



COUNCIL OF THE NORTH REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD 2013

Thank you, ᓇᓂᓴᓴᓂᓂ, Tiniki, Miigwetch, Nakurmiik, k^{uu}uk^{uu}steyp, Merci

Thanks

On behalf of the Council of the North I want to thank General Synod and the entire Anglican Church of Canada for the ongoing, generous and sacrificial support you give to our Church's ministry and mission in the North. We are most grateful for your commitment and partnership. Every Anglican financially supports the Council of the North through their Parish offering, Diocesan and National apportionment. Approximately one cent of every dollar of regular offering goes through our Dioceses and General Synod to support the work of our church in the North. Thank you.

We are also very blessed by the additional gifts that we continue to receive through the Anglican Appeal and the Gifts for Mission Catalogue as well as from ACWs, Parishes and individuals across the country. In 2013 the Anglican Church of Canada received a gift of some \$320,000 for ministry in the Council of the North. Some dioceses have designated special gifts for the council and a few have made support for the Council an integral part of their financial campaigns. Thank you.

Our Primate has provided support and encouragement to the Council throughout his first six years and in that time we have developed a growing and cooperative relationship with every Department of General Synod and with a large number of Church House Staff. We are most grateful for the extraordinary support we received from our former Treasurer, Michele George, and are delighted that our new Treasurer, Hanna Goschy, is committed to providing the Council with generous amounts of her time and counsel. The Council has benefited especially from the work of Resources for Mission and Communications and Information Resources. Thank you.

The healthy, positive, respectful and mutually supportive relationships we have with the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Ministries were in evidence by the large participation of Council bishops at last year's Sacred Circle and are reflected in the language of the proposed new Canon XXII. Thank you.

Archbishop David Ashdown served as Chair of the Council over the past six years and has provided a remarkable level of leadership and advocacy. He has helped to bring us out of a defensive stature where our main concern was our survival to an open posture where our main concern is our mission. The Church in the North and in all of Canada has been blessed by his work on this front. Thank you.

Looking ahead

St. Paul wrote to the Philippians, “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings.” This expresses so well something of the spiritual flavour of the Council. Paul goes on to speak about how “forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead” he presses on. The Council of the North has come to a significant turning point in its own life and its relationship with the wider Church. We are no longer looking behind but towards what is ahead. Past rivalries and conflicts have been set aside as we turn with our partners in the Anglican Church of Canada, ACIP, Indigenous Ministries and Church House towards what lies ahead.

The Council of the North is comprised of the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior; the Dioceses of Arctic, Athabasca, Brandon, Caledonia, Keewatin, Moosonee, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Quebec and the Archdeaconry of Labrador. The Council of the North represents 85% of Canada’s land mass, and is home to 15% of our country’s population. The communities served by the Anglican Church in Canada’s north are staggeringly diverse, as are the terrain, cultures, languages and the methods of proclaiming the Gospel. Some of the assisted dioceses have thriving urban centers; others are much more decentralized with many smaller groups of believers distributed across great distances. Mountain ranges, inland deltas, huge tracts of forest, and sheer vast distance characterize much of Canada’s north.

Vision 2019

The Council of the North figured prominently in Vision 2019 which spoke about a “commitment to pastoral and sacramental ministry (in the dioceses of the Council of the North)” that is “not about delivering services to members, but about equipping members to serve.” Vision 2019 also expressed our commitment as Anglicans in Canada to “fostering, across the Anglican Church of Canada, and in continuing partnership with the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, a sustained commitment to walk with Indigenous Peoples on a journey of healing and wholeness in a self-determining ministry.” We also read there about the need for “a national communication strategy, including print media, electronic media, and face-to-face communication, could integrate parish, diocesan, and national communications, fostering greater mutual awareness among the leaders of parish, diocesan, and General Synod ministries. The national church will improve and enliven communications and keep an eye on statistical trends.” Finally we pledge to “develop across the Anglican Church of Canada, and in consultation with the Council of the North, our whole church’s capacity to support pastoral and sacramental ministry in the dioceses of the Council of the North.”

Not about delivering services to members, but about equipping members to serve

There has been a significant change in the Council since our last General Synod that is beautifully reflected in that catchy phrase from Vision 2019. We are no longer prepared to see our mission shaped

or limited by structures but are committed to structures shaped by mission. As early as 2005 the Council of the North identified its priorities for funding as follows

- A bishop for each diocese
- A suitable staff to assist the bishop
- A realistic number of appropriately trained clergy for aboriginal and non-aboriginal congregations with these clergy being paid stipend commensurate with those paid generally in the Anglican Church of Canada

Since then we have faced continued reduction in staffing in our dioceses, and in at least Moosonee and Keewatin the future mission of the Church has not been identified with maintaining one bishop and suitable staff. In the Yukon an exciting alternative to stipendiary clergy is being experimented with under the title of Ministry of Presence. The Council has moved beyond any attempts at maintaining the status quo and is becoming a laboratory for experimentation in ministry and mission in Canada.

