

THE NETWORKS OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION AND ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA WOMEN'S NETWORKS

The Networks have continued to enhance the life and witness of the Anglican Communion and make contribution towards its unity and its vibrancy. Since ACC-14 in Jamaica 2009, several Networks convened meetings and face-to-face consultations that redefined priorities and generated fresh vision and energy for future work and mission. Reports and newsletters have been produced, and resources have been gathered on websites for the use of all Anglicans. Network members have supported and prayed for each other, fostered new relationships, and joined together in advocacy within the Communion and in the broader international community.

The Networks share common challenges such as exploring new ways of communicating and meeting, understanding how to make space for voices and insights not yet coming forward, and finding funds to support any activities beyond electronic networking. Each Network of the Communion operates slightly differently and a revised set of Guidelines for Networks is now needed in order to promote accountability; outline frameworks for setting up sustainable and renewable teams responsible for keeping each Network moving; enhance a common understanding of the nature and value of the Networks, and encourage the Churches of the Communion to support and benefit from their existence.

Some Networks also share areas of concern, for example, environmental degradation and climate change displace people and often have a disproportionate impact on Indigenous communities and women and children. There is potential for the Environmental, Refugee and Migrant, Indigenous, Women's and Family Networks to collaborate and share local insights. For these reasons, Network representatives present in Auckland for the first part of the ACC-15 program met in consultation over the two days prior to the ACC meeting itself.

Reports to ACC-15 from the following networks can be read at:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/communion/acc/meetings/acc15/downloads/Report%20of%20the%20Networks%20to%20ACC-15.pdf>

- Anglican Communion Environmental Network
- International Anglican Family Network
- Anglican Communion Safe Church Consultation
- International Anglican Women's Network
- Réseau Francophone de la Communion Anglicane
- Anglican Health Network

Reports followed separately for:

- Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion
- International Anglican Youth Network
- Anglican Indigenous People's Network
- Anglican Refugee and Migrant Network
- Anglican Peace and Justice Network.

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/communion/acc/meetings/acc15/downloads/Report%20of%20the%20Networks%20to%20ACC-15,%202nd%20part.pdf>

ACC-15 Resolutions from all Networks can be found at:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/communion/acc/meetings/acc15/resolutions.cfm>

These reports and resolutions offer snapshots of inter-Communion cooperation and relationship, and evidence of the increasing potential of the Networks to shape and inform Anglican engagement in God's mission in the world.

In keeping with *Vision 2019 Priorities For the Church Living into God's Mission*, especially Being Leaders in the Anglican Communion and ecumenical actions, and *Vision 2019 Practices for the Church Ready for God's Mission*, especially Building Bridges, not Fences, Anglicans in Canada have been active in Networks leadership and activity. <http://www.anglican.ca/relationships/programs/global-relations/networks>

Ms. Suzanne Lawson (Anglican Health Network), The Rev. Virginia Doctor (Anglican Indigenous Network), The Rev. Ken Gray (Anglican Communion Environmental Network), The Rev. Canon Alice Medcof (International Anglican Women's Network), and Ms. Marion Little (Safe Church Network) took part in the pre-ACC 15 Networks consultation and served in the Networks display area. These Canadian Anglicans were important leaders in representing and enabling Networks resolutions for the life and witness of the Communion and Anglican Consultative Council for the next three years.

Over the next triennium, General Synod will continue working in Communion Networks to 'foster a common sense of participation in God's mission that honours the depth and breadth of Anglicanism in our Canadian church, develops our relationships with other parts of the Anglican Communion, and deepens our ecumenical partnerships. The General Synod will work to strengthen Canadian leadership in and service to the Anglican Communion, and strengthen the Canadian presence (both speaking and listening) within the life of the Communion, with particular attention to growing Canadian participation in the Communion's networks. (Vision 2019)

In addition to the formal Communion Networks, three national Anglican women's networks continued to serve the church and Communion throughout 2010-2013. These include **The Anglican Church Women of Canada and Mother's Union Canada**, two of the churches oldest and most extensive national networks, and the **International Anglican Women's Network Canada**. Their reports are included as follows:

Anglican Church Women of Canada

Archbishop Hiltz and Members of General Synod,

Thank you for the opportunity to report on the ministry of Anglican Church Women around our Country. In April, we recognized 128 years of ministry and since the inception of the Women's Auxiliary in our Founder, Roberta Tilton's day, our primary purpose for gathering is to give women an opportunity to unite in the fellowship of worship, learning, study and service. One of their first ministries was missionary work; in the form of bales to the North in addition to the Sunday schools, Medical Care and Education they administered to the people in the North and across the Prairies through their van ministry. The ministry carried out by those women is legendary; and remains the foundation for the ministries of our women today.

