

SECTION A: FUNDAMENTALS

A1. Why do we as a diocese need this money?

A: Synod 2010 approved establishing a 'New Wine Fund', with \$1.5 million to come from the sale of disestablished churches, to support new initiatives across the diocese. At Synod 2014 a new diocesan vision was approved and in 2015, synod agreed to start using the 'Vision Fund' monies (previously called the 'new wine' fund) for parish projects with the remainder used to support our vision in other ways. These funds were to explore whether we could collectively use funds to minister to our islands and inlets in new ways. The answer was a resounding yes (as we heard loud and clear at synod 2018). These funds were allocated with the understanding that new funds would be raised to replace them. These funds are over-and-above the basic operating budget of the synod and have allowed us to, in tangible ways, live into our shared vision.

A2. Why does 40% of what I contribute go to a diocesan central fund?

No one parish can realize all aspects of the diocesan vision leave alone the entire mission of Christ's holy church. Some of the goals of the diocesan vision are best achieved as a regional or diocesan-wide set of activities. For example, over the last several years the diocese through the Vision Fund has invested nearly \$500K in projects run in parishes that were beyond the financial resources of those parishes to initiate. The ideas were developed locally, and the funding came from central sources. Projects funded included support for the revitalization of indigenous languages; training workshops in dismantling racism; several projects in spiritual development; a variety of programs to engage children and youth; and a number of training programs to equip lay leadership. More than 25 parishes of the diocese's 46 have applied for and received funding. <https://www.bc.anglican.ca/vision/vision-fund>

In the same period, the diocese has run on all our behalf one of the largest single refugee sponsorship efforts in the country. By the end of 2018 nearly 300 former refugees have become new Canadians through efforts at the local and diocesan levels.

<https://www.bc.anglican.ca/diocesan-ministries/refugee-sponsorship>

At the same time, six Vision Implementation Teams have been at work supporting parishes and organizing initiatives. Those teams are: Engaging God's World, Emerging Communities, Reconciliation & Beyond, Youth & Family Life, Worship Resources, Lay Ministry & Leadership Formation. <https://www.bc.anglican.ca/vision/vision-implementation-teams>

All of this activity has accomplished much, but much remains to be done. 40% of the funds raised through Transforming Futures will enable the expanded vision implementation throughout the diocese, including locally-developed initiatives.

Perhaps the most important impact of the work to date is the widespread sense of possibility as groups in parishes across the diocese learn to dream dreams and see those dreams realized. No greater expression of that sense of possibility can be imagined than in the unanimous support of Transforming Future at Synod 2018. The work of the church will go on!

A3. How will the 40% of Transforming Futures funds allocated to the synod be spent?

Transforming Futures is an effort to respond in faith to the world we find ourselves in. Each parish case for support will inform the commitments made at the diocesan level. As with all money spent centrally all expenditures are approved by Diocesan Council – the synod between the synods. Money allocated to activities arising out of recommendations to council (by the Vision Implementation Teams, parishes, and the Vision Fund Jury) will become part of the budget approved by council.

A4. Don't current parish assessments cover the synod budget?

The parish assessments cover the basic operations of the synod office, and our contribution to the National Church. What they do not cover is the vision implementation ministries that are vital to our faithful witness here and now. Parish assessments have remained at 16.5% for over 15 years.

A5. Why was the target of 115% (of income) chosen?

Church fundraising research demonstrates that in general, parishes are realistically able to attain 115% without compromising regular offerings.

A6. Can a parish fundraise for less than its 115% target?

It is hoped that all parishes will aim for their 115% target, which will allow us to implement our vision at all levels of the diocese.

A7. What happens if a parish raises more than the 115%?

Congratulations! The parish will then retain 95% of the overreach amount.

A8. Parishes are currently paying a diocesan assessment of 16.5% of their income. Will the parish share of Transforming Futures also be assessed?

Transforming Futures funds at the parish and diocesan levels are not regular income and therefore are not within the calculations for the assessment.

A9. Can you please explain the meanings of 3-year, 5-year and 7-year in this proposal?

Within the five (5) year period, starting in 2019, each parish will fundraise over a three (3) year period. If a parish begins in the first year of the campaign, i.e. in 2019, then the parish should complete in year 3 (2021). Similarly, starting in the second year (2020) means an expected completion in year 4 (2022); beginning in year 5 (2023) means a normal ending in year 7 (2025).

A10. Can a parish choose a longer period, such as four or five years, for its Transforming Futures initiative?

Yes, if necessary, parishes may choose to collect their pledges over a four to five-year period.

