



CAST  THE NET

**Synod
Presentation**

November 18, 2022



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Agenda



1. Introductory Comments:

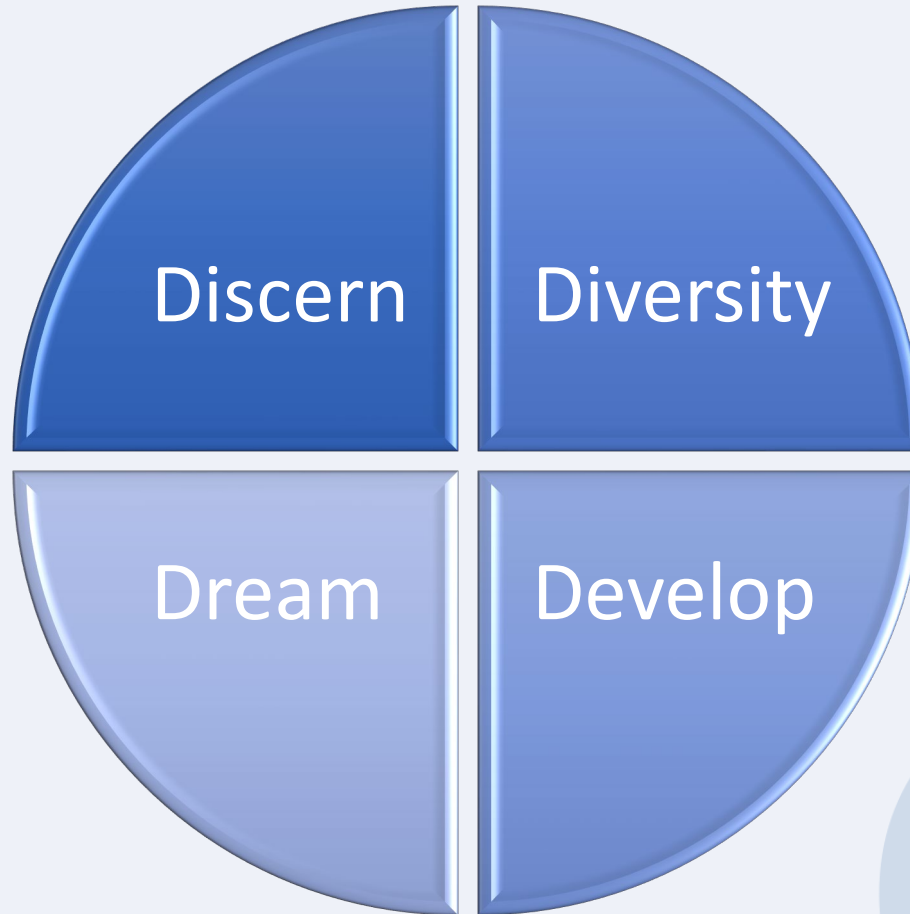
- **Bishop Andrew**
- **Co-chairs: Alison Falby & Dave Toycen**

2. Overview of Cast The Net (Peter Elliott)

3. Highlights of Synod Survey (Ian Alexander)

4. Group Discussions with Bible Study (Peter Elliott/Anita Gittens/Facilitators)

Cast The Net Overview



Discern


Discern

- Create a process in which the diocese collectively can rediscover, as Bishop Andrew puts it, how to “sing together.”
- Begins with listening deeply to one another.
- Being conscious of working in a liminal time as we emerge from the pandemic.

A blue, rounded rectangular graphic with a white border, containing the word "Diversity" in white text. The graphic is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping a light blue bird silhouette in the top left corner.

Diversity


Diversity

- **Committed to finding ways to hear voices from the margins.**
 - **Resisting the urge to rush to manufactured consensus.**
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- A large, light blue, stylized leaf graphic located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

A light blue silhouette of a dove in flight, positioned above a blue shield-like shape.

Dream


Dream

- **A visionary perspective.**
 - **While keeping eyes on practicalities, resource requirements and availability, and achievable steps.**
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- A large, light blue silhouette of a leaf, positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide.



Develop

Develop

- **A new, ongoing process for diocesan life.**
 - **Move seamlessly and effectively from planning into implementation.**
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Process / Timeline



DONE May-Aug 2022	ORGANIZING Identify needs, issues, stakeholders; review last plan, create work plan, budget; form committee, etc.
NOW Sept 2022 – Feb 2023	LISTENING Clergy, laity, diocesan staff, parishes, deaneries, area councils, Synod Council, Synod, etc.

