



**Holy Innocents'**  
Anglican Church †

**The Church of the Holy Innocents**  
***holyinnocents.ca***

# *Faith, Love, Serve*

## **Vision**

*The Church of The Holy Innocents is a Christian family which is Christ-centered, providing a spirit filled atmosphere, centered on worship, education, fellowship, and faithful stewardship.*

## **Mission**

Our mission is to glorify God through Christ: **FAITH, LOVE, SERVE**

<b>Goals</b>	<i>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. John 2.24</i>	
<b>To encourage people to worship God</b>	For Anglicans, worship defines who we are and what we do. How is our worship connecting people with God, transforming lives, building community, attracting seekers and making disciples of Jesus?  <b>Objective:</b> To encourage people to worship God by providing an inviting worship experience that seeks to challenge, uplift, and support people as they respond to God’s call to live a Christian life.	
	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Description</b>
	1. commission a Worship Planning Team	A team of parishioners who will enhance the weekly worship experience. The team will ensure a mixture of traditional and innovative elements in worship services. Elements could include; music, drama, dance, videos, creative readings and other imaginative media. The intent is to enhance the experience of worship through the planning of the components and the people involved.
	2. expand music ministry	To explore alternative musical elements. This could include contemporary hymns, interpretative music, guest musicians and increased role of aesthetic expression.
	3. honour the spirituality of youth	Adjusting the youth involvement in the parish. Understand young persons as participants in ministry, not objects of ministry. Appreciate and validate youth as persons of sacred worth with legitimate spiritual needs and responses. Solicit input and feedback from youth. Invite them to suggest ways the church can help them grow in faith. Advocate for youth.
	4. enhance service delivery	Connecting with today’s media-savvy culture—especially younger generations growing up in this digital culture—and ultimately creating heightened encounters with Christ. Multimedia will expand what is possible during services and help listeners remember what is said for a longer period of time.
	5. develop a welcoming environment	Review all aspects of the experience of church attendees. Plan and remove any friction or obstacles that may inhibit participation of potential parishioners, e.g., accessibility, greetings, communication and amenities. Ensure that newcomers, returning members and guests feel welcome and experience the parish’s identity.
	6. offer new expressions of worship	Traditional expressions of worship will remain a key component of worship. Exploration and use of creative worship styles, times and events will appeal to a broader group of God’s children. More spontaneous, free flowing worship will further enhance the spiritual experience of all.

<b>Goals</b>	<p><i>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2.42</i></p>	
<b>To empower the disciples of tomorrow</b>	<p>Christian education entails more than the provision of information. It is formation leading to transformation. How well does our parish develop people of all ages in Christian faith and practice as disciples of Jesus making disciples of Jesus?</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To teach and nurture disciples to become Christian leaders both within the Church and in the wider community.</p>	
	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Description</b>
	1. grow a vibrant Sunday School	A young person's exploration of The Word. A 21 <sup>st</sup> century approach to learning about God while meeting their spiritual needs. Create a dynamic, focused opportunity for young people to grow in their faith.
	2. enable young adults to explore their faith	All parish youth should feel included and an important part of the church family. They participate in the service and contribute to the life of the church. They are decision makers as they help the church to serve themselves and others.
3. provide adult Christian education	All aspects of Christian education should be developed in all members of the church. Increased knowledge of God's word, the sacraments, leadership, discipleship and church teaching are important outcomes of parish work.	
<b>To provide scripture, tradition and reason</b>	<p><i>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.</i></p> <p>2 Timothy 3.14-15</p> <p>We live in an experiential culture in which to experience something is to know it as real. How does our church help people experience God and to know God as real?</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To provide Christian teaching through preaching, group and private study.</p>	
	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Description</b>
	1. provide faith development opportunities 2. challenge, nourish and support the journey of faith	Adults are often weighed down by the demands and complications of the busy world around them. The Word of God and our faith provide our direction. Programming inside and outside the service must grow our faith and knowledge of God.
	3. enhance worship by exploring truths and asking difficult questions	Within liturgy, prayer, sermon, readings and music the worship will challenge parishioners to consider life's complex topics and moral dilemmas.

