



a way through the wilderness

Strategic Workplan Update - January 2026

 Inviting Witness

Inviting Witness: Celebrating the Good News of Jesus Christ that is generous, hopeful, inclusive, and faithful

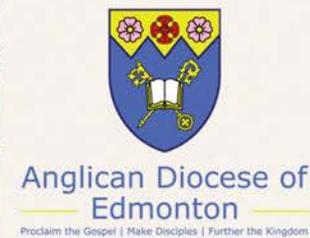
- A Terms of Reference for a diocesan Inviting Witness Committee has been developed, and a network of creative and passionate leaders has been assembled to help develop and deliver content that presents a generous, hopeful, inclusive, and faithful expression of the Gospel for our time.
- As of January 2026 Bishop Steve has launched the Mainline Christianity Project as a part of the outward-facing diocesan communications plan to share articles, videos, podcasts, and other kinds of digital media designed to engage with people interested in exploring the Way of Jesus.



The new Ministry Centre at St. Margaret's, Edmonton, opened in September 2025

A smudge prepared for a Cursillo event

Members of St. Augustine Parkland sing Christmas carols at their community ministry, Auggie's Café





Purposeful Discipleship: Providing people of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to practice the Way of Jesus, grow in faith, and share their gifts in ministry

- A Diocesan Discipleship Leaders Circle has been created to bring together a team of leaders who are animating various vibrant discipleship initiatives across the diocese for the purposes of greater overall awareness of what is available and the more intentional coordination of efforts.
- Two Sub-Committees for Youth Discipleship and Children’s Discipleship have been formed to bring together people from parishes who are offering programs and events for these communities and provide them with access to budgetary and other resources to strengthen and expand diocesan ministries in this area.
- The first annual diocese-wide Discipleship Conference, “You are Leaven,” was held in the spring of 2025, with a second one planned for the first half of 2026.
- The Revive! Program continues to be offered at the diocesan level and by a number of parishes, with participation increasing.
- A Vocations Conference under the banner of “Awakening Your Purpose” is scheduled for February 2026 as an opportunity for members of churches to be accompanied in exploring their gifts and callings.
- An annual diocesan subscription to Huron University’s Licentiate in Theology digital course catalogue has been purchased for 2026, providing access to biblical, theological, and spiritual formation for ministry leadership at no cost to individuals.

The diocesan workplan launched at the Wild Roots Café, St. Augustine of Canterbury, Edmonton



Vital Congregations: Supporting established and newer expressions of faith community in discerning and embracing their local callings and purposes

- The Rev. Nick Trussell was hired in August 2025 to a 2-year full-time contract as Coordinator of Missional Renewal for the diocese. Nick has already met with approximately 33% of parishes to facilitate conversations and discernment of future directions in their mission and ministry, and will likely reach 50% by Synod 2026. Nick’s learnings are also being shared with the Purposeful Discipleship, Collaborative Community, and Innovative Stewardship teams to help inform their work with parishes in those areas.
- The Huron Certificate in Parish Administration and Leadership courses will be provided online and free of charge for interested parish Wardens, Treasurers, etc., in April-May-June of 2026 to expand the skills and capacity of critical lay leaders.
- An external evaluation of the staffing levels and job descriptions of the Synod Office staff has been conducted, and a report has been shared with the bishop with recommendations. For comparison, this has been cross-referenced with staffing levels in other similar-sized Anglican dioceses in Canada. These will result in the bishop producing a vision for a “right-sized” diocesan staffing complement, given our current realities and resources as a family of churches.
- An additional part-time Administrative Assistant was hired for the Synod Office in January 2026 on a temporary contract to help increase capacity for parish administrative support during this season of adaptation and transition, particularly for parishes that are unable to hire their own admin



This person will help the Synod Office team develop additional parish support infrastructure to lighten the administrative load within congregations working with fewer people and resources.