Process / Timeline



FUTURE March – July 2023	CONSOLIDATING & ENGAGING Identify, communicate and test themes; two-way input; focus groups; pilot implementation projects
FUTURE Aug-Nov 2023	REFINING & SHARING New vision and plan taking shape; tangible outcomes springing up; communications rollout



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SYNOD SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Biggest Changes In Past 3 Years

- **Impact of pandemic:**
 - **Increased use of technology**
 - **New understanding of community, buildings**
 - **Permanent decline in attendance**
 - **We showed surprising resilience and nimbleness**
 - **There has been more collaboration**



More Changes


- **Role of diocese in responding to the crisis:**
 - **Supportive, more communication and support**
 - **Distant, unresponsive, overly centralized**
 - **Concerns about episcopal leadership changes**
 - **+Andrew's faithfulness and leadership**
 - **Pace and extent of change:**
 - **Restructuring, regionalization**
 - **Focus on reconciliation, climate, gender, etc.**
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Biggest Fears for the Diocese

- **We won't change enough, or quickly enough**
- **Too much change will alienate current adherents**
- **Lose focus on following Jesus in favour of other priorities**
- **Factional divisions that undermine unity of purpose**
- **Declining membership; people won't come back**
- **Church closures**



More Fears

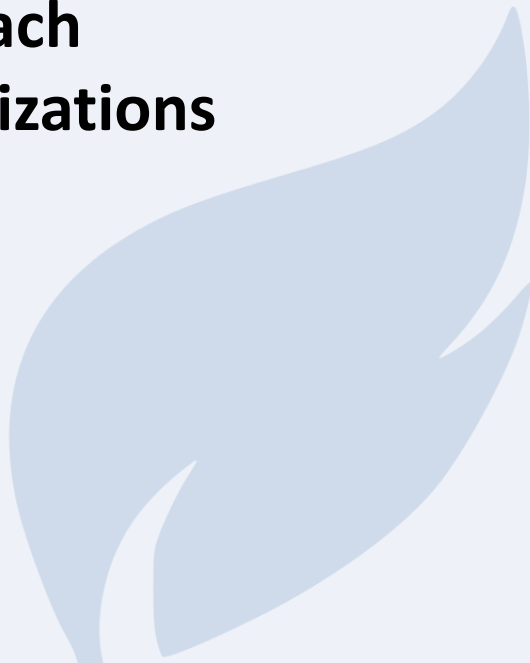
- **We'll become irrelevant, slowly fade away**
 - **Inward-looking, focus on survival rather than mission**
 - **More centralized, risk-averse, unresponsive bureaucracy**
 - **The plan will not result in tangible improvements**
 - **Leadership burnout**
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Biggest Hopes for the Diocese

- **Commitment to fight poverty, homelessness, injustice**
- **Collaborative, coherent, unified diocesan culture**
- **Support for parishes (financial and otherwise)**
- **Restructure for growth – more regional ministry**
- **A bold, transformative vision; die to be reborn**
- **Evangelism, preach the Gospel**
- **Bible based, rooted in prayer**
- **Openness, inclusion, diversity**



More Hopes

- **People come back to church**
 - **More young people**
 - **Diocese a model for vibrant church in our time**
 - **Leaner, more transparent administrative structure**
 - **Willing to give up our buildings**
 - **Maintain our worship traditions**
 - **Continue using technology to expand reach**
 - **Engage with communities, secular organizations**
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How Important Are These Subjects?

Spiritual formation (clergy/lay)	88%	Social and economic justice	84%
Personal spiritual development	88%	Building up congregations	84%
Involving young people	88%	Clergy wellness	84%
Preaching Gospel/discipleship	86%	Dismantling racism/colonialism	82%
Equity, diversity, inclusion	86%	Homelessness	82%
Reconciliation w Indigenous	86%		

How Important Are These Subjects?

(continued)


Healing divisions (church/world)	81%	Climate crisis	79%
Handling sexual misconduct	81%	Property management	78%
Broad range of worship styles	81%	Sexual and gender diversity	77%
Food sustainability	81%	Liturgical excellence	76%
Coping with decline	80%	Creation theology	71%
Fresh expressions of church	80%	Opioid epidemic	69%
Digital technology	79%	Restructuring diocese, parishes	66%

How Important Are These Process Aspects?

