

## **Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island**

### **Special Vestry Meeting – 17 and 20 November 2021**

#### **Summary report - discussion group feedback on Parish Renewal Task Force recommendations**

This report summarizes the feedback and recommendations that emanated from the 5 small group discussions following the presentations by the Parish Renewal Task Force members of their report at the Special Vestry meeting held in 2 parts:

- 17 November on Zoom, and
- 20 November in person at All Saints.

The purpose of the special vestry meeting was:

1. to approve the revised parish goals, and
2. to share the recommendations of the parish task force and invite discussion guiding the way forward with each.

The report on this special vestry meeting is included with the 2021 Annual Report – pages 15 and 16 which can be downloaded – click [here](#).

The total attendance at both meetings was 31 parishioners including 9 task force members. We attribute this limited participation to several factors, including COVID19 restrictions and the very fact this was a special vestry meeting.

The revised parish goals – now 10 – were approved at this meeting and are included at the end of this report.

The “final report” of the Parish Renewal Task Force and its 9 recommendations was circulated in September 2021 and can be downloaded – click [here](#).

Following a PowerPoint presentation of the 9 recommendations by members of the task force at each meeting, small breakout groups were tasked to respond to the following questions:

1. Which recommendations of the report made you feel hopeful and excited?
2. Which ones do you consider most important for our future as a thriving church?
3. Which ones do you think we need to move on right now?

Because participation from the parish was limited, the task force considers the feedback from the discussion groups to be inconclusive; however, we must acknowledge with appreciating the interest and commitment of those that were able to participate, and the important and useful comments, suggestions and recommendations made. We have attempted to summarize these as follows:

## Group 1:

### Priorities:

- Welcoming: very important not only for those attending Sundays, but to reach out to the SSI community.
- Star-of-the-Sea: Encourage parishioners to take part – and important outreach beyond our parish to the broader SSI community!
- Spiritual Formation: Encouraged by the bible study group which developed as an outcome from the spring 2021 Lenten study. Continue to offer more and varied time-bound programs in future.
- Pastoral Care: build on the phone-check-in group
- Missions & Outreach
- Climate Crisis
- Reconciliation

## Group 2:

### Priorities:

- There is a need to rebuild the “body” – to get parishioners to come back to in person worship and other activities.
- Spiritual formation groups: have the potential to enrich and grow the parish
- Welcome: bring in more and varied music
- Worship and Liturgy: bring in more and varied music
- The Environment – e.g. the Climate Crisis – communicate with our island community that we care about the environment.
- Spiritual Formation Groups: are having an impact. Useful for reaching out to the community

## Group 3:

### Priorities:

- This group prioritized the recommendations – suggesting that all were important.
- The need to engage with the parish in putting the recommendations into practice was noted. Leadership and participation is required!

## Group 4

### Priorities:

- Welcoming, Spiritual Formation Groups, Pastoral Care and Building Renewal
- Spiritual Formation and Worship are considered foundational
- Communications and pastoral care are important – some of which have been lost during COVID19

### Concerns:

- Pastoral Care: e.g. the phone and prayer chains, the pastoral care committee

## Group 5

### Comments and recommendations:

- The task force goals and recommendations are “noble and lofty” but we are concerned about how they might be realistically implemented given our limited (and ageing) parishioners and finances.

- No mention was made in the recommendations of the housing problem on Salt Spring, outreach to the poor and homeless through pool and bus passes, soup kitchen, access to our building.
- Welcome: name tags recommended
- Focus on the core business of the parish: spiritual formation and motivation.

## Summary

Almost all groups appreciated the recommendation raising the visibility of the Star-of-the-Sea activities, with some hoping to engage more with these in future.

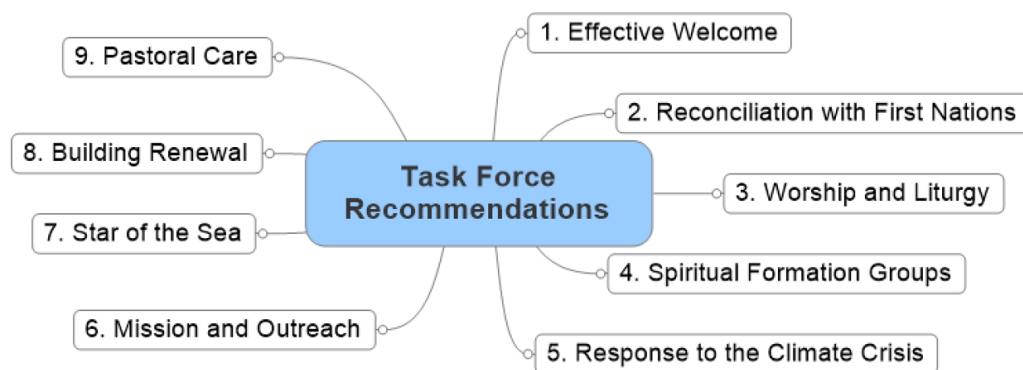
Missions and Outreach is an important and on-going activity within our parish and it is important to note here that this activity already attempts to address both local community issues (e.g. homelessness and housing, poverty, mental health, etc.) as well as international development activities. Strengthening this group and increasing its scope to include environmental/climate and reconciliation has also been encouraged.

The task force members recognize that many (and perhaps all) of its recommendations are “lofty” and certainly challenging – however, they feel that these provide a useful vision for parishioners that is required to define priority areas and encourage participation and leadership. We recognize that we will not be able to deliver fully on all in the short-term. But if we work together, and perhaps bring new folk into our fold, we will be able to better share God’s love with each other and our Salt Spring Island community!

## The Way Forward:

The mandate for the task force in 2021 effectively concluded with the report and presentation of their recommendations to the special vestry meeting in November 2021. That said, the task force will recommend to Parish Council their wish to continue their work in 2022 to encourage participation, to guide in the implementation of the recommendations and to monitor progress. If you wish to join with us and/or to participate in any of the recommendations, please contact Gyllian or any of the wardens.

## How will you get involved?



## Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island

## **Revised Parish Goals - as approved at November 2021 Vestry Meeting**

### **Faith in Action:**

1. To meet key needs on Salt Spring through partnering with others.
2. To learn of our part in the history of the First Nations and to be a place of reconciliation through our own education, moving towards action, beginning with entering into dialogue.\*
3. To reflect the diversity of Salt Spring and be an agent for strengthening it.
4. To respond to the climate crisis by educating ourselves and taking action relevant to the Salt Spring Island community as good stewardship of our planet.\*

### **Faith in Formation:**

5. To explore new liturgies and modes of worship.
6. To be more effective/organized in providing pastoral care.
7. To be an open, loving, caring, and understanding community for those who have been hurt by the church. \*

### **Faith in Foundation:**

8. To become ever more inclusive.
9. To expand our demographic range.
10. To be more skilled at stewardship particularly with reference to money and talent.

\* denote new and revised goals