

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

I joined the diocese in the summer of 2015 and have had a wonderful time getting to know many of our parishes and their leadership. We have a great diocese and we are coming to new life in exciting ways. I see a bright future. I feel new energy everywhere.

During the past year, I have been able to work at many things due to the great work done by Kathi Workman as the diocesan treasurer. I have been blessed to work very closely with her and we have formed a very strong mutually supportive partnership.

Over the past year I attended most Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, Investment Committee and Building Committee meetings. I made only a few Council meetings due to a conflict with the vestry meetings at St. Stephen's, McKeesport, where I was assigned until the end of May 2016. I recently was invited to be present during the Commission on Ministry deliberations. I was assigned as the Diocesan Deployment Officer part way through the year, and have relied on Canon Jay Geisler for advice and counsel, as I do not yet know the diocese as well as I would hope.

Working with the Building Committee, the Board of the Trustees, Kathi Workman and Marlene Rihn, we sold St. Martin's, Monroeville, and have listed for sale numerous other excess properties. Sadly, there are also many, many, closed and unoccupied churches from other denominations throughout our region, causing a reduced demand for such properties. We respectfully moved the remains of those interred at St. Martin's and at Prince of Peace, each with the families' approval, to Christ Church, North Hills. They will be re-interred once the new columbarium is complete. There will be a service of re-interment, and the family of each person to be re-interred will be invited to be part of the service.

I worked to support two parishes as they searched for where God might be calling them. I used the Appreciative Inquiry process to help each parish find its core identity. From this base, each parish has developed a plan to better use their resources to respond to God's call. This organic method of helping parishes move forward has been a powerful tool in aiding parishes who are struggling with where God is calling them or to help those parishes who are just plan stuck get unstuck. I have trained Kim Karashin, Canon for Mission, in the process. She will be leading the process at St. Brendan's. I am currently working with another person to help them discern if they are called to the ministry of helping churches move forward to where God is calling them.

I worked with Andy Roman, our chancellor, to develop and implement the Title IV process to ensure the diocese is ready if a complaint is filed. We have newly-appointed people as Intake Officers and Investigators. Those involved in the Title IV process attended training in October led by Mary Kostel, Special Counsel to the Presiding Bishop.

To insure that our priests are in compliance with national church canons requiring each active priest to have completed Safe Church training for children and people, we hosted the Rev. Canon Robyn Szoke for a full day of training. All but a few priests completed the training and most of those who did not attend have found alternatives and submitted their training certificate. We are working to make sure all priests have done the training and/or received the state-required clearances. We hope to complete this shortly.

I have been lucky to work with a couple of our younger priests who have a new vision of what Church might be and have offered new ways to bring others into community for the purpose of introducing them to Christ. We are blessed to have young priests supported by older priests who desire to find new ways to reach into the world and bring Jesus to those who do not know Him.

I have mentored two priests and have had the privilege to have two interns with me while I was at St. Stephen's, McKeesport. Working with them has given me the confidence that our church has a very strong future. Our young clergy, those in process, and those seeking to enter the process, are bright, as well as committed to the church and to bringing others to Christ.

During the first eight months of the past year, I spent half of my time at St. Stephen's, McKeesport, and was recently assigned to St. Brendan's, Franklin Park. Being anchored in a parish is very important for me, as I believe being part of a worshipping community gives me the strength and guidance I need to serve as in diocesan administration. I thank Bishop McConnell for calling me to be his diocesan administrator and for allowing me to remain part-time in the parish.

I thank all who I have worked with for their commitment and desire to strengthen Christ's church. It has been a pleasure to serve Bishop McConnell and all of you.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Canon Ted Babcock