

IMPORTANT ISSUES



A Changed and Changing World

At the beginning of 2020, most of us would have said, "Of course the world is changing." That recognition of a changing world has already led the diocese into Transforming Futures. Few of us would have imagined, however, how soon and how fast more change would come. Post Covid-19, what and how will the church need to be in 2021 and beyond? Who do we believe is best suited to lead us in transforming our future. How do we learn to re-gather in a post-pandemic reality? How do we utilize technology but remain true to God's call to be ministers of Jesus in the world?

Systemic Racism

In this diocese, we have acknowledged and are attempting to atone for the errors of colonization. We have endeavoured to be a church of reconciliation, but do we really understand the barriers built into our systems that impede first peoples and other people of colour from entering these white spaces? Systemic racism is an affront to the inherent dignity of all God's people. Can we renounce white supremacy if we don't even recognize and understand it? Who will best lead us to that recognition and understanding? What are the practical steps that we must take to build the kingdom of God for all people?

Reconciliation and Beyond

We have spent considerable time and effort in attempting reconciliation with first peoples on these island and inlets. We would be naïve to imagine that the work is done. Who will best lead us in building new relationships so that we might truly walk together in mutual respect and understanding?

This Fragile Earth, Our Island Home

Too often in its 2000-year history the church has taken Genesis 1:26 as permission to exploit instead of exercise duty of care: "Then God said, 'Let us make human-kind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the bird of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every thing that creeps upon the earth.'" Now, we know the price of our exploitation: climate degradation, accelerated species extinction, poisoned air, fire and drought, rising sea levels. Who will best lead us as we continue to embrace our role as stewards of God's creation? How will we repair our relationship with creation in this place so that we may live gently on these lands and seas? Who best to lead us as we together build the kingdom in this place?

The Gathered Community

We are not as many as once we were. But before our Covid-19 shutdown, over 3500 people gathered, on average, each Sunday in the churches of this diocese. We are long past the days when church attendance was essential to social, economic, or professional success. We who gather today do so because we are committed to building the kingdom of God through our community. Who will best lead us to release any sense of diminishment and to embrace the extraordinary capacity we still have to do Jesus' work on these islands and inlets?