

VISION 2019 IMPLEMENTATION TEAM REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD

Introduction

[Dream the Church](#) Vision 2019¹ is a Strategic Vision adopted at General Synod 2010. It is expressed in the statement, “A people seeking to know, love, and follow Jesus in serving God’s mission”, is rooted in the Marks of Mission of the Anglican communion, and is supported by seven priorities and five practices

Marks of Mission

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation²
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Priorities

1. Develop leadership education for mission, evangelism, and ministry
2. Support ministry through the Council of the North
3. Walk with Indigenous Peoples on a journey of healing and wholeness
4. Work toward peace and justice
5. Engage young people in mutual growth for mission
6. Enliven our worship
7. Be leaders in the Anglican Communion and in ecumenical actions

Practices

1. Create structures that work for the church now and for God’s mission
2. Improve and enliven communications
3. Keep an eye on statistical trends
4. Gather financial resources to equip ministry across Canada
5. Build bridges, not fences

Theological Framework

Through Vision 2019 the Anglican Church of Canada has embraced the Marks of Mission developed by the Anglican Consultative Council of our worldwide Communion. We set the Marks within our contemporary context by paradoxically drawing on the biblical experience of exile and return that is explored by Hebrew prophets such as Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Isaiah and in Psalms such as 126, and 137.

¹ This link takes you to the complete and final report of Vision 2019, approved and adopted by General Synod 2010. Also, as part of the Vision 2019 presentation at General Synod 2010 was a video presentation, “The Buzz” which can be viewed [here](#).

² The second clause of this Mark is an addition that emerged from our experience with healing and reconciliation surrounding Indian residential schools, and was championed by the Canadian delegation to the Anglican Consultative Council in 2012.

The prophets and psalmist bear witness to a time of upheaval, some by way of the peoples own doing and some by circumstances beyond their control. As the Anglican Church of Canada we find ourselves living into God’s mission in a time analogous to those biblical images, themes and reality.

While in many places our Church experiences the discouragement of decline, in other parts our life in Christ is marked by renewal and growth. In all circumstances we are all called to live faithfully into God’s mission. Vision 2019 is the strategic response of General Synod to the reality of our time; one of rapid change and uncertainty; of decline and renewal; of discouragement and hope; of together finding ways in this time of engaging God’s mission.

“I am about to do a new thing, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:19)

Our Approach

The Vision 2019 Implementation Team (V19-IT) for this triennium was constituted by Council of General Synod (COGS) and is comprised of the following members:

The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz (ex officio)	Primate
The Rev. Norman Casey	Huron
Mrs. Carolyn Chenhall	Nova Scotia & PEI
Ms. Melissa Green	Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior
The Ven. Dr. Peter John Hobbs (Chair)	Ottawa
Ms. Brianna Locke	Algoma
Ms. Jane Osler	New Westminster
The Rt. Rev. Michael Oulton	Ontario
LCol. The Rev. Michelle L. Staples	Military Ordinariate
The Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson (ex officio)	General Secretary
The Rev. Dr. Susan Titterington	Rupert’s Land

The V19-IT met in person and by phone, beginning in June 2011.

During this triennium our work focused on integrating the Priorities and Practices outlined in Vision 2019 into the day-to-day work of General Synod. We have facilitated staff consultations, worked closely with COGS, and helped shape the reporting mechanisms of standing committees to be aligned with the priorities and practices of Vision 2019.

Members of the V19-IT have participated in critical moments of General Synod in this triennium such as addressing issues of fiscal constraints that are part of our current reality, and the Structures Consultation of 2013.

Vision 2019 was adopted as a strategic vision, not a strategic plan. We note this difference, as it is instrumental in how we have addressed our work. Where a strategic plan lays out a course of action, a strategic vision provides a frame of reference from which to make decisions. In environments experiencing rapid change a strategic vision is much more helpful as it provides the flexibility required to address the shifting context in which we find ourselves in the life of the church.

Priorities and Practices

There are many indicators that the priorities and practices of Vision 2019 guide the work and ministry of General Synod. For a full sense of the scope and the specifics of Vision 2019 in the

life of the church please see the many reports that comprise the convening circular of General Synod 2013. The following are some examples of what is being done viewed through the lens of Vision 2019.

Examples of Work Addressing our Priorities

Priority #1: Develop leadership education for mission, evangelism, and ministry

The Primate’s Commission on Theological Education and Formation for Presbyterian Ministry has been focused on drafting a report that will be presented to General Synod 2013 on the *Competencies for Theological Education for Ordination to the Priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada*.

Priority #2: Support ministry through the Council of the North

General Synod has partnered closely with the Council in reforming the ways and means of distributing grants for mission and ministry

Priority #3: Walk with Indigenous Peoples on a journey of healing and wholeness

Walking closely with Indigenous Peoples permeates all aspects of the life of General Synod. An important juncture will be the 2nd reading of Canon XXII at General Synod 2013, which will constitute the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP) including the function of the Sacred Circle.

