

Alberta Alongside Hope Parish Representative's Inaugural Gathering

St Albert- May 2026

Title: Alberta Alongside Hope Parish Representative's Inaugural Gathering

Submitted by: The Alongside Hopes Diocese Reps for Calgary, Athabasca and Edmonton-Lois Reid, Rev Terry Francis and Jeffrey Hanger

Date: Tuesday 26 May 2026, For Immediate Release

Intro

From the evening of Friday May 22nd to lunchtime Sunday May 24th around 20 (volunteer) Alongside Hope Parish reps from across Alberta, representing churches from Calgary, Edmonton and Athabasca diocese met to seek a deeper understanding of Alongside Hope, and develop their individual roles as Church reps. This was the first time that reps from the three Diocese were brought together within Alberta.

The event covered the life changing work undertaken by the charity in Canada and overseas, and, with plenty of time for prayer and quiet reflection it became clear that the work that the Parish Reps undertake is Gods work.

As one participant put it:

The love of Christ, Christs compassion for our neighbours around the world, and the spirit of fellowship were so abundant, on faces, in words and in actions, that [the event] was a genuinely spiritual delight.

Body

The three Diocese Reps (Lois, Jeff and Terry) with Kim Umbach- the incredible volunteer coordinator of Alongside Hope pulled together an event to support the parish reps in their role as ambassadors of the charity.

Twenty (Volunteer) Alongside Hope Reps from across the Province came together to seek a deeper understanding of the Charity at the Star of the North Retreat Centre in St Alberta on the Friday evening.

Saturday saw a live link up with the TSURO Trust in Zimbabwe, a heartfelt presentation by Lois about her trip to Kenya in 2025, A passionate discussion about fundraising by Terry, a dive into the workings of Alongside Hope by Kim, "Alongside Hope Jeopardy" and a brief

discussion about the role the charity plays in helping to access clean water around the world.

Saturday saw, what can only be described as the beginning of the Alberta Alongside Hope Choir as we sang into the evening, and the weekend culminated in a chapel service lead by our own Reverend Terry.

But the real stars were the Parish Reps that took the time to meet, learn, ask questions, build ideas, generate connections, gain understanding and prepare for their next meeting at their Church. Fundraising was top of mind- so look out for notices in your church about a Rocking Chair challenge headed up by Donna from Camrose!

One key theme arose from the gathering: Alongside Hope is having a tremendous impact in Canada and around the world, and it makes us feel very proud to be Anglican and to be Canadian.

Lois- can you add more about outcomes please?

Lois- Can you insert a quote here?

The Gathering was supported by Alongside Hope and all three diocese.

Jeff, Lois and Terry