19 October 2026

St. Stephen the Martyr Anglican Church
Serving Current River and Area

494 Leslie Ave. Thunder Bay, ON P7A 1Y8 Church Tel 807-683-6051 www.ststephenanglican.com

Our purpose

- is to build a loving Christian family of faith
  and to nurture our spiritual lives as we share God's love.

Our vision for St Stephen's

- is to foster a kind, loving and healthy Christian Community:
  - celebrating God's presence in our lives, helping those of all ages in building spiritual lives and faith; and
  - helping the community of St. Stephen's, the larger community of Current River and area by providing spiritual, emotional, moral, mental and physical support.
- With Jesus leading the way, together everyone achieves more.

Missional Objectives 2024 to 2026

Approved by the Parish Council November 11, 2024

Mission

Reconciliation

1. The Pastor and Church Wardens will continue to organize the Mission Project.
   - Soup Van - Salvation Army 2025
   - Care Bus – Northwest Community Health Centre 2026
2. The Pastor will invite special speakers for Sunday morning worship; and parishioners may suggest possible speakers/topics to him or through the Church Wardens.
   - Options Northwest gave a presentation on January 2026
3. The Parish Council will encourage parishioners to participate in public/Deanery missional events.

Worship

1. The Liturgy Committee will offer New Zealand and Iona liturgies: obtain the Bishop's permission for the Iona liturgy for St. Patrick's Day; identify Sundays for the New Zealand liturgy in 2025 and 2026.
    - New Zealand Eucharist held on February 8, 2026
2. The Liturgy Committee will offer a Taizé service in 2025 and 2026, possibly as an evening service.
3. The Pastor will ensure sound system projects are completed:
    a. wireless microphones replaced, funded through Memorial Fund; and
        - completed April 2026
    b. PA cabinet completed and installed, mixer set up and additional microphones installed, funded through Property Fund.
4. The Pastor will design, with the Altar Guild's assistance, and make a table for cremains, with materials paid for through the Memorial Fund.
    - Under construction 2026
5. The Parish Council will encourage parishioners to donate to the Piano Fund so that it reaches its goal pf $5,500 by 2026.
    - New one purchased October 2026

Community Building

1. In the winter of 2025, the Parish Council will review how the Parish Hall is setup with a view to encouraging people to talk with each other and allowing people to circulate.
    - Some discussion in 2025, people do not want to change what we do
2. When possible, the Parish Council will ensure that a lunch/BBQ is offered after worship on the 2nd Sunday of the month.
3. The Parish Council will ensure at least one parish social activity is offered in 2025 and 2026, such as a movie and pizza night, chilli.
    - Chilli supper February 14, 2026
4. Canon Ed will make 2 park benches for the summer of 2025 to be placed in the patio area; funds for materials are in the Park Bench Fund.
5. In 2026 the Parish Council will appoint a 100th Anniversary Committee to plan the celebration in 2028.
    - Appointed the Committee at the September 2026 Vestry meeting

Faith Formation

Discipleship

Stewardship

1. The Pastor will continue to offer the Tuesday study.
2. The Pastor will provide leadership for the parish to hold a book study. The group can choose a book that helps people with their faith formation. People other than the Pastor can lead the study. The intent would be to make book studies a regular feature of St. Stephen's parish life.
3. With the advice of the Parish Council, the Pastor will provide opportunities to allow parishioners to experience Gospel based discipleship, possibly as a Lenten session.
    - Session held during Morning Prayer in April 2026
4. The Pastor will offer an annual Quiet morning / workshop on prayer.
    - held on March 15, 2025
    - held on November 1, 2025
    - held for March 7, 2026
    - scheduled for October 24, 2026
5. The Parish Council will encourage parishioners to participate in Deanery and Diocesan faith formation activities.

Pastoral and Spiritual Care

1. The Spiritual and Pastoral Care Team will develop the capability to offer funeral pre-planning.
    - Completed 2025, posted on www.ststephenanglican.com
2. The Spiritual and Pastoral Care Team to develop and implement a policy on notifying parishioners of parish members who pass away.
    - Completed 2025, due to privacy concerns parishioners will not be notified of parish members who pass away, however, they will be notified when a funeral or celebration of life is scheduled.
3. In the fall of 2025, the Pastor and Deacon Associate will offer a unit of training to equip people to respond to people talking about grief. This training may be offered to Deanery churches.
    - Dealing with Grief held on April 15, 2026.
    - Listening Skill workshop held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026.
4. The Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team will consider developing some pastoral guidance on advanced care planning.

5. In the fall of 2026, the Pastor and Deacon Associate will offer a session to talk about Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) to equip us to deal pastorally with this issue and Deanery participation may be invited in the session.
    - Sesson held on October 29, 2025

Stewardship of Finances and Property

1. As the Vestry has approved the project to replace the carpet on the Vestry floor with vinyl plank using funds from the Capital Fund, the Parish Council will ensure it is completed in 2025.
    - Funds approved September 2025, planned for summer 2027
2. The Parish Council will explore whether grants are available to fund a new entrance to the building that would make the basement accessible, and if possible, an elevator/lifting device to access the basement and the main floor, so that the Parish Council can explore the feasibility of building a new entrance in the future.
3. The Pastor and Church Wardens will ensure completion of our Fire Safety Plan in 2025.