

RESOURCES FOR MISSION — REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD

The Standing Committee on Philanthropy was charged with providing leadership and support for dioceses in their efforts to increase generous giving across the Anglican Church of Canada and with raising funds for General Synod. Early in its work it changed its name from Philanthropy Committee to Resources for Mission Committee. Council of General Synod approved this change, understanding that it more accurately reflects the work of encouraging and supporting giving within our Anglican faith context. The new name also moved away from language that many in the church had not been comfortable with (philanthropy) to a name that reflects work in support of the Marks of Mission.

Over the triennium the Resources for Mission Committee moved toward achieving its purpose, described above. Its work was inspired by and deeply connected to Vision 2019 and through that to the Marks of Mission. The Committee, originally seven members that became six members when Archdeacon Michael Thompson assumed his role as General Secretary, met annually in person and at least twice a year by teleconference. The Committee was most ably supported by Sam Carriere, Director of Resources of Mission and a skilled staff, all of whom brought expertise to the various areas of departmental activity.

Early in its work, the Committee agreed to focus on the following:

- Stewardship, including a statement on the theology of stewardship (<http://www.anglican.ca/gifts/stewardship>) and the development of a network to promote and support stewardship practices across the Anglican Church of Canada;
- Annual Appeals, including Anglican Appeal, Gifts for Mission (first known as the Gift Guide), and the Journal's Annual Appeal, and, in addition the department supported two dioceses – Ontario and Niagara - in the implementation of local appeals;
- Together in Mission, a diocesan-based, nationally coordinated initiative designed to support interested and willing dioceses in raising funds for local parishes, the dioceses themselves and General Synod, including its partners such as PWRDF and the Anglican Foundation;
- Gift Planning, including encouraging Anglicans to remember the church in their wills;
- Major and strategic gifts which invited donors with considerable financial resources to think about a significant gift that could have a big impact on ministry they wished to support and that General Synod had identified as critical; and
- Grants and sponsorships for specific ministries.

These important areas of foci were supported by a donor relations and volunteer co-ordination program, increased capacity in data collection, management and dissemination, strong communications, including the use of Journal inserts, Annual Reports, the website and various blogs, and an emphasis on learning and collaboration especially with a group of highly skilled

consultants based in several dioceses across the Church. One of most important collaborations of the triennium was embodied in the Covenant Among the Ministries of the Anglican Church of Canada regarding strategic, major and planned gifts.

The work of Resources for Mission unfolded against the backdrop of a country still coming out of the 2008 economic shock where giving, overall and in the church, had declined somewhat. The Anglican Church of Canada itself was moving through a transition brought about by changing trends in how Canadians participate in faith-based groups and a decline in its overall revenues. It was a challenging time. Results came in slowly, because the work of financial stewardship is essentially the work of building relationships and trust, work that requires patience and faith.

One of the frustrations of the triennium was the tension that exists between the realities of the time needed for effective fundraising and the urgent financial needs of the General Synod. Not all the financial goals Resources for Mission set for itself were met by the end of the triennium. While the Together in Mission initiative met its objectives in terms of diocesan involvement, it became clear that some dioceses were unlikely to ever participate in the program. Varied diocesan approval procedures and the need for significant human and financial capacity to mount diocesan initiatives were factors not fully appreciated by staff at the start of Together in Mission, and were likely key in dissuading some dioceses. Together in Mission was to be the subject of a review by staff, consultants and stakeholders in June 2013, with a view to determining if, how and in what form it should go forward. The results of the review will be available by General Synod but were not available at the time of this writing.

The department underwent a major restructuring during the triennium and some staff were redeployed. But through all of the three years, energy and commitment never flagged. Large sums of money were raised. The appeals held their own in a difficult climate and some remarkable bequests and gifts were received. New ideas were welcomed when they were needed. Success was celebrated and stories told, while questions were asked about what needed to change to continue to be successful.

The Committee was proud and grateful to have been part of this General Synod's ministry. It invites you to read the 2012 Annual Report (<http://www.anglican.ca/gifts/files/2011/11/032-10-11-11-In-Service-Leadership-RfM-Report6.pdf>) to get a sense of the energy and passion that is Resources for Mission.

Respectfully submitted

Monica Patten, Chair, on behalf of the Resources for Mission Committee:

Rob Dickson, New Westminster, Chair of Finance Committee

Molly Finlay, Toronto

Archbishop Claude Miller, Fredericton

Glen Mitchell, New Westminster

Linda Privatera, Ottawa