

COGS Highlights



Council of General Synod

November 18, 2010

The first meeting of the 2010-2013 Council of General Synod (COGS) began with a celebration of the Eucharist at 9:00. COGS members met for business at 10:00.

The Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, welcomed all members to COGS. He noted that the partners from the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (the Ven. Sidney Black) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (the Rev. Doug Reble) are now full voting members of COGS.

Election of Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor

The Primate presented David Phillip Jones, Q.C., chancellor of the Diocese of Edmonton, as a candidate for General Synod chancellor. He also named Ann Bourke, vice chancellor of the Diocese of Ottawa, as a candidate for General Synod vice chancellor.

Resolution

Council elected, by consensus, David Phillip Jones, Q.C., as General Synod chancellor and Ann Bourke as General Synod vice chancellor.

Primate's Report

Archbishop Hiltz noted that his report would not cover the restructuring, the budget, or the June General Synod meeting, as these subjects will be addressed at other times during COGS.

The Primate's report focused on the theme of the church "turning out" to serve the world.

He spoke first of the 11th Lutheran World Federation (LWF) assembly, which he attended in Stuttgart, Germany last July. The theme was "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread" and the meeting addressed pressing world issues including the global economy and human trafficking.

At this assembly, the Primate was inspired by the words of Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who also serves as president of LWF. Bishop Hanson said that Christians

have a tendency to become "curved in" upon themselves. He noted that "The dynamic of communion is that we're called out. We're called in a dance toward the neighbour."

The Primate said he observed the same outward-focused spirit at the Sept. 2010 "City, Street, and Church" conference he attended in Victoria, B.C. He witnessed how the Church of St. John the Divine was working on a collaborative approach to addressing homelessness in downtown Victoria.

The national church is also "turning out," said the Primate. He noted that at the General Synod meeting he sensed a renewed sense of Canadian Anglican identity as articulated in Vision 2019. General Synod also made several statements that showed a commitment to Indigenous justice. Among other actions, they encouraged the federal government to endorse the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Primate expressed his desire for the church to grow into deeper full communion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. He noted several joint ACC-ELCIC meetings, including a very lively Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth in London, Ont. last August (CLAY 2010).

Archbishop Hiltz noted that Canadian Anglicans are more active than ever in the governing bodies of the worldwide Anglican Communion. He highlighted the Rev. Canon Dr. Isaac Kawuki Mukasa's work in the continuing Communion indaba process and Donna Bomberry, who serves as general secretary of the Anglican Indigenous Network.

Finally, the Primate noted that for the church to have an impact on the world it needs to work not only ecumenically but with interfaith partners. He said the 2010 Interfaith Leaders Summit in Winnipeg last June offered a glimpse of possible cooperative work.

"My hope and prayer as we enter this new triennium is that we will be given more and more to being turned out, not turned in to ourselves," he said. "The Gospel

calls us to be turned out to the world."

Resolution

COGS approved the minutes from the March 2010 and June 2010 meetings.

Team building

Suzanne Lawson gave a brief introduction to the role of the Planning and Agenda Team, which she chairs. Sue Winn then presented a series of questions for members to discuss in their small groups: What are your lasting impressions of General Synod? Why did you let your name stand for COGS? What skills do you have to offer? What are your hopes for what can be accomplished this triennium? Members shared their responses in plenary.

At 12:00 council took a lunch break and reconvened at 1:30.

Orientation to the work of COGS

The General Secretary, the Ven. Michael Pollesel, drew attention to the formal job description for COGS members. He reminded them they were responsible for the governance of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Archbishop Colin Johnson (Toronto) described the difference between governance and management. He described members' fiduciary responsibility to make decisions for the complex, large organization that is the Anglican Church of Canada.

Members discussed this distinction in small groups. Some inquired about developing a conflict of interest policy at COGS.

Looking back

After giving a brief overview of the General Secretary's report, Archdeacon Pollesel asked Margaret Shawyer, coordinator of General Synod planning, to give COGS a glimpse of what the work was like during 1988 to 1992, the first triennium she staffed COGS. (After staffing over 50 COGS meetings and working at General Synod for 39 years, Ms. Shawyer will retire in December 2010.)

