



ST. JUDE'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
OAKVILLE, ONTARIO

May 9, 2024

“Finalizing” our Mission Action Plan

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the process of developing a new Mission Action Plan for St. Jude's. The sessions have been very well attended. You have spoken about what is important to you and what you believe God is calling us to do.

The original topics of our three conversations were: (1) Faith Formation; (2) Parish Culture; and (3) Fullness of Life in the Neighbourhood. However, the fact is that our conversations were wider ranging than perhaps we planned, and the comments we heard do not easily fit back into the original headings we began with.

Another thing we noticed was a remarkable convergence among the ideas that we heard. Several comments were repeated at the various conversations. The convergence was dramatic enough, that in our review, a few “key priorities” clearly emerged under three themes that the planning team identified:

- Community engagement;
- Discipleship; and
- Faith and worship.

In the slides included below you will see the priorities as they were identified and voted upon in the three consultations along with what has been identified as key priorities. In the Appendix we have provided a fuller account of the data as it was collected.

Finally, I am attaching three posters that again list the “key priorities” that were identified. You will see these posters on our final parish-wide consultation which will be held on Sunday, May 26, following the Choral Service. In preparation for this meeting, please review the “key priorities” and consider where you sense God's calling most significantly. We will be asked to vote on the key priorities by putting your name next to at least one of them. By putting your name beside a priority, you are making a limited commitment. You are committing yourself to attend at least one initial meeting where the

priority you have selected will be discussed. That's it! If you wish to be involved further with making that priority a reality you will be most welcome. We hope that you will be thinking and praying about that.

Please review the attached information and don't hesitate to be in touch with any of the members of our planning team with any questions. The team members have been: Tony Denning, Jenny Le Riche, Chris Punnett, Susan Wray-Toogood, Mark Verlinden, Sarah Grondin and myself.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DJA', with a small cross symbol to the right of the signature.

(The Reverend Canon Dr.) David J. Anderson

St. Jude's Mission Action Plan

(Session Four)

April 2024

MAP Session Recap

- Three consultation sessions held:
 - ***Faith Formation (FF)*** – January 27th (attendees: 45)
 - ***Parish Culture (PC)*** – February 11th (attendees: 27)
 - ***Fullness Of Life In The Neighbourhood (FLN)*** - March 24th (attendees: 43)
- The following slides consolidate those ideas and priorities, under three general themes, along with the Top 3 or 4 key priorities for each theme
- Appendix lists the ranked ideas/actions from each session based on the weighted voting used in each session

MAP Session Observations / Learnings

1. Same or similar ideas appeared in multiple sessions (e.g. more social events)
2. All attendees were engaged; very good and productive group/table discussions. Emphasis on all participants having their say
3. Strict time keeping and designated facilitators at each table kept the sessions on track
4. Voting methodology evolved with each session, with the final session having the best voting structure
5. Participant feedback (what went right/what could be done better) was very beneficial in preparing for subsequent sessions
6. Strong desire to optimize the use of our new kitchen

Key Asks in the April 28th MAP Session

- Sign-up for one or more activities or events
- Attend **at least one** workgroup session or meeting
- Be a leader, or at a minimum, volunteer your time to help make it a success

Why It Matters?

- We answer God's call as we grow in our relationships with one another and the wider community

Summary of Consultation Session Results

Community Engagement

Top Priorities (session votes)

- More social events (FF 46)
- Monthly newsletter, online, paper, mailed (FLN 20)
- Welcome (back) program (FF 20)/Blue mugs (FF 6)
- Events/initiatives to connect us to St. Jude's and community (FLN 16)
- Be a leader in the community, use assets, hold events, accessibility of music (PC 12)
- Tell our story to our parish: who, what, when (FLN 12)
- Increase social and justice focus, e.g., housing (FLN 11)
- More children, engage new people in activities, invite, food ministry (PC 10)
- Church members know about range of events (PC 10)
- Prioritize the needs: food, housing, social justice (FLN 7)
- Special events to get people into church (PC 6)
- Commitment to draw people in, e.g., newsletters (PC 6)

Key Priorities

1. Greater opportunities for community & parishioner engagement
 - More social events, special events & activities, food ministry
2. Enhance Parish/community communications
 - Newsletter, parish website
3. Deepen focus on social justice
 - Food, housing, social justice, work with other parishes, community partners, ecumenical & interfaith partners
4. Welcome newcomers & returning parishioners
 - Blue mugs, wine & cheese, volunteer recruitment

Discipleship

Top Priorities (session votes)

- Personal contact to all members, phone or personal visit, offer transportation if needed (FLN 14)
- Seniors, visiting, monthly lunch (PC 14)
- Strengthen youth program (FF 14)
- Interfaith/ecumenical summit and community to join in (FLN 12)
- Youth - plan and resource and evaluate (PC 11)
- Telephone ministry to congregation (FF 12)
- Work with other parishes, or ecumenically (FF 11)
- More children, engage new people in activities, invite, food ministry (PC 7)
- Volunteer recruitment and retention, succession planning and rotation (PC 6)

Key Priorities

1. Contact parishioners
 - Every member visitation, telephone ministry, financial pledging
2. Youth programming
 - Children's Church ministry, Sunday School, more children, youth plan
3. Seniors' ministry
 - Pastoral care, in-person visiting, lunches, combat loneliness

Faith and Worship

Top Priorities (session votes)