As Anglican Church Women we do not consider ourselves an organization that comes together for meetings about fundraising events or other similar activities; rather our coming together helps lead us into Christian Service at every level and this fellowship is constituted by a National as well as Diocesan executives who in turn support and represent the collective voices of Anglican Church Women all across Canada. As well, we acknowledge that the collective voices of our members is strengthened when we have a voice at our respective diocesan synods; we are thankful for those who presently have a voice and look forward to the possibility of having this small number increased in the future.

Members of the ACW National Executive are comprised of diocesan presidents from each of our dioceses around the country so, as you will appreciate, we are not large in numbers. However, for the most part we are very connected to the women in our respective dioceses as well as each other and as such we represent each diocese and work with their best interest at heart. When we gather as an executive on an annual basis it is primarily for spiritual renewal and mutual support for the leadership roles we have taken on. Not to be overlooked is that we also gather to conduct the business of our constituted National Executive. As this meeting rotates around the country we also get a sense of the vastness of some of the areas covered within our dioceses, their concerns and “tribulations!” and as we move forward we are building a strong sisterhood. Not to be forgotten is the ongoing relationships we enjoy with our sisters from other denominations such as Roman Catholic, United and Lutheran churches as well as our ongoing support of and interaction with Mother’s Union. When we attend each other’s conferences we experience a feeling of support and mutual agreement that we are not alone, we have each other as well as our faith to keep us strong. Our hope is that perhaps one day – like the other National Churches’ Women’s organizations, we may be able to hold a truly national gathering for all interested Anglican Church Women!!

The ACW National Executive recognizes and acknowledges the hard work, commitment and dedication that come from Anglican Church Women groups around our country. We are responding to God’s call wherever, whenever and however He needs us and our outreach ministry is endless. To name a few; we continue to send bales to the north, make dresses from pillow cases and dolls and teddies for children overseas, turbans and afghans for patients in cancer and renal dialysis units at our local hospitals, give our support to local food banks, school breakfast programs, group homes for battered women and children as well as financial support for our diocesan and parish councils and this list goes on and on. At the national level we recognized a need to continue our financial support to the Council of the North so in 2011, we adopted the Council of the North as our primary outreach ministry. We also lend our support to Social Justice Issues and thanks to the encouragement of our Primate many of our diocesan groups have become involved in and support the White Ribbon Campaign. There is a need to emphasize as well the wonderful “ministry of prayer” that is ongoing; especially by those who can no longer do the work with their hands that they once could. As a national body we encourage each woman to put into practice thoughtful and caring outreach to those in need, always mindful that ongoing physical, mental and emotional support is just as important as financial support. As one way to formally recognize and honor someone for their dedication and love of God in the way they live out their lives, in 2010, we set up the Anglican Women Trust fund with the Anglican Foundation. I am happy to report that it has been a wonderful experience to see women from all across this great big country of ours being recognized or honored in this way. I encourage you to take some time to think about someone whom you would like to recognize or honor; it would be a joy for that person and/ or their families and a joy for us to receive your donation!

In closing, we feel the ACW is well grounded in faith and ministry and we are thankful for those who went before us and who led the way...our Women's Auxiliary roots are still very evident in all we say and do for our Lord Jesus and we ask for your continued support and prayers as we carry on the work we are being called to do.

In Faith, Sisterhood and Service,

Terri Parrill,
National President
Anglican Church Women of Canada
Diocese of Western Newfoundland
<http://www.acwcanada.com/>

Mothers' Union Canada

Worldwide Mothers' Union <http://www.themothersunion.org/> is an international Christian charity that seeks to support families worldwide.

In 83 countries 4,000,000 members share one heartfelt vision - to bring about a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. This is not a vague hope, but a goal we actively pursue through prayer, programmes, policy work and community relationships. By supporting marriage and family life, especially through times of adversity, we tackle the most urgent needs challenging relationships and communities.

Mothers' Union Canada <http://www.mothersunioncanada.ca/index.html> is the Canadian branch of the Worldwide Mothers' Union.

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

Our Aim & Purpose is to demonstrate the Christian Faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms.

Our Mission:

To promote and support married life.

To encourage parents in their role to develop faith of their children.

To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.

To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.

To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

Vision 2019 Priority 7 Be leaders in the Anglican Communion

Through the MU Wave of Prayer (prayer cycle), prayers are offered by and for Mothers' Union members around the world. Each member is expected to participate in prayer for the dioceses of the Anglican Communion in which a Mothers' Union branch is located. Specific days in the year are allocated to each diocese and prayers are focused on their work and needs.