*Bishop Stephen takes a selfie with
Synod Office and Cathedral staff
in December 2025*



Collaborative Community: Increasing Communication between parishes and regions, working more closely as a diocesan family of churches, and building deeper relationships with ecumenical partners

- Following consultations and surveys, a new communications plan for internally focused information sharing has been developed, including a revamped website in the works for summer 2026, and recent and planned modifications to the content and delivery formats of the Synod Scene and Messenger. There has been a significant increase in strategically targeted media content that tells stories about projects and initiatives that are supporting the Guiding Principles of the Diocesan Workplan.
- The sound and video technology of All Saints Cathedral has been upgraded and improved to enable greater livestreaming and digital participation in diocesan events and services for those outside the city of Edmonton.
- A series of diocese-wide worship opportunities has been hosted at All Saints Cathedral in 2025. This includes a diocesan Easter Vigil, Advent Lessons and Carols service, and a Pan-African New Year's Eve service. Other events connected with the Season of Creation, ordinations, and the 70th Synod are anticipated in 2026.
- An Ecumenical Shared Ministry Committee comprised of judicatory leadership from the Anglican, Lutheran, Moravian, Presbyterian, and United churches in the Edmonton and northern Alberta regions is meeting every 6-8 weeks to share information and make more coordinated and strategic decisions about clergy allocation, building maintenance, etc.
- Ecumenical Shared Ministries have been established in Vegreville with the United Church and Westlock with the Lutheran Church, along with a new Recognized Ministry in partnership with the Church of South India in East Edmonton.
- An ad hoc working group has been meeting to review the Canons and Constitution of the diocese and make recommendations to the Legislative Committee for several changes that will enable greater ease of regional cooperation, team ministry, lay leadership, etc. A report will be shared with the Legislative Committee in March 2026, with a view to bringing some potential proposals for canonical amendments to Synod in October.

Innovative Stewardship:

Developing diocesan financial and physical assets to encourage greater sustainability and the generation of resources that benefit all

- An Innovative Stewardship Committee has been formed with a team of leaders who have particular skills and experience related to entrepreneurship, real estate, property development, finance, policy, etc.
- An evaluative matrix that considers the physical, financial, social, spiritual, missional, and human assets of our communities of faith has been developed by the Stewardship Committee as an interpretive tool to apply when making decisions together with parishes and as a diocese about future infrastructure investments, leadership transitions, social enterprise partnerships, land redevelopment, etc.
- Members of the Innovative Stewardship Committee together with other interested individuals have been availing themselves of various learning and networking opportunities with organizations and consultants specializing in faith-based property and land redevelopment to build skills in these areas.
- A working group led by the diocesan Treasurer, the Rev. John Gee, is meeting regularly to articulate a more transparent and simplified formula for the calculation of parish apportionment contributions that will better serve to meet the needs of the diocese into the future. This will be brought to Synod in October for discussion and consideration.



Anna Bubel leads a consultation with members of St. Mary and St. George Anglican Church, Jasper United Church, and representatives of Jasper community organizations in October 2025.

Courageous Justice: Seeking right relationships among all people and with the whole of Creation

- The second annual Youth Social Justice Day was held in November 2025 with increased participation from the year before. Plans are in place to reproduce much of the same content for an All-Ages Social Justice Day in March 2026.
- An increased number of social justice-oriented workshops and learning opportunities on topics such as anti-racism, 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion, ecological justice, ableism and disability theologies, etc., have been offered or are planned for the coming year.
- A process for taking a Social Justice Inventory of the parishes of the diocese to determine areas of relative strength and relative need is being conducted by the diocesan Social Justice Committee in early 2026 to better identify the kinds of resources and mentorship that parishes would most benefit from.



Archbishop Chris Harper, Archdeacon Travis Enright, and the Rev. Helen Chan at a national gathering for Alongside Hope in 2025

Participants at the Youth Social Justice Day



Still to Come

- The original Workplan envisioned hiring part-time staff in the areas of children, youth, and young adult ministry. While significant funds have been allocated to support diocesan efforts in this area, there has been debate about whether hiring staff is the most effective use of these resources. The Discipleship Leaders Circle has oversight of this money and will be making decisions about the most effective ways to use it in consultation with the Children's Discipleship and Youth Discipleship Sub-Committees.
- An action item under Collaborative Community which has not yet materialized is the intentional urban-rural pairing of parish communities to strengthen the sense of connection and cohesion between ministries located in the city of Edmonton and those in surrounding communities.
- Significant monies earmarked for consultancy fees related to property redevelopment have not yet been drawn upon, although there is an expectation that they will be during 2026 as several parishes contemplate decisions related to building infrastructure.
- One of the items in Courageous Justice involves scholarship-based financial support towards the education and advancement of a more diverse team of leaders within the diocese. A total of \$30,000 has been set aside for this purpose, but the lack of awareness and limited recruitment has meant it is entirely unused thus far.



St. George's, Fort Saskatchewan, celebrated 150 years of Anglican ministry in the Edmonton area in 2025