



The Anglican Church of Canada
Diocese of Athabasca

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Bishop: The Right Reverend David Greenwood
Archdeacon: The Venerable Canon Terry Leer

Dean: The Very Reverend Jason Haggstrom
Administrative Assistant: Benita Greenwood

April 25, 2022

Thrice-yearly update to all members of the Diocese of Athabasca.

Dear People of Christ:

Greetings! In the name of our Lord and Saviour, the Risen Christ, may you be greatly blessed in your ministry with Him. Being in the world, our ministry is put forth by everything that we say and do, including our financial actions, so I will start my update by looking at that. Below is our draft financial statement from the end of 2021. Once the final year-end statement has been approved by DEC, the statements will be available to everyone who is interesting in reading them.

	ACTUAL	FORECAST
REVENUE		
General Synod grant	75,000	75,000
Parish Fair Share contributions	178,791	153,467
Parish honoraria	9,850	3,670
Donations	38,602	50,000
Rental income	18,800	21,300
Investment income	9,486	15,000
Other	777	2,500
	<u>331,306</u>	<u>320,937</u>
EXPENSES		
Support of parishes	37,702	78,500
Provincial assessment	3,132	3,131
Property costs	40,637	42,800
Salaries and benefits	189,263	197,489
Office operations	11,017	17,950
Travel	6,274	15,000



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so that the family of Christ, the kingdom of God, is further established.



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Diocesan Synod		25,000
Indigenous ministry		17,000
Other	3,766	
	291,791	396,870
Net income (deficit)	39,515	-75,933

As you can see, our Parish contributions were around \$25,000 higher than forecast – thank you to all of you who contributed more than we anticipated! Also, our support of parishes was less than forecast – again, thank you! That was possible because you were directly supporting your parishes in their obligations. We were able to directly assist parishes in need on many fronts, and all that assistance was made possible because of your contributions. You’ll also notice that Salaries and Benefits are lower, mainly due to reduced travel allowance costs with the Archdeacon and myself. Office Operations and Travel itself were also reduced. We did not have a Diocesan Synod, and we did not spend our Indigenous Ministry funding due to a variety of circumstances.

This almost illustrates “what is the minimum cost to run a diocese.” We are anticipating further cost reductions in 2022 upon the retirement of our Archdeacon in July, and realignment of our Administrative Assistant position (more on that below). The Archdeacon has been an invaluable asset to me and has spent much time training our Administrative Assistant and working with our Treasurer so we will be able to function after his retirement. As part of that, we are planning to transfer our book-keeping from in-house to the Diocese of Calgary, who have graciously agreed to take this on for us.



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Following the end of last year, our assets are:

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Cash and bank accounts	272,408	206,284
Accounts receivable	5,602	6,977
Short term investments	330,729	330,730
Long term investments	640,038	640,037
TOTAL ASSETS	1,248,777	1,184,028
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	13,310	8,704
EQUITY		
Internally restricted funds	477,224	482,007
Externally restricted funds	93,136	80,723
Endowment funds	387,381	387,381
	957,741	950,111
Accumulated surplus beginning of year	225,213	210,877
Transfers between funds	12,998	- 12,066
Current earnings	39,515	26,402
	277,726	225,213
TOTAL EQUITY	1,235,467	1,175,324
TOTAL LIABILITIES PLUS EQUITY	1,248,777	1,184,028

As you can see, we have a rise in assets of almost \$75,000. However, due to our extraordinary financial circumstances you need to be aware that we did not send our annual gift to the National Church of \$50,000 for the past two years – this has been reinstated into our budget for this year and we are intending to send it in full.

The end result of this is that, during the past two years of covid, we have successfully transitioned out of a deficit position by cutting as many costs as we could and still function. I think we are now at almost the leanest we can be – and I would like to change the focus from cutting costs and “ensuring survival”, to investing in the stability, growth, and flourishing of our congregations and parishes. Thank you very much for your dedicated stewardship and support in the past two years, and I look forward to following the steps of Christ going forward, as He further establishes His family here in northern Alberta!



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As I mentioned, we have realigned our Administrative Assistant position. Our previous Assistant, Kelinda MacRoberts, left our office for a position with the Town of Peace River – she left with our blessing, and with our thanks for the work she had done for us. She did not have it easy, coming on at the same time as a new bishop and both of us trying to figure out which way was up.

Looking at ministry costs, we changed the Administrative position from a full-time salary to one which paid \$20 per hour for 15 hours per week, with no benefits other than the required EI and CPP. We then advertised the position, with the Archdeacon, the Dean, and the Treasurer responsible for interviewing and choosing the successful applicant. At the end of the process (which I must stress I had no part of, and for which there were several applicants), they offered the position to my wife, Benita Greenwood, and she accepted.

As she is my wife, this details strict enforcement for:

- while she prepares the cheques, she has no signing authority and cannot dispense funds on her own volition (whereas Kelinda was one of the signing authorities for the diocese);
- while she gathers and catalogues the office mail, she does not open anything specifically addressed to me as Bishop;
- I keep all confidential matters to myself and the parties directly involved.

I pray that you will welcome our new Administrative Assistant and support her – I can vouch that she is friendly, helpful, and wants you all to succeed in your ministries in Christ.

As I mentioned above, our Very Reverend Canon Terry Leer is retiring this coming July. Also, Bishop Larry Robertson is (re)retiring at the same time. Finally, the Reverend Fariborz Khandani of Christ Church Grande Prairie has accepted a position with the Anglican Church in Cochrane, Diocese of Calgary. This is a lot of change to digest in a short period of time! Please join me in prayerfully thanking each of them for their ministry amongst us, and how each has, in their way, represented the Image of God to us – and also pray for their new journeys to be of great blessing for them and for those they meet, in Christ.



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As part of investing in the people of our diocese, we are hoping to have a Youth Canoe Trip this summer, for youth from across the diocese, being organized by Mr. Willi Whiston, Youth Leader for our Fort McMurray parishes. If you know of someone from grades 7-12 who would benefit from a paddle with Christ in a secluded wilderness setting, please contact the Diocesan Synod Office.

Also, I want to again recommend to all of you our webinar series being led by the Rev. Judy Paulsen of Wycliffe College, University of Toronto. She will gently lead us out of our comfort zones as we seek to move with Christ in the paths He is leading us on, to call all people to Himself. Our next webinar is planned for mid-May, so please be on the lookout for more information. All are welcome and invited!

In closing, I see that +Stephen, Bishop of Edmonton, has an informal “Ask your Bishop” zoom meeting planned in which he can give updates and answer any questions people may have. If you would find such an event helpful, please let the Synod Office know and I would be pleased to have it with you, as a one-time or recurring event.

Finally, I end with this from Paul’s letter to the Colossians:

As Your chosen ones, Oh Lord, clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Guide us to bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as You have forgiven us, so we also must forgive. Above all, clothe us with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Let Your peace rule in our hearts. May we indeed be one body, full of thankfulness. May Your word, Oh Christ, dwell in us richly; may we teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in our hearts sing to You. May we do everything in Your name, Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God our Father through You. Amen.

May our Christ shelter, guide, and empower you, as you walk His Way;

David 



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