

Anglican Diocese of Ottawa: Embracing God's Future

Priority One: Buildings and the Shape of Ministry – Emerging Range of Options

October 25, 2017

Area Parish

A new type of parish established with the guidance and approval of the Bishop. One incumbent and one or more associate incumbents are appointed to the parish, not to individual churches, and work as a team* to provide pastoral leadership and ministry. Governance and finances may range from being more federated to more centralized, with one vestry and one parish council. ECOPS and Parish Fair Share are based on combined numbers from all churches.

Amalgamation

Two (or more) existing parishes enter into conversations to explore the possibility of transitioning into a single parish, likely in one building and possibly with fewer clergy. With the consent of the incumbents and churchwardens of the parishes, the Bishop may authorize an amalgamation with the approval of Diocesan Council. (*Bylaws 5.01.7-9*)

Collaboration

Intentional, beneficial collaborations between parishes can range from informal arrangements to undertake specific projects, to formal arrangements to share clergy, administrative or financial resources. Informal collaborations normally happen with the agreement of all parishes. Formal collaborations happen in consultation with the Bishop, and require mutual agreement on the details of the collaboration, along with a proposed term (e.g. X years, renewable with the consent of all parties).

Single-point Parish

A traditional parish, with an incumbent (and often an associate incumbent or assistant curate*) and one church (possibly shared with another denomination).

Multi-point Parish

A traditional parish, with an incumbent (possibly other clergy*) and two or more churches.

Anchor Model

A priest is contracted by the Bishop to provide defined priestly services to a church, governed by a memorandum of understanding between the Bishop and the church. Another priest, normally the incumbent of a nearby parish, serves as the "Anchor Priest" in charge of the church, supporting the wardens in matters of administration, property and finance, and also supervising the contracted priest.

Chapel

A Congregation applies to the Bishop for designation of a church as a "Chapel" which would have a "Sponsor" (a parish or another congregation) that is responsible for it. The Chapel is under the care of a priest designated by the Bishop—with the understanding that priestly duties at the chapel are limited to occasional services and pastoral care approved by the Bishop and Sponsor. (*Bylaws 5.01.22-31*)

Close

A Vestry resolves by at least a two-thirds majority that a church should be disestablished. With the approval of the Bishop the church is closed. Alternatively, and with the approval of Diocesan Council, the Bishop may invite a Vestry to voluntarily disestablish a parish or church. (*Bylaws 5.01.10-19*)

**Lay Readers may also be used in team configurations, or a priest or deacon may be contracted by the Bishop to provide defined services for a period of time (and for a set amount of money). Such a contract would normally be initiated by the request of an Incumbent who is authorized by their parish to retain additional clergy.*