Goals	<p><i>And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10.24-25</i></p> <p>During fellowship we share the good news of God’s love in Jesus, so that all persons come to know him as Saviour. How well are we doing in our ministry to seekers, meeting people at their points of need and understanding, offering the good news in terms and forms that relate to their situations, addressing their questions and connecting them with parishioners?</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To invite people into the fellowship of the Church by providing opportunities to grow in community one with another.</p>	
<p><b>To nurture Christian fellowship</b></p>	Actions	Description
	<p>1. enhance hospitality and welcoming ministry</p>	<p>A friendly and approachable experience will be available to the faithful, newcomer and guest. This environment will be established by what is said, who says it and where it is said. The physical space, the rector and the congregation will work in tandem to foster a positive experience for all.</p>
	<p>2. provide fellowship at every worship</p>	<p>Christian fellowship is an important part of a complete Sabbath day. Social time before and after service develops personal supports that helps with our Christian journey. (i.e., greeters training, fellowship lunch after worship, following up with new members, maintain an active membership list)</p>
<p>3. extend parish celebrations of fellowship increase sense of community</p>	<p>Extended Christian fellowship builds a community. Celebrating our parish family relationship strengthens the Holy Innocents community.</p>	

<b>Goals</b>	<i>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous[b] hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47</i>	
<b>To grow Christian faith</b>	The new life in Christ leads to the new lifestyle in Christ. If we are growing in God, we should be growing in our offering of time, talent and money. How can our church use its God given gifts to grow the Church?	
	<b>Objective:</b> To grow the Christian faith by enhancing hospitality, forming new partnerships, and stewardship development.	
	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Description</b>
	1. develop community partnerships	Assess the needs of the community and determine what we can offer to help. Develop community outreach ministries to give back. For example, awareness and health programs such as drug/gambling addictions, mental health, senior advocates or supporting the working poor.
	2. increase community visibility 3. advertise parish activity	Inform the general public and promote parish activities. Develop a communication plan and provide creative consistent messaging.
	4. encourage stewardship	Engage congregational talents and resources such as time, talents and money. Invite parishioners to participate in ministries such as worship, education and service. Increasing awareness of the importance of financial giving in supporting parish ministry.
	5. expand parish evangelism	Assess the needs and interests of youth and young families as well as those who once attended. Develop services and ministries that support God's people in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century.
	6. adjust the church building to meet our needs	Assess the physical building and how it can be better suited to parish needs. Efficiently maintaining and developing the church property/equipment ensures that we can meet and fully take part in our community of faith. The building and use of modern amenities should provide a welcoming environment that encourages community participation.
	7. renew the long-term fiscal plan	Fiscal stability is an enabling characteristic that parish should strive to attain. Every parishioner should be knowledgeable of the parish's fiscal requirements and feel positive about their role in meeting it.

<b>Goals</b>	<p><i>All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Acts 2.44-45</i></p> <p>The church that lives for itself dies by itself. How is our church reaching out beyond itself with need-meeting ministries in the community, nation and world?</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To reach out to those in need locally and in the wider community by loving service.</p>	
<b>To reach out to others</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Description</b>
	1. expand home worship	Presenting worship opportunities that reach beyond the building and typical worship times are critical for parish growth. Visiting shut-ins, broadcasting services and distributing literature can link those at home to the worshipping community of Holy Innocents.
	2. support the special needs of parishioners 3. respond to needs of all God's people	Recognize and respond to the physical and mental needs of God's people locally as well as globally. Meeting Jesus' challenge to, "do onto others..." is an important expression of our faith.
	4. reach out to young families	Modernizing the service and building to ensure that we meet the needs and interests of young families and develop relevant ministries.
	5. reorganize parish structure	Increasing lay involvement (a team approach) in church organization, design and ministry ensures that it remains relevant and responsive to the needs of parishioners.