

COGS Highlights



Council of General Synod

March 14, 2013

For their spring meeting, COGS members gathered at their usual setting: Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, Ont. They began their day with Bible study from 9:00 to 9:30.

The Very Rev. Peter Elliott, chair of the Planning and Agenda Team, introduced the meeting agenda. He noted that this longer COGS meeting (four days instead of three) is a tradition for the last meeting of the triennium. This is to give enough time for business before the national meeting, Joint Assembly, in July.

General Secretary's report

The Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson, General Secretary, began his reflections by praising COGS as "a community of leaders, thinkers, and doers that comes together as a gift to the national life to the church." He thanked the council for their "activism" and said they will be remembered for their "transformative work."

Several times in his reflection he identified where God was doing "a new thing," of the kind referenced in Isaiah 43.

Mr. Thompson noted that General Synod has continued its commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, led by the work of Henriette Thompson, public witness coordinator for social justice. The TRC will end in 2014 and the church will need to discern how to continue reconciliation work past this date.

A review of church life highlights continued. Mr. Thompson noted that the church's imagination had been captured at a December consultation about how Canadian Anglicans can be faithful partners in the global communion. The theme of "nodes and networks" arose here.

The General Secretary celebrated that the Episcopal Church of Cuba is establishing an office of missionary development to help clergy and lay leaders work on issues such as food security alongside spiritual development. This work is funded by the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and Episcopal Relief and Development.

Finally, Mr. Thompson addressed the work of the Consultation on Structures, which met January 9 and 10 to consider the renewal of General Synod's structures. COGS will consider the consultation's recommendations at this meeting.

Mr. Thompson noted that this consultation of 40 people, many under 35, examined three levels of structures: those things that were fixed (including the Office of the Primate), things that were flexible (such as the standing committee structure) and things that were flexible in terms of application (including financial systems.)

Financial realities are a catalyst for this change, said Mr. Thompson, but this ongoing work follows God's initiative to "do a new thing." This work is being done together as a whole church.

"I invite you to cherish this," said the General Secretary, "When we roll up our sleeves, we will experience a renewal of joy and a sense of purpose that we can be agents of transformation in the Anglican Church of Canada."

Members took a morning break from 10:00 to 10:30.

Conversation on structures: part one

Janet Marshall, consultation facilitator, and Monica Patten, working group chair, spoke in more detail about of the January structures consultation. Ms. Marshall said working on this had been "like being on a moving walkway where at every step there has been conversation and consultation."

COGS will have an opportunity at this meeting to give input into this work. Members who presented here are part of the smaller working group that is carrying consultation work forward.

Archbishop Colin Johnson reminded members of the meeting's scope: to help the church shape General Synod structures so the church can embody God's call to mission. He noted that the conversation had moved



from considering “what can only be done by General Synod” to asking “What are we doing together as a church and what can the national church bring to this?” He emphasized that this work is done cooperatively, not competitively.

The missiological focus of this work continues to be about “engaging in the work that God is already doing,” said Archbishop Johnson. He noted that Sister Amy, SSJD, led an inspiring meditation on Hebrews 10:24: “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and to good deeds.”

Melissa Green described the new realities and trends stated by the consultation. These include the reality of a post-Christian and post-denominational ministry context, a change in communication technologies, and the work for self-determination among Indigenous Peoples.

Ms. Green also described some ministries that are made possible through the national church: we have a voice in national Canadian life, we have the unifying symbol of our Primate, and we celebrate that the *Anglican Journal* supports the distribution of diocesan papers.

Cynthia Haines-Turner acknowledged that there was a “fair bit of anxiety” about what would arise at the meetings but “by the grace of God” they arrived at recommendations. They also realized that these affirmations support the priorities and practices of Vision 2019.

The recommendations are organized by the time period, from those that can be implemented at Joint Assembly 2013 to those that could be considered at General Synod 2016.

These recommendations included a proposal for a new General Synod governance structure that would look different on several levels:

At the beginning of the triennium, a one-time mission coordination meeting would organize the strategic priorities arising from General Synod. COGS meetings would be reduced from six to four per triennium and traditional standing committees would be suspended (with the exception of Financial Management and Pensions). New standing committees of five (one a COGS rep) would meet electronically and then assign specific projects to task forces and working groups.

COGS members asked several questions for clarification. Some of these questions investigated the relationship between new structures and historic partners like the

Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Others wondered how a sense of unity could be cultivated in this new arrangement.

