



Saint Laurence Anglican Church Listening Forward Consultation Report

Executive Summary

September 2025

INVITATION

Members of the Saint Laurence Anglican Church (SLC) community are invited to read and reflect on the **Listening Forward** Consultation Report. The Report is part of a larger planning process we are undertaking to develop the future vision and focus of SLC. This Executive Summary provides a snapshot of the consultation process and findings. You are encouraged to read the whole Report and to provide your feedback over the next few weeks so that the overall planning process continues to be informed by the aspirations of all parishioners.

BACKGROUND

The 2025 Vestry Meeting made a commitment to under-take a consultation process to help to shape our shared future. The consultation was undertaken between May and June 2025, with a report prepared for SLC leadership to consider over the summer months. There was an extraordinary uptake on participation in the consultation process, with generous and thoughtful participation by over 80 parishioners through a variety of methods. Details of the demographics and methodology are provided in the full report. SLC Council received the report at its September meeting and it is now being made available to parishioners via e-mail and/or as a hard copy.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Listening Forward consultation process is to create space for thoughtful, informal conversations with members of the church community, especially those whose voices are not always heard. It is designed to listen to what parishioners believe matters most and gives life to our Church. It provides guidance about how we focus our resources to deepen relationships, surface wisdom, and make room for the Spirit to speak to members of our community, individually and collectively.

FINDINGS

Participants clearly identified 6 focus areas to guide our overall planning process. ***It is important to note that, while these areas are listed separately and in order of precedence, they are inter-connected and work together to create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.*** Set out below are the focus areas:

Expand Worship

In are word, MORE. More opportunities for worship, access to worship, and diversity in worship. Worship that is deep as well as wide.

Create a Sense of Belonging

Creating a sense of belonging, that goes beyond greeting and welcoming, is key to both sustaining and growing Saint Laurence, now and in the future.

Design and Deliver Knowledge Sharing Opportunities

There is a tremendous wealth of knowledge within our SLC community. The people of Saint Laurence are indeed its treasure. We need to explore ways to share this wealth. SLC is blessed with knowledge keepers and with curious parishioners who want to learn more.

Host Social Activities

Social activities foster social inclusion. Creating opportunities to build friendships in informal gatherings can help achieve this aim.

Expand Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a critically important part of SLC's work as a Christian community. Participants expressed interest in developing pastoral care skills but often felt ill-equipped to take on this ministry without teaching, mentoring, and co-ordination supports.

Explore Our Relationship with Indigenous Communities

Participants expressed a sense of unfulfilled responsibility to learn more about Indigenous communities in order to begin to develop meaningful, Indigenous-led relationships and potential partnerships. There is a clear understanding that this process is complex, measured, and exploratory.

NEXT STEPS

1. The Listening Forward Consultation Report will be shared with the SLC community to invite reflection and allow for feedback.
2. The Report, including feedback, will be used to inform the overall SLC planning process.
3. Where appropriate, input from the consultation process is already being used (e.g. including the Land Acknowledge in worship services and re-configuring the Sanctuary to improve a sense of cohesion during worship services).
4. The Listening Forward Report will be translated to make it accessible to those for whom English is not their first language.
5. Announcements about the Report will be included in future worship services.
6. Invitations to provide feedback will be continuous and the feedback incorporated as it is received.
7. The Report will be used as a foundational part of the Parish's emerging plans.
8. The Report will be included in the 2026 Vestry Meeting.

HOW TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK

Please feel free to comment on the Report by e-mailing:

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