

Ministry Assessment Process (MAP) Orientation

Saturday September 25, 2010

9:30 – 11 am at St. Timothy's

Local MAP teams and clergy from the following churches were present:

- St. Timothy, Burnaby
- St. Margaret of Scotland, Burnaby
- St. John, Port Moody
- St. Stephen, Burquitlam
- St. Laurence, Coquitlam
- St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Coquitlam

Regional MAP co-ordinators: Marnie Peterson and Tasha Carrothers

Regional Archdeacon: the Ven. John Bailey

Special guest from North Vancouver MAP: Andrew Wilhelm-Boyles

- What is MAP? It is the way we will work towards the answer to the question, "What is God calling us to do?"
- regional groupings bring a much more creative response to this question than single parishes working alone, but multiple partners make the process more complicated
- the diocesan strategic plan affirms that churches need to be both vital and sustainable

Small Group: Strengths and Challenges reported (not an exhaustive list)

St. Catherine

- Food Bank and soup kitchen programmes have an excess of volunteers! Certainly meeting a need in the community
- Challenges have been accepting the lack of own building, a difficult at times relationship with Trinity United, parishioner burn-out, lack of youth and programmes for youth

St. Laurence

- process of integrating newcomers into parish very strong, partly because of effective ministry of deacons in areas of hospitality, pastoral care, liturgical arts
- partnership with St. Barnabas in food programmes lends help
- difficulties with building envelope problems, new roof needed, upgrading of 40 year old facility: fundraising looms large

St. Margaret of Scotland

- got good building in shape now for ministry
- in very difficult transition place, future not clear, not enough energy and ½ clergy

St. Timothy

- very strong mission with both homeless outreaches and campus ministry at Simon Fraser
- lack of income to sustain growth with younger families and newer members

St. John Port Moody

- ongoing Education for Ministry (EFM) programme draws people from other parts of diocese and makes links to other parishes
- working with Cold Wet Mat for cold weather shelter in Port Moody

- Vacation Bible School attracts unchurched in community for week in summer
- Challenge is getting more than core people involved in ministries

St. Stephen

- no representative in small group
- note: St. Stephen's shares a priest with St. Margaret's

Large Group: Challenges

- lack of energy
- capital cost of building maintenance
- money
- going through transition
- low visibility/need for advertising
- waning attendance
- aging congregations
- unwillingness to change if perception is that neighbourhood has not changed (but most neighbourhoods have)
- getting volunteers
- more advanced skill sets are needed for certain jobs than are available in most parishes
- reluctance to take on any job when it is seen to have overburdened predecessor

Previous Experience with MAP: New Westminster – John Bailey

- Holy Trinity Cathedral has aging building with problems
- Last week held special vestry and approved architect to assess situation, with view to utilizing a portion of land, e.g. for affordable housing
- Came about as a result of MAP
- Process showed them the diocese really cares about what happens in parishes

Previous experience with MAP: North Vancouver – Andrew Wilhelm-Boyles

- was co-chair of MAP in North Vancouver
- MAP happened because 3-4 of the 6 parishes in North Vancouver were in financial difficulty or transition
- But parishes were still in state of thinking “we’re OK, we don’t need MAP”
- Suspicion of diocesan involvement of MAP consultants because of past baggage and fear that parishes would be shut down
- Also hostilities between parishes because of real or perceived slights, differences in theologies, etc.
- Every parish in MAP was different, e.g., liturgy, doctrine, outlook
- Took time to see that this was a source of richness more than conflict
- Took 6 months to get acceptance of the process
- Over two years, the MAP teams got to know each other as people but took effort to build trust
- crucial for MAP teams to communicate with their parishes as to what was going on
- purpose is not about building up numbers but service in the world and how we do it together
- realized need to lighten up grasp on both traditions and buildings in order to be deeply meaningful to people
- one parish decided to close and cede their funds to the ministry of the whole deanery
- now North Vancouver has submitted its recommendations to Diocesan Council
- contemplates shared resources and team ministry because now thinking as a deanery
- part of hope going forward is that we will engage with other faith groups

Stages of MAP

Stage 1

- outlined in guide to regional MAPping
- St. Timothy's is on track to confirm parish team and local leader: our team is:
 - Maribeth Mainer, local leader
 - Charles Barnes, warden rep
 - The Rev. Stephanie Shepard, clergy rep
 - Brenna Turvey
 - Lorraine Davies
 - John Nairn
- covenant with parish to confirm team: happened on September 26 at Sunday service
- have nominated the Rev. Jeannette Stigger to be our local chaplain in the process

Stage 2

- information gathering of local issues for writing a regional mandate
- October 16 is designated the mandate brainstorming session with other local teams and all clergy
- Appoint a regional team to draft the document
- Draft is to go to individual parish councils for discussion
- Draft then goes to Bishop and Standing Committees of diocese
- Parishes then approve mandate

Next Step

- Local MAP teams to report initial meetings to parish council and congregation, e.g. through talk, website, leaflet etc.
- Local MAP teams to gather for October 16 brainstorming session