Council members left the rest of this conversation for after lunch.

Primate’s report

Archbishop Hiltz said he was “fresh off the rock,” having flown from Gander, Nfld., this morning at 5:00 a.m. He was in the Diocese of Western Newfoundland for a clergy retreat where he spoke about Mary, mother of Christ, and what she teaches about salutation, song, suffering and silence.

The Primate shared his reflection on the election of Jorge Mario Cardinal Bergoglio, elected yesterday to become Pope Francis. He recalled Christ’s prayer for unity “that they may all be one.”

As always, the Primate has been busy visiting dioceses across Canada. He highlighted his pastoral visit to three parishes in the Diocese of New Westminster that were returned to the diocese after a legal battle. For three days the Primate visited with people, accompanied by the Very. Rev. Peter Elliott. The Primate brought and blessed an Anglican Church of Canada flag for St. John’s Shaughnessy, but refrained from raising it because he did not want to convey a message of victory over those who had chosen to leave these parishes.

Moving on to Vision 2019, the church’s strategic vision, the Primate said that the church is “on mission, on task, and on time.” He’s especially pleased about the work of the structures consultation, which was called for in Vision 2019.

Earlier in March, the Primate attended a meeting of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples. He also wanted to meet with retired bishop Gary Woolsey, who led in the dioceses of Athabasca and Calgary, and who is now terminally ill. Archbishop Hiltz also joined ACIP for a screening of *Walking the Dream*, the Sacred Circle documentary.

The Primate asked for ACIP’s advice on several matters, including what the church should say about the Idle No More movement and how the church should commemorate the upcoming twentieth anniversary of former Primate Michael Peers’ 1993 apology in Minaki Ont.

The work of truth and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples is something

the Primate is tracking closely. He celebrated that the Anglican Healing Fund has distributed more than \$5 million to 500 healing projects across Canada—at least one in every diocese. He thanked fund coordinator Esther Wesley for her work.

Archbishop Hiltz reflected on the fact that the TRC will soon be finished. He recently shared some reflections on TRCs at a meeting of the Anglican Peace and Justice Network. “[TRCs] require commitment to hear the truth and summon us to apologize with integrity,” he said.

The Primate presented brief reflections on major upcoming events:

- Joint Assembly, happening July 2013, is “moving ahead,” he said. “It’s well in hand and I’m grateful beyond words.”
- Archbishop Hiltz and Principal Secretary Archdeacon Paul Feheley will attend March 21 enthronement of the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. Adele Finney, executive director of PWRDF, will also attend as one of five people chosen to represent and bring gifts from various regions of the Anglican Communion.
- The Canadian Companions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem program is growing, as is the companion diocese partnership between Jerusalem and Ottawa.
- On April 5, the churches begin a 1000-day countdown to the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals. The Primate has signed a letter to the Prime Minister about the importance of these landmarks.

Archbishop Hiltz closed with a meditation on servant leadership from Herbert O’Driscoll’s *Four Days in Spring*.

Members took a lunch break from noon until 1:30.

Gathering again with a sung hymn, COGS members convened for their afternoon session. The Primate recognized recent winners of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medals: National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald, the Very Rev. Peter Elliott, and LCol the Rev. Canon Michelle Staples.

Conversation on structures: part two

The General Secretary, the Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson, returned to the subject of the national structures

consultation. He outlined the various reviews that the consultation is recommending:

- A review of national ministries in light of Vision 2019
- A review of the House of Bishops, specifically the focus and frequency of their meetings
- An operational review of General Synod’s Resources for Mission department, possibly with an external consultant, in order to gauge its effectiveness
- A review of General Synod’s communications department to test its adherence to Vision 2019.

The General Secretary then turned to describe General Synod’s collaborations with dioceses, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and other partnerships.

Mr. Thompson also reflected on the current realities and future possibilities of decentralized staffing. Archdeacon Bruce Myers (Quebec) and the Rev. Laurette Glasgow (Ottawa) are two staff members who work part-time for other dioceses and part-time with General Synod.

Finally, Mr. Thompson reflected on finances. He said that General Synod will need to examine how to gain major gifts for their work. At the same time, he said General Synod needs to be “attentive to how much we spend on governance” because “this subject is critical to our public integrity.”

COGS members were given 40 minutes to discuss these questions in small groups: “What are my first impressions?” “What helps me be enthusiastic about the future of the national church?” “What are my concerns?”

