

## **Immersion Experiences at Triennial Conference (June 25-28, 2020)**

The Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada's upcoming conference is being organized by the Community of Deacons in the Diocese of Niagara. On the Friday afternoon, conference participants will be able to choose to participate in one of several immersion experiences, as described below.

**St. Matthew's House** cares for vulnerable populations in the surrounding neighbourhoods, and includes a clothing bank, community meals, and emergency shelter. Participants in this immersion experience may be asked to sort clothing, assist in prep work for a meal, or anything else that might be required. SMH is in the process of moving their food bank to another facility, so there will no doubt be the opportunity to work there. They have since opened day care facilities so you may be asked to help here.

**Mission to Seafarers** is a home away from home for those who spend months on the lakes away from their families. Participants in this immersion experience may be helping with meal prep, assisting those who come to the mission with accessing the internet, meeting some of their spiritual needs, and generally welcoming all who come into the Port of Hamilton.

**Good Shepherd Centre** (Originally a men's shelter the Good Shepherd Centre is now a place of hope for men, women, and children). Participants in this immersion experience may be involved with meal prep, assisting those who need help with their finances, or distributing and sorting clothing.

**Mission to Migrant Farm Workers** (A relatively new Ministry in the Diocese of Niagara, this mission works to assist migrant workers in the Niagara area.) Most are from Mexico and Central America. We offer a clothing bank, spiritual and pastoral care. Most important of all, we repair, clean and assemble bicycles. Participants in this immersion experience may be asked to work on these bicycles. These bikes will be brought to Mohawk College to be worked on, so bring your work gloves!

Alternatively, if you prefer to spend your afternoon in quiet contemplation, journaling, reading, or any other activity that feeds your soul or helps you reflect on your diaconal ministry, you can choose to do that too.