

Parish Governance

The Church of the Holy Family is a congregation within the York-Credit Valley Area under the jurisdiction of Bishop Philip Poole. The Area lies within the Diocese of Toronto which is under the jurisdiction of Archbishop Colin Johnson. The Diocese is, in turn, part of the Anglican Church of Canada. As Anglicans we have an historical relationship with the Church of England and are in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Under the leadership, guidance and authority of the Diocesan and Area bishops the following parties seek to promote the Kingdom of Christ in the parish of Heart Lake and North Brampton.

The Incumbent (senior parish priest).

The Incumbent of the parish has charge of and is responsible for the ordering of the services, including the musical part thereof. The Incumbent is primarily responsible for the work of religious education in the parish, for its initiation, character, organization and control; and the superintendent of the Sunday School and all other officers act under the Incumbent's direction. The Incumbent also has supervision of all organizations having as their purpose the care and adornment of the sanctuary, the chancel, or other portions of the church building; also of organizations for devotional, social or athletic purposes, carried on in the name of the Church or upon its property.

The Corporation

As defined in the diocesan canons, the Rector's Warden and the People's Warden form the Corporation, along with the Incumbent, which is recognised as a legal entity in provincial law and administers the parish's affairs.

At Holy Family, Corporation meetings include the Incumbent, the Rector's and People's Wardens, and the two corresponding deputy Wardens along with the Treasurer. Corporation meets regularly, usually once a month, to administer the parish and make decisions about the physical and temporal affairs of the parish. The Incumbent and Wardens act jointly in matters concerning the use of the church and grounds. It is also a group where discussions can take place about fundamental issues in the life of the parish. Decisions are made on a consensual basis.

The Advisory Board

The Advisory Board of the church is comprised of the Corporation, parish administrator, an even number of appointed and elected individuals and the chairs of the different ministry groups within the parish. They usually meet on a monthly basis. This Board hears reports and advises the Corporation, and serves as an important consultative and deliberative body that works with the Corporation and clergy on behalf of the well-being of the church. The minutes from each Advisory Board meeting are normally posted on the bulletin board in the narthex (entrance) of the church.

The Vestry

At least once a year the members of the church gather for a general meeting at which reports are given, elections held and appointments announced, issues discussed, and decisions made that will set the church's course for the next year. One of the most important among these is elections and appointments to positions such as Warden, Treasurer, and so forth. The Incumbent of the parish chairs the meeting. Special Vestry

meetings may be called from time to time to discuss particular issues that require the consent of the congregation.