

# SHAPE OF PARISH MINISTRY (SPMC)

HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO SHAPE THE parish ministry OF OUR diocese? What dreams would God have us dream together? Where is God calling us to be, and where are we called to invest the resources which have been entrusted to us? These are vital questions that, through our Bishop's guidance, are leading our path to change and thrive.

## BUILDING A PLAN ...

# 1.

### - 2020 -

Affirmed and focused on four diocesan strategic priorities.

- Communications
- Shape of Parish Ministry & Buildings
- Engagement with the World
- Lifelong Formation, Worship, & Hospitality

### - 2021 & 2022 -

#### STAGE 1

#### *Parish Profiles*

Built upon qualitative and quantitative data

#### STAGE 2

#### *Parish Toolkits*

Formed by analysis of local realities

#### STAGE 3

#### *Drafting Proposals*

Gathered insights to discuss at Synod

recognizing we now seek to  
***guide change & thrive***  
rather than be changed by external factors.

### - SYNOD 2022 -

Proposals resoundingly approved

Proposal 1:  
Shape of Parish Ministry



Strengthening the Future

Proposal 2:  
Lifelong Formation



Nurturing Parish Ministry

Proposal 3:  
Engaging with the World



Contextual Mission & New  
Worshipping Communities

## TAKING ACTION ...

# 2.

### - 2023 -

Proposals transformed into...

## ELEVEN ACTIONS

#### ACTION 1

Building ministry  
resources & knowledge

#### ACTION 2

Developing strategies  
to engage with the world

#### ACTION 3

Guiding major parish  
changes

#### ACTION 4

Stimulating innovation  
& collaboration

#### ACTION 5

Reviewing parish  
fair share

#### ACTION 6

Using dividends for  
parish ministry costs

#### ACTION 7

Bringing clarity to  
parish governance

#### ACTION 8

Training & support for  
parish leaders

#### ACTION 9

Providing services to  
parishes

#### ACTION 10

Equipping parishes to  
thrive

#### ACTION 11

Funding parish engagement  
with the world



**The Eleven Actions are currently the Top Strategic Priorities of our diocese.**

SYNOD, OCTOBER 2023: Each one of the *Eleven Actions* are addressed and shown how they will combine together in 2024 – and beyond – to bring about tangible changes in the way we operate and support our parish ministries.

## Our Diocesan Practices

- We will pray and listen for the prompting of the Spirit
- We will work collaboratively
- We will be courageous, embrace change, and take risks
- We will monitor, review, and renew our ministries
- We will budget to implement our priorities

## DRIVING CHANGE ...

# 3.

## RESULTS WE AIM TO REACH – TO GUIDE CHANGE & THRIVE

1. There will be less reliance on parish revenues to fund the operating budget of our diocese.
2. Diocesan staff will provide increased assistance and support to parish leaders as they manage parish finances, properties, stewardship, communications, human resources, and administration.
3. Our Bishop will provide guidance to parishes facing major changes, and will promote and enable innovation and collaboration.
4. Parish leaders will receive more training and learning opportunities; there will be a clear understanding of how parishes operate.
5. A *Learning Commons* and a *Program for Parish Advancement* will provide resources, knowledge, and practical instruction on all essential aspects of parish ministry.
6. We will learn how to practice contextual mission as we engage with the world and establish new worshipping communities.

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