and you have many communities with a lot of people in need of pastoral care and no one to provide it.

The Diocese of Yukon is very aware of the hurt and the need for pastoral care to be provided in those communities that once had stipendiary clergy. We are following several means to seek to provide this pastoral care and ministry. The Ministry of Presence is one of those means.

The Concept

The Ministry of Presence is having an experienced volunteer (clergy of lay) to come to live in the rectory of a vacant parish and to be the presence of Christ among the people of the community. The volunteer would be responsible for Sunday and Emergency Services. They would represent the Diocese of Yukon and be the "first call" in that community. The volunteer would give pastoral care to the community as he or she is able. (This is often in the form of visits and a listening ear.) Other ministry would depend on the volunteer and the needs of the community. These ministries and other needs would be set out in

conversations between the volunteer, the parish and the Diocese. The duration of this ministry would be for a minimum of one year unless agreement has been made with the Bishop.

What Others Are Doing

Each appointment differs according to the needs of the parish and the skills, health, and willingness of the volunteers. Beside the normal liturgical services the following is what some are doing in the Ministry of Presence.

1. Youth Work - Sunday School or Youth Groups
2. Visitation - those on the parish list or in the community
3. Bible Study
4. Participation in community events
5. Volunteering in the community
6. Training of Lay Ministers and other lay training
7. One person has led retreats in the Diocese
8. Teaching in Diocesan training events

The Diocesan Commitment

The Diocese of Yukon will provide the following:

1. Transportation costs - A requirement of the volunteer is to have a vehicle. The diocese will pay for fuel, food and accommodations along the way and on the return trip when and if necessary. Because of transportation costs we will only pay for one vehicle and expect you to bring only what will fit in the vehicle.
2. Accommodations - This will normally mean a vacant furnished rectory. This is usually a 2 - 3 bedroom house. Remember it will often be an older house. The Diocese will ensure it is livable and furnished. Because of the cost, we cannot pay for the moving of furniture from the volunteer's home.
3. Ministry costs - The normal ministry costs will be covered by the parish. The parishes do not possess computers, or lap tops. Although the Internet is available throughout the Yukon it is left to the incumbent's desire. The costs of these services and supplies will be agreed upon by parish, diocese and volunteer.
4. Costs while on Diocesan Activities - The diocese/parish will pay mileage cost, and accommodations (usually billets) when attending any diocesan function such as synods or training events or other diocesan duties.
5. A small honorarium if necessary - Although the diocese cannot pay a full stipend, it will offer a small honorarium to help with the higher food cost. This usually amounts to about \$500 a month.
6. Supervision, advice and Diocesan Resources - Members of the diocese will be available at all times. The bishop's phone number is provided to all. What resources we have can be made available when needed. For instance the diocese has two music machines with music for about 2000 hymns in it. This is made available to those who need it in their parishes.
7. Finally the Diocese of Yukon can provide a unique opportunity to minister in a historical setting in some of the most awesome beauty that our God has created. We offer an adventure in His Service that involves unique challenges which may include working among First Nations, among poverty and in small isolated communities.

The Volunteer's Commitment

The volunteers agree to:

1. Have an income that is sufficient to live on (for example: pension). The honorarium is not sufficient to live on, it is simply a supplement.
2. Provide a vehicle in good working order.
3. Provide adequate medical insurance. The current diocesan medical insurance from the National Church is not available to volunteers. After three months you can apply for Yukon Medical. That however will not cover things like prescriptions and medical travel.
4. Under the direction and authority of the Bishop of Yukon you will administer basic Sunday and emergency liturgical services.
5. Under the direction and authority of the Bishop you will provide pastoral care and other ministerial services as agreed to the parish you are in.
6. As any member of the Diocesan Ministry team, you will participate in Diocesan events such as synods, meeting of ministers and training events.
7. Bring with you a spirit of adventure, a desire to share your skills and talents, a desire to share your faith, and a desire to enjoy the world around you.

For more information please contact the Diocese of Yukon or Bishop of Yukon at 867-667-7746 or at synodoffice@klondiker.com

If you wish to apply for a position in this ministry please send your resume (should include the story of your faith journey) and references to the Diocese of Yukon at the above email address or to:

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