Ms. Shawyer named many projects that COGS (then the National Executive Council) was working on over 20 years ago, including a large international partners consultation and considering a separate diocese for Labrador.

Overview of restructuring

The Primate explained the process that led to the recent restructuring of the national office. He emphasized that

it was shaped by the priorities and practices outlined in the strategic plan, Vision 2019.

The Primate described the areas of work that he will oversee. The ministries are "Nurturing our Common Life" (Faith, Worship, and Ministry) and "Building Relationships" (Global Relations within the Anglican Communion; Ecumenical, Interfaith, and Government Relations; and Indigenous Ministries).

The General Secretary outlined the work that he oversees. The ministries are "Stewarding our Resources" (Financial Management and Philanthropy), "Telling Our Stories" (Communications and Information Resources), and "Honouring our Commitments" (Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and Anglican Fund for Healing and Reconciliation).

Council had a brief coffee break and reconvened at 3:15.

Orientation continued

Suzanne Lawson highlighted other meeting norms that COGS will abide by. She noted that this triennium COGS can meet by telephone or through electronic means.

Members discussed putting their orientation handbook online. This led to a discussion about the privacy of members' personal contact information. The chancellor agreed to review this matter of privacy.

Messages from COGS 2007-2010

Members reviewed recommendations and comments from the previous council. The previous COGS called for a continued commitment to deficit budgeting, a fleshing out of Vision 2019, and the ongoing mentorship of new members and youth members.

Proposals to improve the life of COGS

Bishop James Cowan (British Columbia) presented a proposal for a "paperless" COGS. The council has worked to reduce their paper consumption over several meetings but Bishop Cowan noted that there is room for growth. This proposal will be formally reviewed later in the meeting.

Ali Symons, senior editor at General Synod, presented a proposal from the Communications and Information Resources Department about how information can be shared from COGS. She proposed that staff distribute (online and in print) a package that would include a synopsis video from the General Secretary. In this video Archdeacon Pollesel would invite people to send in their feedback on the COGS meeting.

At 4:30, council adjourned for social time and dinner. They reconvened at 7:00.

Budget

Michèle George, treasurer, and Rob Dickson, chair of the Financial Management Committee, led the first of two sessions on the 2011 budget.

Ms. George and Mr. Dickson noted that the 2011 budget achieves one year early COGS's goal of a balanced budget for General Synod. In order to achieve this, General Synod's Management Team has cut just under \$1 million from General Synod's operations. This has meant cuts to program and to staff positions.

Ms. George led the council through a detailed presentation of the major changes in General Synod expenses and revenues from 2008 to 2011. She described General Synod's current financial commitments, which total \$4.2 million annually. \$2.4 million of this is committed to support pastoral and sacramental ministry in the Council of the North.

Mr. Dickson noted that General Synod's future sustainability depends on two factors: creating affordable structures and stabilizing revenues. Over the past several years, proportional giving from dioceses has dropped steadily.

Management Team is proposing a number of methods to ensure financial sustainability:

-COGS may now use a prioritization process for resolutions that have financial implications but for which funding is not budgeted. The Primate, the Prolocutor, and the General Secretary, in consultation with the Treasurer, may determine if these resolutions are financially feasible.

-The 2011 budget establishes a Ministry Investment Fund, created from the restricted portion of undesignated legacies. This fund is available to assist in new initiatives.

-The 2011 budget also establishes a General Synod Officers' discretionary reserve to help fund non-recurring, unbudgeted, unplanned costs.

Management Team is also examining certain areas of work where funds could be saved. They are also working to support the Department of Philanthropy as they raise funds.

COGS will vote on the proposed 2011 budget on Saturday.

Youth secretariat

Archdeacon Pollesel and Judy Steers, General Synod's coordinator for youth initiatives, gave an update on a General Synod resolution that asked the General Secretary to consider establishing a youth secretariat.

Judy Steers gave a presentation on youth initiatives within the last triennium. She described the revitalization of youth ministry in dioceses and regions and noted a large number of joint ecumenical projects, especially CLAY 2010 with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Archdeacon Pollesel noted that Ms. Steers will continue to work as quarter-time staff at General Synod. He is seeking funding for a second quarter-time youth initiatives staff person.