- Bible study (focused approach) (FF 18)
- Book studies (FF 18)
- Enliven our worship; music (FF 16)
- Once a month go to additional service with alternative services: youth, Gregorian, other (FLN 13)
- Table prayer (FF 6)

Key Priorities

1. Learning groups
 - Bible study, other book studies, guest speakers
2. Alternative worship services
 - Monthly creative, table prayer, youth-oriented
3. Music ministry
 - Varied music styles, Jazz vespers for younger families, concerts

Appendix

Consultation Session Output (Weighted Voting Results)

Faith Formation Session Results

1. **More social events (46)**
2. **Welcome (back) program (20)/Blue mugs (6)**
3. **Bible study (focused approach) (18)**
4. **Book studies (18)**
5. Use the kitchen (13)
6. Enliven our worship; music (16)
7. Strengthen youth program (14)
8. Telephone ministry to congregation (12)
9. Work with other parishes, or ecumenically (11)
10. Family-focused ministry/events (10)
11. Don't hide under a bushel (7)
12. Resurrect home-based/Gospel-based discipleship (7)
13. Expose community to church, speakers (7)
14. Involve 8am service more (7)
15. Table prayer (6)
16. Revive Living the Word with wider scope (5)
17. Expand Lay Pastoral visiting (3)

Parish Culture Session Results

1. **Be a leader in the community, use assets, hold events, accessibility of music (12)**
2. **Godly play (adults?), live and on Zoom (5)**
3. **More children, engage new people in activities, invite, food ministry (4)**
4. Financially viable (2)
5. Seniors, visiting, monthly lunch (1)
6. Commitment to draw people in, e.g., newsletters (1)
7. Involve/invite neighbours, community outreach (1)
8. Church members know about range of events (0)
9. Youth - plan and resource and evaluate (0)
10. Special events to get people into church (0)
11. Volunteer recruitment and retention, succession planning and rotation (0)

Top 5 – Passion & Readiness

1. Seniors, visiting, monthly lunch (14)
2. More children, engage new people in activities, invite, food ministry (10)
3. Church members know about range of events (10)
4. Special events to get people into church (6)
5. Volunteer recruitment and retention, succession planning and rotation (6)

Top 5 – Passion & More Time Required

1. Youth - plan and resource and evaluate (11)
2. More children, engage new people in activities, invite, food ministry (7)
3. Financially viable (7)
4. Special events to get people into church (6)
5. Commitment to draw people in, e.g., newsletters (6)
6. Involve and invite neighbours, community outreach (6)

Fullness of Life in the Neighbourhood Results

1. **Monthly newsletter, online, paper, mailed (20)**
2. **Optimize use of kitchen resources (18)**
3. **Events/initiatives to connect us to St. Jude's and community (16)**
4. Personal contact to all members, phone or personal visit, offer transportation if needed (14)
5. Once a month go to additional service with alternative services: youth, Gregorian, other (13)
6. Interfaith/ecumenical summit and community to join in (12)
7. Invite young musicians to perform at services or otherwise (12)
8. Tell our story to our parish: who, what, when (12)
9. Increase social and justice focus, e.g., housing (11)
10. Prioritize the needs: food, housing, social justice (7)
11. Collaborate with other churches and organizations to understand what we are all doing (6)
12. Inviting others in the church and community to join in (5)
13. Kid-friendly area (5)
14. Fifth Sundays, alternative music (5)
15. Increase public advertising (3)
16. Processions into the downtown/ Prayer walk (1)
17. Get to know our close neighbourhood and its needs (1)
18. Involve more people in outreach (1)
19. Join the ratepayer's association and attend meetings (0)

MAP Next Steps

- Reach a consensus on the key themes and prioritization of ideas/actions
- Reach a consensus on Top 3 Key Actions for each theme
- Assign leaders to each idea/action and volunteers to support those leaders
- Engage parishioners to support the leaders in fulfilling their respective mission actions that have been prioritized
- Anything else???

MAP

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1 INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES

Increase the number of opportunities for engagement with the community and among parishioners. E.g., Social events.



2 ENHANCE COMMUNICATION

Enhance communication to better tell our story and help people learn about opportunities for mission, ministry, worship, and faith formation. E.g., improve web, social media, and newsletter.



3 DEEPEN SOCIAL JUSTICE FOCUS

Deepen social justice focus, beginning with learning more about the needs in our community. E.g., consult with partners.



4 WELCOME NEWCOMERS & THOSE RETURNING

Welcome and integration of newcomers, and those who haven't seen for a while. E.g., blue mug program; welcome events.



1

PARISH CONNECTIONS

Establish patterns of regular connection and communication with parishioners (in-person and telephone). E.g., telephone tree, every member visitation, pledging.



2

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Seek to grow our engagement with children, youth, and their families. E.g., Add to age groups our Children's Church reaches.



3

SENIOR'S MINISTRY

Consider that Senior's Ministry is likely to become increasingly important for an aging congregation. E.g., Seniors visiting, events, communal meals.



MAP

FAITH AND WORSHIP

1 LEARNING GROUPS

Increase opportunities for faith formation and learning. E.g., Bible study, other book studies or groups, guest speakers.



2 EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP

Explore new opportunities for worship. E.g., monthly creative alternative; youth-oriented service.



3 MUSIC MINISTRY

Expand our music ministry to include wide range of opportunities. E.g., styles of music; concerts, etc.

