

# The Anglican Resource Centre

a proposal to empower  
faith formation  
with resources &  
community

# Grant Application for The Innovative Ministry Fund of The Diocese of Toronto

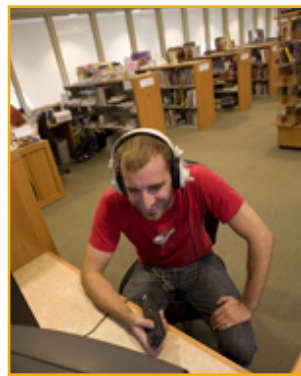
## The ARC



MINISTRY RESOURCE CENTRE: DIOCESE OF LONDON, UK



MINISTRY RESOURCE CENTER: YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL



### 1. Purpose:

A working group of individuals passionate about excellence in Christian education and faith formation has identified a substantial opportunity to minister to our Children's Ministry Staff by both nurturing their vocation and enabling them to do it well. Currently we realize the Diocese does not have the structure to fully resource faith formation programmes. Further, there seems to be very little community among Anglican educators at a level beyond individual parishes. The Anglican Resource Centre (The ARC) intends to address these problems by both facilitating community among Christian Educators and by providing a bricks-and-mortar collection of resources for their use.

Specifically, we want to create a library of resources relevant to Christian education and formation of all ages. We are taking as our model the diocesan ministry resource libraries that exist in many dioceses. We understand that money is limited in Toronto, which is why this ministry will be completely self-supporting and revenue-neutral relative to the Diocese. We will do that by leveraging several opportunities.

First, we believe that we can recruit volunteers to help run the ARC. Our discussions have put us in touch with many passionate, talented Christian educators who have received the idea of the ARC warmly and agree that having a collection of resources ready-to-hand would be helpful. We intend to organize these users of the ARC to provide much of the labour necessary to run it.

Second, the Diocese already has a collection of books and other materials currently in storage. Some of these are out of date, but many can be used to form the initial collection of materials. Laura Walton-Clouston, Diocesan Children's Ministry Network Coordinator, is enthusiastic about making them accessible again. We will need money to make the initial investment in up-to-date resources, but the acquisition budget represents a flexible cost that can be adjusted based on the availability of monies for the ARC as the ministry evolves.

Third, housing for the ARC is available. St. John's, York Mills, has graciously volunteered a large room in their education wing to house the ARC. In the future it may be



desirable to move the ARC to another location, but for the time being the St. John's location is ideal. They have ample parking, are near the 401, and are also accessible by public transportation.

Fourth, we believe the ARC will be so useful for parish educators that we can charge membership fees based on tiers of service. For instance, anyone can visit the ARC and look at resources from the library for free. But in order to check them out, patrons must either belong to a parish with a membership or have an individual membership. We have also brainstormed about offering certain services for a fee, such as on-site consulting, custom curriculum design, and workshops.

Because of all these factors, the ARC is an extremely cost-effective ministry that will be able to address the needs of educators and enhance the quality of Christian formation across the entire Diocese. Besides the initial investment to get it started, we expect the ARC to be financially self-sustaining. It is also completely scale-able, and can grow and change as needs do. The prospects for long-term viability are excellent.

## 2. History

For some time a working group of Toronto Anglicans has been meeting to discuss the implications of the Character Education movement in the Ontario School Systems. The trend in North American education has been towards the promotion and formation of "character" in students. The working group believes strongly that the Anglican Church should develop a response to this movement that will help parish-level faith formation remain relevant and contextual to the children in our churches. To this end, we are developing the "Christ-Centred Character" initiative that seeks to educate the Christian educators about what is happening in Ontario schools and resource them to integrate a specifically Christian vision of Character into their programmes in the church.

As we have been meeting it has become increasingly clear that even if we develop resources to help educators, there is no clear way to educate the educators about them. We need a place where people can go and learn how to do catechesis. They need to be able to look at the latest resources and talk with other

educators about them. Searching for a model able to empower educators, several of us thought of the resource libraries we had known in other dioceses. This model is both intuitive and relatively easy to set-up given sufficient start-up investment of money and volunteer time. The working group has the time, and we hope this grant secures the capital.