The V19-IT acknowledged the potential role of the Mississauga Declaration in moving us forward with Practice #1 “address questions of structures that work for the church now and for God’s mission”. We welcome and encourage the opportunity for continued growth and strength as we work together.

Priority #4: Work toward peace and justice

Through an innovative initiative with the Diocese of Ottawa, General Synod now includes the ministry of a senior advisor for government relations.

Other examples of General Synod’s ministry, which are aligned with this priority include:

- Articulating concerns regarding chaplaincies in federal institutions.
- Advancing awareness, education and advocacy pertaining to environmental justice.
- Developing partnerships and ecumenical consortiums committed to the work of peace, justice and emergency relief.
- Continuing advocacy and sponsorship through refugee networks.

The Anglican Church of Canada’s newly appointed special advisor for government relations, the Rev. Laurette Gauthier Glasgow, testified before committee on immigration and refugees and piloted work on suicide prevention, homelessness and affordable housing, and prison chaplaincies.

Priority #5: Engage young people in mutual growth for mission

We are seeing young people take on leadership roles and provide strong contributions on important discussions such as the “Structures Consultation” as well as through continued involvement on COGS and Standing Committees.

In addition, General Synod is engaged in a number of ministries focused on empowering youth, these include:

- PWRDF Youth Council.
- Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering.
- *Stronger Together* (a gathering of diocesan youth leaders).
- *Common Ground* (a national ecumenical youth ministry forum).
- Justice Camps.

Priority #6: Enliven our worship

The V19-IT acknowledges the breadth of work that has been carried out in this area; the following are two of many examples:

- Revision of liturgical texts.
- Supplement to Common Praise.

Priority #7: Be leaders in the Anglican Communion and in ecumenical actions

Again we have seen a lot of movement in this priority, including the following:

- We work more closely with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) in many areas, and the Joint Assembly 2013 represents an expression of an ever-deepening communion with the ELCIC.
- We have more Canadians involved in ministry with the wider Anglican Communion than ever.
- Our delegation to the Anglican Consultative Council played a significant leadership role in revising the Mark of Mission "To seek to transform unjust structures of society" to read: "To seek to transform unjust structures of society, *to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.*"
- Our continued support of global partners and companion diocese relations.
- Our ongoing relations with ecumenical partners through PWRDF and General Synod.

Examples of Work Addressing our Practices

Practice #1: Create structures that work for the church now and for God's mission

Conversations are happening across the church regarding living in to this practice. In January 2013 the Primate convened a national consultation on issues pertaining to General Synod governance and structures. This consultation is playing a significant role in an on-going process, begun by the Governance Working Group, to recommend appropriate changes in the organizational life of General Synod in light of Vision 2019

Practice #2: Improve and enliven communications

We continue to explore and work with new technologies to meet our communications needs. In response to Vision 2019, several creative initiatives were developed by Communications to increase awareness of, and engage individuals, parishes and dioceses in, the Marks of Mission.

Practice #3: Keep an eye on statistical trends

On the impetus of the General Synod treasurer, there was a nation-wide effort to gather data pertaining to church attendance at various times of the year; participation in the survey was mixed. Realizing the fullness of this practice continues to be a challenge, we note that elements of our church (e.g., PWRDF and the Communications Department of General Synod) consistently gather data, and suggest that in the next triennium such information could be identified and consolidated to help provide some indicators and measures of the effectiveness of General Synod.

Practice #4: Gather financial resources to equip ministry across Canada

There have been several General Synod initiatives supporting diocesan ministries in areas such as stewardship training, feasibility studies, major gifts and planned giving. V19-IT has participated in conversations that acknowledge the importance of the diversification of revenues streams to General Synod.

Practice #5: Build bridges, not fences

As we examine priority #7: Be leaders in the Anglican Communion and in ecumenical actions, the V19-IT continues to encourage General Synod's efforts to renew our commitment to communion in the midst of cultural and linguistic diversity.

Everything PWRDF does is aimed at building bridges—within Church House, within the ministries of the Anglican Church of Canada, with ecumenical partners nationally and internationally.

Conclusion – Looking ahead

As the work of the V19-IT evolved four key functions surfaced: facilitating, advising, monitoring and reporting; in the next triennium it will be important to maintain these functions. We are also aware of the need to measure the effectiveness of our programs and how we are living into the priorities and practices outlined in Vision 2019. Unfortunately the area of measurement, while within scope, was beyond our capacity this triennium.

We are convinced that Vision 2019 remains an effective instrument to guide the ministry of General Synod. As our strategic vision it is well suited to enable us to respond with flexibility in a time of rapid change, yet all the while hold firm to the critical ministries entrusted to General Synod.

Finally, the leading champion for the Marks of Mission and the Priorities and Practices of Vision 2019 has been our Primate, Archbishop Fred, who has consistently and passionately called us to be mindful of the direction set by General Synod in 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Vision 2019 Implementation Team