

The Barnabas Experiment

1. Our profile: St. Barnabas, Three Hills
 - a. Three Hills – population 3500
 - b. Location – 130 km NE of Calgary, 80 km SE of Red Deer
 - c. Highly churched community – 9 nine churches
 - d. Service area population: 10,000
 - e. Community distinctive: Prairie Bible College –
nondenominational undergraduate school, enrollment of
300 students
 - f. St. Barnabas – part of a 5-point parish of Parkland
 - g. average shelf-life of incumbent priests: 5 years

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2. Parish life: prior to the current Locally Raised Ministry (LRM) arrangement
 - a. priest-led service – three Sunday's per month
 - b. fourth Sunday, lay-led morning prayer
 - c. three lay readers: Monica King, James Enns and Douglas Lewis
 - d. congregational life defined by Sunday worship, mid-week prayer meeting & Bible study, a few special event fundraisers

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3. During the 1990s other lay readers participated
 - a. average attendance: 15-25
 - b. the constant challenge was meeting our budgetary commitments to the diocese (apportionment and clergy salary) while trying to keep our building operational

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4. Late 1990s: some growth and a greater opportunity and willingness for lay members to participate in the worship life of St. B.
5. November 2004: watershed – our last incumbent priest leaves for another parish

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6. Bishop Derek takes office – and the move toward LRM begins
 - a. encouragement from Rev. Cathy Fulton
 - b. Bishop Derek's directive for a template for team ministry
 - c. Discerning the call to LRM

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7. Challenges and benefits of LRM so far

8. What about the future?