Climate/context in which COGS will work

Suzanne Lawson led a brainstorming session on the Canadian situation that the Anglican Church of Canada operates in. Members offered their impressions on Canadian demographics, economy, politics, volunteerism, fundraising, healthcare, and religion. The Primate said this exercise was to help members "understand the broader context in which we are church."

At 9:00, Bishop Dennis Drainville (Quebec) led COGS in night prayer. Council adjourned for the evening.

COGS Highlights



Council of General Synod

November 19, 2010

Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga, Ont.

From 9:00 to 10:00, members met in their Bible study groups, where they are studying passages from the book of Luke.

Anti-racism training

From 10:00 to 5:00, members participated in an anti-racism training led by Alice Schuda, co-director of the Canadian Churches' Forum on Global Ministries, and the Ven. Peter Fenty, executive officer to the bishop of Toronto and archdeacon of York. This anti-racism training was mandated by the previous COGS.

Ms. Schuda and Archdeacon Fenty led the council through a varied day of presentations, group work, and open discussion. Members heard about the Anglican Church of Canada's formal action around the issue of racism, including the Primate's 1993 apology for residential schools. Members also reflected on their own social locations and shared how they formed opinions about people of other races.

In the afternoon, members viewed *Indecently Exposed*, a documentary filmed in Regina, Sask. that showcases the provocative anti-racism work of Jane Elliott.

Members were challenged to apply what they learned today in their various positions throughout the Anglican Church of Canada.

The Primate took a step to apply anti-racism principles right away: he said that later in the meeting COGS members would be encouraged to sign a statement that said they agreed with the Charter for Racial Justice, approved by COGS in 2007.

Members took a dinner break at 5:00 and reconvened at 7:00.

Anglican Journal

COGS adjourned as COGS and reconvened as the member of the Anglican Journal corporation.

Bishop George Elliott (Toronto), chair of the Anglican

Journal Board, gave a presentation on the current state of the *Anglican Journal*. He noted that the newspaper, like most other print media, is facing financial pressure. The national paper, which is distributed with diocesan papers, has had to reduce in size from 16 pages to 12.

Bishop George noted that the Anglican Journal Board is reviewing the Journal's status as a separately incorporated body, independent from General Synod.

He also identified the Journal's new direction under the leadership of Editor Kristin Jenkins, who has served for just over a year. She is working on a strategic planning process that is aiming to increase web and print revenue.

The treasurer, Michèle George, presented the *Anglican Journal's* financial statements and answered related questions.

Resolution

COGS voted to approve the *Anglican Journal's* financial statements.

COGS moved by consensus to adjourn as the member of the Anglican Journal corporation and reconvene as COGS.

Guiding documents

The Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, introduced the Marks of Mission, a series of principles used widely throughout the Anglican Communion. The Primate said "One of the things that make these marks attractive to the church is that people can see a connection between the marks and the baptismal covenant." He noted that many parishes, dioceses, and Communion-level consultations are applying the Marks of Mission.

Suzanne Lawson spoke about the sixth Mark of Mission, which the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) has approved. The ACC is still working on the formal wording of the mark, which focuses on conflict transformation, peace building, and reconciliation.

Sue Winn said that the Diocese of Montreal has requested for General Synod to clearly articulate this sixth Mark of Mission in the roll-out of Vision 2019, the strategic plan. This will be addressed later in the meeting.

Members then delved into the priorities and practices of Vision 2019. They formed themselves into discussion groups based on the Vision 2019 priorities and practices they were most interested in.

Canon Rob Falby, prolocutor, gave a brief overview of the General Synod handbook, as well as policies and procedures that impact the life of COGS. Michèle George gave an overview of the budget work.

At 9:00, Lela Zimmer led COGS in night prayer. Council adjourned for the evening.

COGS Highlights



Council of General Synod

November 20, 2010

Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga, Ont.

From 9:00 to 10:00, members met in their Bible study groups. They met for business at 10:00.

Response to anti-racism training

Each member signed a statement that acknowledged their commitment to the council's Charter for Racial Justice. This is a direct application of the anti-racism work from yesterday's workshop.

