

Shape of Parish Ministry Consultation Team

Terms of Reference:

The team serves at the pleasure of the Bishop and consists of 5-7 members (including co-chairs). Other members are selected by the co-chairs in consultation with the Bishop.

Purpose: The purpose of the consultation team is to develop and implement a consultation process for the Diocese of Ottawa that enables transparent and collaborative decision making with regards to the shape of parish ministry across our diocese and the use of available resources for that ministry.

Essential Components: The process will gather, share and analyze essential information and insight from appropriate sources around our diocese to get a clear picture of the current reality of parish ministry and the implications of that reality. To do this, it will need to facilitate:

- data gathering from sources such as Statistics Canada, parish and diocesan statistics and financial records
- participation of parish leaders as they describe the unique aspects of their parish context
- an increased understanding of parish ministries across the diocese
- conversations across the regions and various parish realities of our diocese

Desired Outcomes:

- Provide a pastoral opportunity for parishes and diocesan leaders to understand and take action on local realities within the broader context of diocesan ministry
- Assist each parish in clarifying its understanding of the mission to which God has called it
- Develop and strengthen mutual investment in ministry across the diocese
- Identify opportunities for growth
- Foster a collaborative approach for the diocese for making decisions regarding buildings and the shape of parish ministry

Reporting: The consultation team reports to the Bishop of Ottawa.