They then reflected in silence and wrote out their affirmations, questions, concerns, and significant reservations.

People shared a sampling of comments and then handed them in. Monica Patten thanked members for their thoughtfulness and said the presenters would respond to these comments later in the meeting.

Council members took a break from 3:15 to 3:45.

Future of the Diocese of Keewatin

A delegation from the Diocese of Keewatin spoke about the three regions of their diocese: Northern Ontario,



Southern Keewatin, and Northern Manitoba. Present were Archbishop David Ashdown, Bishop Lydia Mamakwa, the Very Rev. Jim Dugan, the Ven. Kenneth Kitchekeesik, and Stanley Sainnawap.

Archbishop Ashdown provided a timeline of Indigenous leadership in the Diocese of Keewatin. Highlights included the election in 2010 of Lydia Mamakwa as area bishop of Northern Ontario.

Bishop Mamakwa shared how the Northern Ontario area of Keewatin has grown and matured into a self-determining church. She said this vision started with the elders and although there is pain and disappointment through the history of residential schools, her people have embraced the gospel.

“Our desire is to have the gospel at the centre of our lives,” said Mamakwa.

Stanley Sainnawap spoke about the future viability of the diocese. They have been self-administered since 2006 and have always produced balanced financial statements. Their ministry includes non-stipendiary clergy, healing centres, a ministry school, and a camp.

The Keewatin leaders will now request that General Synod concurs with the province’s decision to create a new diocese of the Northern Ontario region.

If these plans are approved, the Diocese of Keewatin will cease to function on Dec. 31, 2014, though it will continue as a legal entity. Archbishop Ashdown will remain as archbishop of Keewatin until Sept. 30 2015 to complete his term as metropolitan and wind up Keewatin’s administrative details. Keewatin’s assets will then be distributed equitably between the three regions. Keewatin’s archives will be transferred to General Synod.

The Very Rev. Dugan, also archdeacon of Keewatin’s southern region, said that the 15 parishes in his area have decided, after much consultation, to realign themselves with the Diocese of Rupert’s Land. The diocese is open to this idea and this plan will be confirmed at a May 25 regional synod.

Kenneth Kitchekeesik shared his family’s history as lay readers and faithful Anglicans in northern Manitoba. He said that his elders had a dream to be self-determining and therefore the people in his region have decided to align with northern Ontario. They are now consulting with local congregations about next steps.

Council members asked questions of the delegation

and commended Archbishop Ashdown and Bishop Mamakwa for their leadership.

Resolution

COGS resolved to support and affirm Keewatin’s proposal of a new diocese. The council expresses its gratitude for the courageous and visionary leadership in this diocese.

“We have walked together and now we are starting to dance together,” said Bishop Mamakwa. “Join us in the dance. You are most welcome.”

Council members responded with a standing ovation.

Council members took a break, for fellowship and dinner, from 5:00 to 7:00.

Japanese-Canadian presentation

Archdeacon Jim Boyles, former General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada, introduced speakers representing the Japanese-Canadian Vancouver Consultative Council: Joy Kogawa, Lynne Shozawa, and Greg Tatchell.

The speakers shared the story of how two Vancouver Japanese-Canadian churches—Holy Cross and the Church of the Ascension—were sold by the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster after World War II.

In 1942, 22,000 Japanese Canadians were sent to internment camps. On April 1, 1949, they were allowed to return. The church sold Church of the Ascension in 1945 and Holy Cross Church was sold just months after Japanese Canadians were allowed to return to Vancouver.

JC-VCC researchers have spent years piecing together the stories of these properties and were finally able to prove the story in 2009.

Bishop Michael Ingham, Diocese of New Westminster, apologized for these actions in 2010.

“Racism is and has been part of our church,” read Bishop Ingham’s apology, “and we should acknowledge and repent of it.”