Bold transformative vision	86%	Research future societal trends	76%
Hear voices from the margins	84%	Reflect wide range of views	75%
Broad consultation in diocese	81%	Explore radical options	73%
Consult non-church goers	81%	Consult other Anglicans	73%
Match aspirations to resources	80%	Consult other faith groups	72%
Consult in-depth w key players	78%	Seek broad consensus	71%
Consult community partners	77%	Sustainability of institution	62%




Quotable Quotes

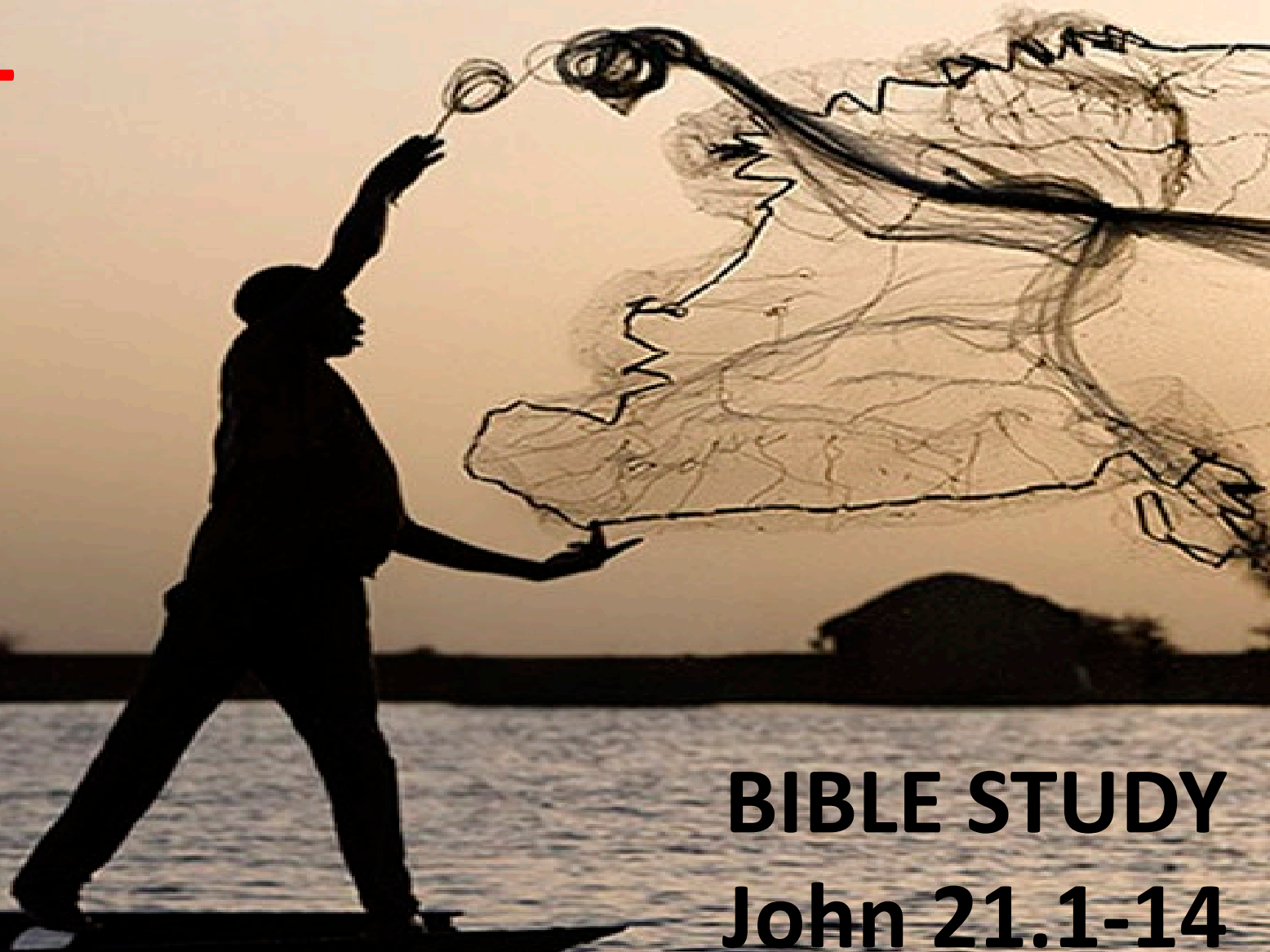
- **“I wanted to mark everything as extremely important.”**
 - **“We need a manageable number of priorities.”**
 - **“Encourage more consultation throughout the Diocese.”**
 - **“It’s time to act – the clock is ticking.”**
 - **”Dramatic and difficult choices have to be made.”**
 - **“Radical restructuring will drive more people away.”**
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More Quotes

- **“Sustainable, active congregations.”**
 - **“People before property.”**
 - **“More diocese-oriented than parish-oriented.”**
 - **“I don’t really think much about the diocese.”**
 - **“Servant leadership.”**
 - **“Step out in faith.”**
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NET**



**BIBLE STUDY
John 21.1-14**

Group Discussion



- **The power of this passage:**
 - Why we chose it
 - How we're using it
- **The “big question”:**
 - What would it mean for us as the Diocese of Toronto, in this time and place, to cast our net on the other side of the boat?
- **Group discussion assignment (handout)**
 - Review instructions, go into groups
 - Facilitators/note-takers from CTN committee
 - Break to follow, before returning to plenary



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