

**Bermuda-Nova Scotia
Strategic Plan
approved by the Regional Council**

PURPOSE

To support congregations and ministries in bold discipleship, clear mission, and daring leadership through deep spirituality, so that they may develop sustainable ministries.

Pillar 1: Bold Discipleship

Objective:

To promote the importance of discipleship as core to the strengthening, vitality and sustainability of Christian community.

Actions:

- Help congregations understand the expectations of being a Christian and the implications of bold discipleship.
- Promote a culture of spiritual learning in our communities of faith through gatherings, learning opportunities and sharing spiritual journeys.
- Offer programming that invites members to deepen their connection to God in their local community of faith and mission.
- Create a Bible Study for our communities of faith focusing on discipleship.

Pillar 2: Clear Mission

Objective:

To engage communities of faith and other ministries in defining their part in God's mission.

Actions:

- Create or share educational materials and present seminars that help communities of faith define and live out their mission beyond mere survival.
- Assess and resource communities of faith's organizational health based on best practices and help provide the tools for their next steps.
- Gather and provide examples of imaginative cooperative possibilities or renewal.
- Research, review and analyze what viable opportunities may exist for creating mission and spirit filled communities, (e.g., church planting, alternative ministry focus) and animate examples where this is already happening.
- Establish and provide leadership for a hospice (ending well) team and for clergy, equipping them with the skillset to accompany dying/grieving communities of faith through a process of closure.
- Explore and share new models of congregational governance to ensure they are serving communities of faith in achieving their mission.

Pillar 3: Daring Leadership

Objective:

To develop curious, faithful, brave and daring leaders.

Actions:

- Offer leadership training and resources for ministry and laity to decrease exclusive dependence on staff (e.g. Fresh Start, United for Learning, Tatamagouche Centre, Atlantic School of Theology).
- Create a template for faith communities' leadership succession and directly encourage them to reflect on their future needs and professional and lay skill development.
- Explore and research new models of ministries in other jurisdictions and denominations and share with communities of faith.
- Create and conduct leadership cohorts focused on organizational excellence and leadership development.
- Create and share resources for lay people to assume some traditional clerical responsibilities (e.g. funerals, worship planning, pastoral care) in communities of faith (especially partially-funded ministries).
- Ensure that questions are answered and resources are provided in a timely manner.