



CHRIST CHURCH  
DARTMOUTH  
An Inclusive Church Welcoming Everyone.



61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth, NS  
www.christchurchdartmouth.com

February 17, 2021

“Church is a moment in time when the kingdom of God draws near, when a meal, a story, a song, an apology, and even a failure is made holy by the presence of Jesus among us and within us.”  
-Rachel Held Evans.

Dear Friends in Christ,

There are times in organizations' lives (including churches) where historians and community members can point to a period or moment that has pivotally shaped the future. I believe the parish of Christ Church has arrived at this point in time.

In 2020, Parish Council directed the parish to begin a process of visioning. What is a visioning process, you might ask? Quite simply: a church visioning process is a holy conversation that allows for the *discernment of where God is calling us to be as church*. Like the disciples of long ago, as Christ-followers, we seek to discover where God is leading us. *What is our ministry? How can we engage in this ministry together? What are the resources we have to accomplish the mission?*

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, we formally embark on this journey. Each week, following our 10:00am service, we gather in-person or on Zoom for conversation. Sunday worship is limited to 45 minutes to enter into a period of intentional prayer and reflection. The group sessions are designed to enable parishioners the opportunity to explore the comprehensive data findings of the October 2020 survey conducted by Holy Cow! Consulting. The time and space we hold together are to be considered sacred. Within the geographical bounds of our beloved church, we sit upon the consecrated ground where so many others have gathered for generations.

Each week, Joan Hensler, Chair of the Ministry Visioning Committee, will do the day's introductions. John MacDonald will provide a brief overview of the survey findings and will help facilitate discussion. Rev. Bonnie Baird, our Pastoral Visitor, will act as a Chaplain and offer an open heart and a listening ear.

Our visioning committee has framed the sessions in the following way:

1. Introduction – 5mins.
2. Prayer and Collect for Visioning
3. Exploring the survey data concerning the question of the day. 10-15mins.
4. A group discussion about the question(s) raised from the survey 10-15mins.
5. Breakout sessions, gathering in smaller groups for more intimate conversation 20mins.

6. Group check-in and summary on what we have discovered 10-15mins.
7. Closing Prayer

Upon completing our sessions, parish council will compile the voices heard so that they can be shared with the parish. This is to provide a transparent record of what we learned from one another and lead to the next steps of the process determined by the parish council, which the Holy Spirit guides.

I wish to stress that the visioning committee will continue to conduct these holy conversations in a constructive, life-giving, and transparent way. Therefore, every person in the parish will receive a personal phone call as an invitation to attend the sessions or contribute in an alternative way. If you or your ministry group wants to have a conversation about your church experience, please contact the parish office. We can then arrange for a member of the visioning team to meet with you.

So what does this mean? It means we want to hear from you! The leadership in the parish wants to know the strengths and weaknesses of our community. That leadership is the whole people of God. So what are we doing well? What can we do differently? What needs to be changed or maintained? How can we support you and your family in your spiritual journey? What are the things that are on your heart, mind, and soul? We want to allow for every opportunity so everyone can voice their opinion. As people faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ, we want to honour your voice.

This honouring is essential because the parish's collective voice will drive the future of our community. So, this is your opportunity! It is our opportunity! It is the moment in history that will support God's mission for the people of Christ Church. Please contribute. Please pray for the parish as we discern together, and please consider this significant opportunity.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kyle Wagner".

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner  
Rector