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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am delighted to be able to write to you about a new initiative which gives us all an opportunity to contribute to our life together. A Foundation for Life Fund is to be established to provide resources to help with the development of mission projects across New Brunswick. The purpose of the fund is to: **encourage parishes, groups of parishes, deaneries or archdeaconries to undertake innovative, risk taking projects that will lead to spiritual/numerical/financial growth for the making of disciples.** This gives us another opportunity to seek God's will as we look beyond ourselves to seek ways of declaring the good news of God's kingdom within our communities.

Each week when we gather together as churches we ask God, in the words of the Lord's Prayer to make his kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. While it is easy for us to sit back and wait for God to do as we ask, scripture tells us that we have a role to play in God's plan. Jesus told his disciples "the kingdom of God is near" (Luke 21: 31), yet at other times, when he says tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom ahead of the chief priests and elders (Matthew 21: 31), he suggests the kingdom is a present reality. Is there a conflict here? The former Bishop of Durham (N. T. Wright) would say "no". The kingdom exists near to us, though we are not fully aware of it, it was Jesus' task to draw things from the kingdom into the age in which he lived. Today it is the role of his body, the Church to do the same in our generation. What are the things of the kingdom? Three attributes are beauty, peace (wholeness) and justice. To work towards these things is to communicate God's message of love. This should give us pause for thought as we think about what we can use the Foundation for Life Fund for and why we might give to it.

The fund is a response to resolutions passed at our 2009 Diocesan Synod concerning our future direction. Projects sponsored by the fund can vary in scope from a few hundred dollars to develop a Sunday School, to thousands of dollars to fund an innovative paid position in an area. Details about this and the application process can be found in the Foundation for Life brochure.

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The development of this fund gives us an opportunity to make a difference across our Diocese. It is a demonstration of the work of the body of Christ (the church) as we take a look beyond our own needs to those of others. This cannot become a reality unless each one of us takes part, therefore I am asking for each adult Anglican to make a minimum contribution of \$25 and each child \$5 to the Foundation for Life Fund. It is my hope that we will all be able to do this annually and that our contributions will be over and above what we already give.

Thank you for participating in this initiative as we work together as a Diocese to advance God's Kingdom.

Sincerely in Christ,

Claude W. Miller
Archbishop of Fredericton