A11. Can a parish choose to opt out and do its own fundraising?

All parishes are expected to participate in the shared effort of Transforming Futures to support our diocesan vision. However, some parishes may initiate additional fundraising activities.

A12. What can the parish use its 60% of Transforming Futures funds for?

Parishes will spend the local share of funds raised through Transforming Futures on initiatives that enable the parish to live out our diocesan vision. Parishes will create a case for support that enables the local expression of the vision.

A13. What would preclude a donor from giving a large gift to their parish through regular givings during the fundraising cycle to avoid sharing in the 40% going to the diocese?

In theory, nothing. However, we are counting on Anglicans to share their generosity beyond the parish, and to embrace a larger view of the church, its needs and its shared potential. We are not a series of independent churches but one church with many parishes.

A14. At the end of the five years will there be another request for money?

Transforming Futures is a new way of raising funds for our diocese at the parish and diocesan levels. We hope that the results of this renewed vision implementation will result in a natural increase in stewardship practices. If it proves successful, this model of financial stewardship may continue.

SECTION B: STARTING AND RUNNING TRANSFORMING FUTURES IN YOUR PARISH

B1. How does my parish decide when to start its fundraising?

Your parish will appoint and commission a transforming futures team and they will decide the best time for your parish to begin. Many factors will come into play. For example, your parish may have an urgent desire to raise funds for an initiative, which would mean an early start. Conversely, your parish may need to attend to other priorities in the short term. Although it is expected that starting dates will vary across our diocese, all parishes will commence within the five years.

B2. What diocesan support will be available to assist the parish? For example, will there be materials or speakers etc.

Along with ongoing support, and synod office staff and campaign lay co-chair will provide materials and training for each parish's Transforming Futures team.

B3. Will pledges be paid to the parish or to the synod office?

Most parishes will collect donations, track pledges and issue annual tax receipts themselves

The synod office staff have set-up [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) fundraising web application accounts for all parishes. This application allows people to donate using their computers or mobile device using a credit card. The parish accounts are activated, with the assistance of the synod office, once the campaign is launched.

Some people may wish to donate through the electronic collection plate (automatic deduction from personal bank accounts) and the 40% will be remitted by the parish.

Synod staff will support, in whatever way necessary, parishes needing assistance in the administration of their campaign.

Donors wishing to remain anonymous to the parish will send their pledge money to the diocese which, in turn will remit the 60% to the parish concerned and issue the annual tax receipt.

B4. Can bequests received through the campaign be considered part of our financial goal?



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Transforming Futures is focused on raising monies which are currently available for use. Parishes may choose to commit received bequests toward their goal.

B5. Can a donor choose a specific diocesan program for their donation portion?

The priority of the Transforming Futures campaign is to support and fund the vision of the diocese in the parish and collectively. While it is the hope that parishioners will support this campaign, it is ultimately the parishioners' choice to give.

B6. How do we avoid alienating those who can't give over and above their regular givings?

Every gift toward Transforming Futures is an important gift. If someone cannot give financially there are other ways to contribute. Prayer, time and effort are all essential to making your parish's Transforming Futures campaign a success.

B7. Can a donor gift shares or other assets instead of money?

Absolutely. Gifts of securities or other assets will be handled on an individual basis through the synod office.

SECTION C. LIFE HAPPENS: WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE

C1. What happens if donors don't fulfill their pledges?

Sometimes donors are unable to fulfill their pledges because of a change in their circumstances. However, some parishes will surpass their goal, thereby compensating for any shortfall.

C2. What happens if a donor dies before fulfilling the pledge and hasn't made provision in their Will to fulfill the pledge?

Unless there is a provision in the donor's will to fulfill outstanding pledges (a pledge is not a debt), and language which provides the executor with discretion to give a charitable gift, then there is no legal obligation for the estate to fulfill an outstanding pledge. Should a donation be received through the estate, the donation receipt is issued to the estate.

C3. What happens if a parishioner moves to another parish in the diocese? Who receives their pledge money?

This will be decided by the parishioner. If the parishioner prefers to give the money to the new parish then adjustments will have to be made to the Transforming Futures tracking systems of both parishes.

C4. What happens if our diocese receives more money than expected?

Monies will be applied to the implementation of the vision, accruing to future expenditures, in the same way that the parish would handle surplus gifts.

C5. How will we share information on how Transforming Futures fundraising is progressing?

A wide variety of platforms such as print and electronic media will be used to promote the launch and completion for each parish and to highlight specific innovative projects.