How COGS makes decisions

Dr. Lela Zimmer led a presentation and discussion on how the council will make decisions in the next triennium. She noted that COGS has used a blended model, where consensus decision-making is the default mode, but COGS moves into parliamentary procedure for some subjects, including finances.

Members spoke about the strengths and weaknesses of each model. One member noted that both models contain assumptions of how COGS functions as a community. Another member noted that the parliamentary procedure was more time-efficient.

Dr. Zimmer gave an introduction to consensus decision-making. She noted that this model is based on dialogue and mutual respect. The process ideally goes as follows: the issue is introduced, a proposal emerges, agreement is tested, and consensus emerges.

COGS took a break from 10:30 to 10:45. They returned to sing "Silent Night" as part of the Silent Night Project. All Canadian Anglicans are encouraged to sing the hymn on Nov. 28 and to donate a toonie to support the work of Anglican military chaplains. Members donated \$140.

Budget

Michèle George, treasurer, transitioned the discussion to a consideration of the 2011 budget.

A wide-ranging discussion followed. Some members praised the work of the Management Team in producing a no-deficit budget. Others discussed the

reduction of Partnerships grants to overseas partners and wondered how dioceses and parishes could continue this work.

Members discussed the budget in table groups. When they shared their responses in plenary, the discussion turned to whether members needed to hear other presentations from Financial Management and the Department of Philanthropy before approving the budget. After testing the consensus of the house, the Primate said that COGS would address the subject after lunch.

At 12:00, COGS took a lunch break and reconvened at 1:30.

Financial Management Committee

Bishop James Cowan gave a presentation on the work of the Financial Management Committee. He explained the committee's responsibilities, which include overseeing the policies and procedures that govern General Synod's finances.

This was the first of several presentations that COGS heard today from the standing committees that govern the work of General Synod's departments.

Nationwide, diocesan-centred fundraising initiative

COGS heard a presentation about a proposed fundraising initiative from the Department of Philanthropy. The presentation was introduced by the Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson, member of the Philanthropy Committee, and Sam Carriere, interim director of Philanthropy. The bulk of the presentation was given by Suzanne Lawson in her capacity as consultant to the Department of Philanthropy.

During the last triennium, COGS had heard a presentation about a national fundraising initiative but reactions were mixed. Archdeacon Thompson emphasized that this was a new proposal from a new committee and that it aimed to "source new water" instead of "diverting water from an old watershed."

Suzanne Lawson explained that the Philanthropy Committee envisioned this work as a number of campaigns in dioceses that would be collaboratively held together by a centralized staff at General Synod. The initiative would raise funds for parishes, dioceses, and General Synod. It would be focused on mission priorities and would roll out in three stages or "waves" over the next five to six years.

Ms. Lawson proposed that the initiative be done together as a church, with cooperation across national, diocesan, and parish structures. She noted that now was a good time for this initiative, as the church was clarifying its identity through the Marks of Mission and Vision 2019.

After asking some questions for clarification, COGS members spent time in small groups discussing this proposal. In plenary they identified strengths, opportunities, hopes, results, and concerns. The matter was then set aside to be addressed in the evening.

Budget resolution

Resolution

COGS voted and approved the 2011 budget.

Council took a coffee break at 3:00 and reconvened at 3:15.

Presentations from Standing Committees, Councils, and Boards

- Pensions

Laura Solomonian from the Pensions Committee presented the committee's report.

- Faith, Worship, and Ministry (FWM)

COGS heard an update on the work of the FWM Committee from committee members Dr. Lela Zimmer and the Rev. Lynne McNaughton, along with the Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully, interim director of the FWM Department. They explained that they had divided their General Synod-mandated work into four working groups: Ethics and Public Life; Congregational Life and Leadership; Anglican, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; and Worship. The committee members also noted that the FWM department needed more staff to work on these many assignments.

- Communications and Information Resources

Sam Carriere, director of Communications and Information Resources, noted that COGS needed to approve the amendment of CIRC's terms of reference.

He also said that CIR is examining new ways of providing library services now that the librarian has been given notice of lay off.

- Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP)
National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald outlined ACIP's main areas of work. These include innovating models of community for urban areas, working on issues of non-stipendiary Indigenous ministry, and addressing ongoing governance issues regarding the national Sacred Circle gathering, ACIP, etc. He noted that Indigenous Ministries understands itself as a spiritual movement that is "blessed by a merciful God."

- Partnerships and Ecojustice (PMEJ)

Cynthia Haines-Turner reported on the PMEJ committee meeting, which discussed, among many other things, the need for a shift from a "church-shaped mission" to a "mission-shaped church." She also noted that the PMEJ report was written before major changes in the department, i.e. the laying off of four of nine staff members.

Henriette Thompson, former director of Partnerships and current coordinator for ecumenical, interfaith, and government relations, described the staff persons who have been laid off in the recent restructuring. She noted that the staff who were leaving had served a total of 73 years at General Synod. She said they were people who had "put their heart and soul into the work."

- Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)

Bishop Tom Morgan, PWRDF board member, and Adele Finney, executive director of PWRDF, gave an update on the work. Ms. Finney described PWRDF's four strategic themes: weaving a culture of peace and justice, building a moral economy, accompanying communities in crisis, and sharing together in the healing of the earth.

Ms. Finney also updated the council on PWRDF's work to ensure continued funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, and noted that an Anglican development alliance is cohering at the Anglican Communion level.

Honouring Margaret Shawyer

COGS decided to make Margaret Shawyer an honorary life member of the council, in recognition of her exemplary service at over 50 council meetings. Members then sang a grace that praised God for Margaret Shawyer, who was never "snoring" when business got "boring."

At 4:45 council adjourned for a social time and dinner. Council reconvened at 7:00.

Standing committee presentations, continued

- Philanthropy Committee

Archdeacon Thompson presented an update on the new Philanthropy committee. Its responsibilities include developing and updating a theology of philanthropy for the church and ensuring that there is a broad presence of fundraising techniques in the church.

Resolution

COGS approved, by consensus, the Department of Philanthropy's terms of reference.

Archdeacon Thompson introduced a resolution that would clarify the purpose of the Anglican Appeal, General Synod's annual appeal.

Resolutions

COGS approved, by consensus, to designate proceeds of the Anglican Appeal as available for all General Synod ministries in furtherance of the Marks of Mission.

Nationwide fundraising initiative, continued

Suzanne Lawson, again speaking as a consultant to the department of Philanthropy, responded to members' questions about a nation-wide fundraising initiative.

Resolutions

COGS approved, by consensus, the following resolutions:

1. That the Philanthropy Department be authorized to initiate and facilitate a nation-wide, diocesan-centred fundraising initiative to benefit parishes, dioceses, and General Synod.
2. That dioceses not currently involved in a similar campaign be encouraged to engage in this initiative, with the understanding that the "case for support"

will include aspects of the case for General Synod.

3. That a feasibility study for this initiative be conducted in up to ten dioceses that are willing and prepared, with the results of the assessment to come to the participating dioceses and the Council of General Synod.
4. That the Council of General Synod approve \$200,000 to be internally restricted from the unrestricted funds in 2011 to invest in the Nationwide Fundraising Initiative being undertaken by the Philanthropy Department.

Digital document meeting

Bishop James Cowan introduced a resolution to reduce paper consumption at COGS.

Resolution

COGS resolved to begin to move towards implementation of digital document meetings of the council during this triennium. They also resolved that the Planning and Agenda Team be requested to develop policy for the implementation of this measure.

Vision 2019

Suzanne Lawson described the need for a group to implement the priorities and practices of Vision 2019, General Synod's strategic plan.

Resolution

COGS resolved, by consensus, that an implementation team be established for the implementation of Vision 2019 and that the nominating committee bring forward the necessary nominations for election by COGS.

Sue Winn shared results of the feedback that members had given yesterday on Vision 2019 practices and priorities. She noted that each member would go home with an assignment related to one of the priorities or practices.

Anglican Fund for Healing and Reconciliation

Resolution

COGS approved the appointment of Mary Lysecki (Rupert's Land) to the board of the Anglican Fund for Healing and Reconciliation.

At 8:00, the Ven. Sidney Black led COGS in night prayer. Council adjourned for the evening.