



St Paul's Almonte  
70B Clyde St  
Almonte ON KOA 1A0  
June 3, 2021

Dear Friends,

I hope that you and your families are doing well. Please take some time to read the following information carefully.

Our diocese has begun a consultation process involving all parishes. This is known as the **Shape of Parish Ministry Consultation**, or SPMC. It will take place over the next 18 months and is comprised of three stages.

The overall goals of the process are to answer three broad questions:

- What are the shapes of parish ministry that God is calling our diocese to explore?
- What dreams would God have us dream together?
- Where is God calling us to be, and where are we called to invest the resources which have been entrusted to us?

Stage 1 will take place between now and October. I

In this stage, we **as a parish are being asked to consider five more focused questions. Please take some time to prayerfully consider the questions we are being asked and write down your answers.** I am asking that you send written answers to the office email account with "SPMC Feedback" in the subject line. For those without email, you can mail printed answers to the office

1. What is the single most important thing you would like our diocese to know about your parish? In other words, what do you like best about St Paul's that you would like to share with Bishop Shane and our diocese?
2. What are your ministry priorities, and how are these priorities lived out in your decisions, activities and use of your resources? In other words (a) what do you think St. Paul's should focus on doing, and (b) with that in mind, how do you spend your time, energy, and finances at St. Paul's?
3. In what way does your parish serve the wider community; how are you engaged with the local community beyond your walls - outreach, events, partnerships? In other words, (a) what are we doing in the community, (b) what are we good at, and (c) what are we succeeding at?
4. What are the challenges to accomplishing the work you've described, in terms of finances, building status and human resources? In other words, if we are not successful in doing this work, what are the challenges that we are having?
5. Are there ministry opportunities you are aware of and what would you need to engage in them? In other words, (a) are there opportunities for St. Paul's to be more effective in the community, (b) are there projects you would like to see happen, and (c) what would we need to move ahead with these projects?

It is important to note that **this process is not about our diocese closing individual parishes.** Rather, it is about an examination of where we are as parishes and as a diocese on the 125th

anniversary of our diocese, and about positioning ourselves so that we can continue to be a vibrant church for future generations.

**We will be holding a parish meeting for all our members on Zoom to discuss our answers to these questions.** Once we have had an opportunity to meet as a parish, I (along with representatives from our parish leadership) will be meeting with a team of two people appointed by our diocese to prepare a parish profile.

You can read more about the Shape of Parish Ministry Consultation on our diocesan website [HERE](#).

You can also read an article about SPMC in the latest edition of Crosstalk [HERE](#). (The article is on page 1).

Blessings,

*Jonathon +*

The Rev. Jonathon Kouri  
Incumbent, St. Paul's Almonte