## 3. Stakeholders

Currently the ARC is a joint project of the Church of The Messiah and St. John's, York Mills, but as we move forward we envision making the project an independent charitable group. Currently the Board of Directors consists of the Rev'd Tay Moss (Incumbent at Church of The Messiah), the Rev'd Dr. Catherine Keating (Deacon at St. John's, York Mills), Aaron Smith (Youth Minister at St. John's), and Kerrie Fulton (Director of Children's and Youth Ministry at Messiah). Laura Walton-Clouston (Diocesan Children's Ministry Network Coordinator) has volunteered to serve as a liaison between the ARC and existing Diocesan structures. Br. Reginald Martin, OHC, has also been a friend to the Board, providing advice and his broad experience. We will recruit as many volunteers as possible, but imagine doing much of the initial work ourselves. The membership of the Board includes a variety of perspectives already, but we hope to increase its size with time.

## 4. Project Goal

The project will create a space where people can go to access resources and expertise about Christian education and formation for all ages. We want to build up a comprehensive and useful collection of materials that will be well utilized by our Diocesan family. We also want a community to develop around the ARC that will promote a vocational understanding of a ministry in education. We believe that vocation is discerned in community, and hope that creating a central place for gathering can foster such a community. The goal of the ARC is to empower every parish to provide excellent faith formation regardless of size or parish resources.

## 5. Project Outputs

We plan to begin moving resources into the ARC in May. At that time we'll begin sorting through and cataloguing materials. By midsummer we expect to "open" to anyone who wants to use the resources we have. At that point we hope to have an attractive, welcoming, and well-stocked library. Given approval of this grant, we will also begin acquiring and integrating new resources at that time. Within a year we hope to have our first workshop.



LEFT: THE LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY RESOURCE CENTER, ORMOC CITY, PHILIPPINES

RIGHT: MINISTRY RESOURCE CENTER, YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL

## 6. Project Activities

In May we will need to physically set up the space with book shelves, reading tables, and other sundries. We will also need to set up a computer to maintain the catalogue. Given approval of this grant, the Board will interview and hire a part-time Director to provide leadership and coordination. As we sort through the existing materials from the Diocese we will need to enter them into the computer and organize them in the library. Once the ARC is set-up, ongoing maintenance of the collection will be necessary. We imagine staffing the ARC mainly with volunteers, with the Director providing the necessary coordination and supervision of those volunteers.

## 7. Project Budget

We are asking for \$40,000 the first year and \$30,000 for the second year to get our project started. Costs include: shelves, tables and chairs, a desk and chair, one computer, Internet access for the year, and new acquisitions. This includes budgeting \$10,000 per year for a part-time Director who will

coordinate volunteers and activities. After our fee structure is established and parishes have "subscribed" to the ARC, we expect the project to be self-sustaining.

We have not applied for funding from any other sources.

## 8. Project Timeline

We will spend the month of May setting up the space and going through the existing Diocesan materials. In June and July we expect to formulate policies, hire the part-time Director, recruit volunteers, and begin acquiring new materials. This is also when we expect to begin accepting subscriptions and providing access to the resources. We hope to have some kind of official kick-off in the fall.

## 9. Project Management

A part-time Director reporting to the board will provide on-going supervision and leadership to the project. Circulation information as well as visitor data will help all parties understand the ARC's usage. The Board will continue to meet with the Director and volunteers as the project evolves. Success will be evaluated both based on usage of the ARC and a more subjective sense of whether it has fostered connection between Christian educators in the Diocese. Our hope is that the ARC will simply become a natural feature of the Christian Education landscape of the Diocese.

“The great aim of education is not knowledge but action.”

HERBERT SPENCER

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Rev'd Dr. Catherine Keating  
Deacon at St. John's, York Mills  
Co-Chair

The Rev'd W. Tay Moss  
Incumbent at The Church of The Messiah  
Co-Chair

Aaron Smith  
Youth Minister at St. John's,  
York Mills

Kerrie Fulton  
Director of Children's and Youth  
Ministry at Church of The Messiah

### FRIENDS OF THE PROJECT

Laura Walton-Clouston  
Diocesan Children's Ministry  
Network Coordinator

Br. Reginald Crenshaw, OHC  
Congregational Development,  
Diocese of Toronto

## Executive Summary

We propose to create a Resource Centre to serve as a centre for Christian Education in the Diocese of Toronto. It would be both library and meeting place. We imagine books, videos, and other materials made available as well regular workshops and other events in the space.

We are requesting \$40,000 for the first year of funding and \$30,000 for the second year as seed money to begin the project, but expect that it will be self-sustaining by the end of the second year. The primary source of revenue will be subscription memberships for parishes and individuals.

This initiative is a joint effort between the parishes of Saint John's, York Mills, and The Church of The Messiah, Toronto.

for more information  
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