

Bishop Perry Institute

For Ministry and Mission

Foundation

In 2010 the Synod of the Diocese of Melbourne adopted a new Vision and Strategic Directions committing the Diocese to Make the Word of God Fully Known throughout the diocese. The pursuit of this Vision and Strategic Directions is expected to be evidenced by -

- an increasing proportion of local populations reached through Anglican ministry
- an increasing proportion of local populations participating in congregations
- increasing numbers of people who become disciples of Christ and full members of his Church
- increasing ethnic and cultural diversity of congregations
- the age profile of congregations more closely reflecting the age profile of the wider community
- increased engagement in programs of mission and compassionate service

The Vision and Strategic Directions document calls for the establishment of an Institute to foster the development of effective parishes, authorised Anglican congregations and other ministries throughout the diocese. Thus the Bishop Perry Institute for Ministry and Mission has been formed.

Purpose

The effectiveness of the Institute shall be assessed by its contribution to the effectiveness of the parishes, authorised Anglican congregations, and the other ministries it serves.

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, in all its expressions, shall be considered effective to the extent that it glorifies God by continuing and fulfilling God's mission. This mission flows from the community of love found in the Trinity, made known to all humanity in the person of Jesus and entrusted to the faithful action and witness of the people of God. The people of God, in the power of the Spirit are a sign, foretaste and instrument of the kingdom of God, and which is understood as -

- Embodying the character and mission of God in the community by proclaiming the good news of God's kingdom as announced by Jesusⁱ
- Giving public witness through public worship which is central to Anglican common life and a sign that all life is holy, that hope and meaning can be found in offering ourselves to God through a sacrifice of praise, and that proclaims the Lords' death and resurrection until he comes.ⁱⁱ
- Being agents for the reconciliation of individual people to God through faith in Christ and teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers
- Teaching and encouraging God's people, building up the body of Christ, in truth and love, in unity and peace and bearing witness to these by the manner of our life together
- Responding to human need by loving service and seeking the transformation of unjust structures in society by equipping the people of God to serve in fulfilling the mission of God in Christ, both in the Church and in the world.ⁱⁱⁱ

Core Functions

In accord with the Vision and Strategic Directions 2011-2013, The Bishop Perry Institute shall fulfil its purpose by providing programs aimed at developing mission-minded clergy for parish, network and chaplaincy ministries and training laity for missional leadership. Specifically, these programs shall take the following forms -

- focused training for leaders and leadership teams to fuel parish renewal and facilitate the establishment of new congregations and new parishes
- research in various modes seeking both to identify best practice, and to identify opportunities within the Diocese for all its expressions to move toward best practice

Where practicable, the Institute shall undertake these functions in close cooperation with theological colleges, agencies and schools.

ⁱ See Matthew 4.17; mark 1.14-15 Luke 4.18 and John 3.14-15.

ⁱⁱ See 1 Cor 11.26

ⁱⁱⁱ The Five Marks of Mission developed by the Anglican Consultative Council and adopted by the Lambeth Conference of Bishops.

The reader of this document will notice input from the Ordinal, Anglican Communion documents and the statement of mission from the NCCA Commission on Mission, of which the Anglican Church of Australia (and thus the Diocese of Melbourne) is a member.