Each Canadian Mothers' Union branch is linked with a branch in Canada and one overseas. Prayers, letters and greeting cards, which regularly contain information and ideas, are exchanged. MU Canada learned of the successful MU Parenting Programme. The Programme is now operating in Canada.

Vision 2019 Priority 2 Support ministry through the Council of the North:

Northern Clergy Families Fund

The Northern Clergy Families Fund is the major project of the Canadian Mothers' Union. The fund was started in 1974 to help isolated clergy spouses serving in the Northern Dioceses. The original idea of the fund was to send a monetary gift so the spouse could take a holiday. That idea quickly changed when clergy spouses indicated that they needed the money for necessities.

Donations to the Fund come from MU branches, ACW groups, dioceses and individuals. Each gift sent to a clergy spouse is in the amount of \$950.00, and she or he is free to use the money for their specific needs.

The recipients often tell in their thank you letters about the hardships of living in the North (or living in an isolated area) due to weather and the high cost of living as well as other factors. They often also mention how the money was an answer to prayers.

Further observations regarding Vision 2019 as it relates to our work

Mark of Mission 4: To seek to transform the unjust structures of society and to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation:

Mothers' Union members are speaking out about, and raising awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls through varied programs. They have promoted the White Ribbon Campaign, asking congregations to wear the ribbon from November 25th to December 10th. In the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Mothers' Union teamed up with Anglican Church Women to prepare a statement concerning the importance and significance of the campaign. This was read out in the Nova Scotia Legislature.

In 2011 Reg Bailey, the Chief Executive of the World Wide Mothers' Union, was commissioned by the British government to put together a list of suggestions to protect children from inappropriate advertising. Reg presented 18 recommendations to the government, 14 of which were adopted. This drew the attention of several other country leaders one of which was Stephen Harper our Prime Minister.

The Mothers' Union believes that giving the message that children are what they own, rather than being valued for who they are, can negatively affect their well being. With this in mind, the Mothers' Union in the U.K. launched the "Bye Buy Childhood Campaign" to:

- Challenge children their Parent(s) or guardians and wider family to think about their consumer habits
- Empower families to address the influence of commercialization within the home

- Engage with the commercial world and take positive action to challenge the instances of inappropriate marketing or selling
- Hold governments accountable on the pledge to address the commercialization and sexualisation of children and to raise awareness amongst other political representatives.

Mothers' Union Canada hopes to introduce this campaign and bring it to the attention of the leaders of this county and to hold them responsible for protection and well being of our children.

President of Mothers' Union Canada is:
Margaret de Carvalho,
Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island
Email: marcarde@ns.sympatico.ca

The **International Anglican Women's Network Canada (IAWNC)** serves as the communication link between the International Anglican Women's Network and Canadians.

IAWNC Information Sharing

An e-newsletter is sent out across Canada which

- Relays international news. <http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/newsletters/index.cfm>
- Gathers reports to be sent to the IAWN international executive.
- Plans participation in Anglican events and synods, such as Lambeth Conference of Bishops, and General Synod,
- Informs readers about Canadian advocacy efforts,
- Reports Canadian participation in the UN Commission on the Status of Women
- Shares news from Anglican Church Women, Mothers' Union, Women's Inter-Church Council, National Council of Women of Canada, Fellowship of the Least Coin, and other groups.

Sign up for the IAWN in Canada e-newsletter by writing to The Rev Canon M. Alice Medcof: amedcof@national.anglican.ca or alicemedcof@sympatico.ca

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women UNCSW

Annually, Canadian women (self-funded) attend UNCSW in New York to participate in advocacy work which advances the empowerment of women worldwide. In partnership with Anglicans from around the world they affirm, from a faith perspective, that women and men are equal: women's rights are human rights.

In 2013, 15 women from 6 Dioceses, British Columbia, New Westminster, Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior, Niagara, Toronto and Ottawa, joined women from many non-governmental organizations to set global standards for action to prevent and end one of the gravest violations of human rights in our world: the violence that is committed against women and girls.

Working to Eliminate Gender-based Violence

16 Days to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls is an international movement which raises awareness of the scourge of gender-based violence. From November 25, International Day against Violence against Women, to December 10, International Human rights Day, parishes globally participate as is locally appropriate. In Canada, the Anglican Church promotes the White Ribbon Campaign.

All parishes can participate in the “16 Days” by using the White Ribbon Pledge:

“I will never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and girls”.

<http://www.whiteribbon.ca>

Anglican Communion Resources are found at:

<http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/resources/documents.cfm>