

Summary Report

Vision Planning Task Force



On November 28, 2009, approximately twenty members of the Parish of the Church of Saint Andrew in Cole Harbour met to discuss their vision for the future of the parish.

This all day session was the final event in a series of workshops designed to stimulate discussion and engagement from parish members regarding our church and parish.

The previous events were held on four Tuesday evenings in October and November and dealt with the following topics:

- Community Development
- Spiritual Development
- Outreach and Evangelism
- Buildings and Grounds

A summary for each of these evening sessions was prepared and posted to our website and made available during the vision planning day.

In addition, workshop participants were given a summary of the notes and comments as collected from our parish for our "Marks of Mission" banner as well as material originally collected for the national church vision process and focused on aspirations for our church now and into the future.

The Vision Planning Day goal was to develop a vision statement which encapsulated the hopes, priorities and expectations of our parish as we consider its evolution over the next 5 to 10 years.

The vision statement produced from this important day was presented to the Parish Council in January and, with their support, is to be formally accepted by the parish during the Annual General Meeting ordinarily held in February.

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CONCLUSIONS

After careful, prayerful consideration, the Vision Task Group recommend the following from the four evening and one all day session. We believe these statements capture and summarize the contribution of those who attended the vision planning events.

VISION STATEMENT

The Anglican Church of Saint Andrew in Cole Harbour strives to be a church whose doors are open and welcoming to all. Our belief in God as Creator and Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour compels us to turn our faith into action such that we are a beacon of light in the community where the Holy Spirit is alive and at work in all of our lives.

DEFINING STATEMENTS

- We are a distinctly Anglican Christian community which exists first and foremost to worship God and to steward His creation.
- We are a welcoming church which values its members and celebrates the many gifts and talents they bring to our community.
- We are an active community of faith which cares naturally for each other and which strives to make a difference in the greater community beyond the church walls.
- We are a confident church community, proud of a lengthy history of good work in the area yet constantly aware of the need for change.
- We enjoy and relish each others company and the role we play in living the word of God.