A commitment to walk with Indigenous Peoples on a journey of healing and wholeness in a self-determining ministry

Here also the Council is on the forefront. All around the Council there are exciting developments in self determining indigenous ministry, most notably the consecration of Bishop Lydia Mamakwa and the proposal for a new Diocese in Northern Ontario, the work being done to draw together three dioceses in a Manitoba Area Mission and the consecration of Bishop Adam Halkett as (Indigenous) Bishop of Missinippi in Saskatchewan. In every case there is an attempt to find a new way of walking together expressed in Keewatin's operating principle, "We are self-determining but we walk together for strength" and Saskatchewan's motto, "Mamuwe isi Miywachimowin (Together in the Gospel)". Council members are involved in a variety of experiments in urban indigenous ministry including work being done in Winnipeg, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Kenora, Thunder Bay, Montreal, and Ottawa.

Improve and enliven communications and keep an eye on statistical trends

In 2012 the Venerable Rob Hardwick (now bishop of Qu'Appelle) was engaged to undertake a review of the two staff positions we supported, Communications Officer and Suicide Prevention Programme Coordinator. That review acknowledged the amazing work that Fiona Brownlee had done so well for the Council in promoting our work and needs in the Church. It also noted the success and broad sympathy and support for the SPP. The Council determined that it was unable to provide the necessary support and supervision for staff positions and handed over the management of the SPP to Indigenous Ministries and resolved to undertake a review of our Communications needs. In the fall of 2012 we met to discuss those needs and put out requests for Proposals for our Communications work in the spring of this year. Since General Synod 2010 the Council has worked very hard on the allocation of and accountability for its General Synod Grant. In 2013 we began distributing the Grant we receive from General Synod on a new, fairer and more open basis that takes into account Average Weekly Attendance, Size of the Diocese, Number of Bishops and Number of Congregations as well as subjective criteria submitted by each applicant. The proportion that each Diocese (and APCI) receives will stay steady for 2014 and 2015 pending Council's approval and the receipt of the Grant Accountability Report and all the other required reports (Previous Year's approved Financial Statements, Complete Schedule of Restricted Funds including a description of the purpose, restrictions and yearend balance of each, Complete Schedule of

Alternate Sources of Funds not shown on Financial Statements, Current Year's Budget, General Synod Common Reporting Form, and General Synod Statistical Report) by the end of June 2013 and 2014. We have projected that the 2014 Grant will be 95% of the 2013 amount and that the 2015 Grant will be 95% of the 2014, the reductions we had proposed to CoGS in 2011.

It is worth noting that in the excellent work and reporting of our Grant Allocations Committee the issue of reliable and comparable statistics was raised.

Statistics have a primary place in the objective criteria and thus have a significant influence on the overall granting process. It behooves us all to be proactive in ensuring we have reliable, accurate, and comparable statistics. It was recognized that every diocese likely has room to improve in this department! The reporting of each diocese does affect us all.

The Committee also noted that while we share many of the same concerns and challenges, some are well on the way in making changes and adjustments to address these and others are just beginning. "The applications show a variety of planning situations in looking to the future." At a Conference Call Meeting on February 21st the Council discussed the ongoing work of the Grants Allocations Committee. They will meet to review the Accountability and other Reports on July 23rd and 24th and were asked to continue to provide both a General Report to the Council as well as individual, challenging and helpful reports to each Diocese.

While we have done what many have called exemplary work in statistical accountability, the challenge before us now is to resume and renew the story telling aspect of our accountability to General Synod and our other donors and supporters.

Develop across the Anglican Church of Canada, and in consultation with the Council of the North our whole church's capacity to support pastoral and sacramental ministry in the dioceses of the Council of the North.

In April of 2011 I was honoured to be invited to address the Council of General Synod and to propose to them the reduction of our Grant by 5%/year for the five years 2012-2016. I came with the unanimous support of the Council and our proposal recognized the significant decision of General Synod in 2007 to fix the Grant for five years as well as the growing pressure on General Synod's Budget. I said at that meeting,

"We are part of the Anglican Church of Canada, in fact we pay apportionment, we want to be a part, an active and responsible part of the financial solution and that involves both seeking alternate funding and embracing some necessary reduction in expenditures."

The purpose of the proposal was to avoid the unhelpful and unhealthy dynamic which often arises when a programme or department sees itself as the victim of a budgetary cut. I am

proud of the Council for the way in which it embraced this decision and grateful to CoGS for the reception it received.

Part of the work before us in the next triennium is to focus on alternate funding and to work towards the targets of Vision 2019 on this front. I look forward to ongoing discussions with our Management team and CoGs in the next triennium about the way in which General Synod raises its support for the work of the Church in the North. The ongoing and remarkable support we receive in both the Anglican Appeal and the Gifts for Mission Catalogue indicates that there remains strong support for the Council across the Church. I hope that we will be willing to consider bold new ways of raising funds to secure the ongoing mission and ministry of our Church in the council of the North which would tap into the support we see in Dioceses, Parishes and individuals and that would provide some relief to the Budget of General Synod and the pressure we feel as our expected revenue from apportionment shrinks.

Looking Ahead

Necessity is often the mother of invention and across the Church in the North congregations and communities are finding imaginative ways of carrying out the ministry of mission of Christ. The faithful and sacrificial ministry of countless laity and clergy in the North is an inspiration. I thank God for them and for your support and encouragement.

Thank you, ᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎ, Tiniki, Miigwetch, Nakurmiik, k^uuk^usteyp, Merci



Michael W. Hawkins
Chair of the Council of the North