Resolution

COGS adopted the following resolution from the Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Committee:

1. Acknowledges the injustices experienced by Japanese Canadian Anglicans at the hands of our Church during and after WW II; and confesses the error of our ways.
2. Expresses its gratitude for the activities of the Japanese Canadian Vancouver Consultative Council (JC-VCC) and the Diocese of New Westminster, which since 2008 have braved to tell the truth about a long, hidden story of racism at numerous levels of our Church, including the naming of the 1,500 Japanese Canadian Anglicans who were exiled in 1942.
3. Supports the 2010 apology made by Bishop Michael Ingham for the sale of Japanese Congregation Churches in the Diocese of New Westminster in 1949.
4. Recognizes that deep-seated historic racism continues as a source of pain to Japanese Canadian Anglicans across Canada, and commends every effort in the interests of healing and reconciliation.
5. Recommends that the Council of General Synod study the Episcopal Church's Asiamerica Ministries to explore ways of our participation in it.
6. Encourages the dioceses of the Anglican Church of Canada to be mindful of the growing multi-cultural membership of our Church, to celebrate that diversity, and to enhance partnerships in common ministry.

The Primate spoke to the resolution. "I want to express gratitude to those who came to tell this story," he said.

"This is a sign to the whole church to acknowledge sins of the past and expresses a desire to be continually reconciled."

JC-VCC members gave the Primate a plaque that tells the story of their churches.

TRC document collection

The General Secretary, the Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson, presented the issue of digitizing archival documents for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The TRC has a mandate to gather relevant archival material from parties involved with running residential schools (including General Synod). The TRC has started this work but lacks adequate resources to complete it.

Mr. Thompson asked COGS to use reserves from the Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada to contribute to these costs.

He thanked Nancy Hurn, General Synod archivist, for her leadership and advocacy on this matter. He also thanked former General Secretary Jim Boyles, who is volunteering his time to do this archival work.

Council adjourned and reconvened as the Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Resolution

MSCC resolved that up to \$125,000 be made available from the unrestricted surplus of the Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada for the following purposes:

1. Up to \$30,000 to support dioceses in meeting their obligations to provide their archival documents, in fulfillment of their obligations under the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.
2. Up to \$95,000 to create a digital version of documents provided by the Anglican Church of Canada (in fulfillment of a legal obligation) to ensure that those documents will be accessible through the National Research Centre (in fulfillment of a solemn moral obligation) to former students and their families and communities, as well as to researchers and educators and the general public.

MSCC adjourned and reconvened as COGS, which passed a similar resolution in order to properly transfer the funds.

The Primate thanked the General Secretary for his leadership. He also noted that the United Church of Canada has made a similar commitment to offer extra funds for archival work.

COGS ended the day with night prayers.



COGS Highlights



Council of General Synod

March 15, 2013

At 8:45, COGS members began the second day of their spring meeting with Bible study and prayer. At 9:30 they met for business.

Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples

The Ven. Sid Black, ACIP co-chair, updated COGS on ACIP's recent meeting in Calgary. Among other work, ACIP members screened the new Sacred Circle documentary and heard updates from the youth council.

David Phillip Jones, chancellor and chair of the Governance Working Group, introduced proposed changes to Canon 22 on national Indigenous ministry. In 2009 the Governance Working Group asked ACIP to decide on processes for how to select future members of ACIP and Sacred Circle as well as how to select future National Indigenous Anglican Bishops. ACIP has worked on this task over the triennium and the revised canon now includes the council's suggestions.

Resolution

COGS resolved to send this amending motion to Canon 22 on to General Synod.

Joint Assembly

The Very Rev. Peter Wall, co-chair of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission and chair of the General Synod Planning Committee, updated COGS on work toward the event. Mr. Wall, who has experience in planning other General Synod events, said "The planning cycle for this has not only been the most challenging but the most delightful and the most grace filled." Mr. Wall thanked the Primate and National Bishop Susan Johnson (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada) for how they have championed this event.

Mr. Wall provided several updates on the planning process, including these highlights: online registration is working well, the Joint Local Arrangements Committee is running smoothly, and work is underway for a powerful public witness event on Parliament Hill.

At Joint Assembly, Anglican and Lutheran members will

make joint statements on issues such as resource extraction. The council discussed how these statements, made in joint plenary sessions, can then be legally ratified by the separate entities of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. The chancellor assured council that a proper process will be established so these statements can become legally valid.

COGS adopted several resolutions relating to new procedures and guidelines for General Synod 2013:

Resolutions

COGS adopted the Nominating and Election Procedure for use at General Synod 2013.

COGS adopted the Guidelines for the Resolutions Committee, for use at the 2013 General Synod.

COGS adopted the No Debate List procedure for use at the 2013 General Synod.

COGS appointed members to sessional committees for General Synod 2013, with authority for the Prolocutor in consultation with the General Secretary to fill any vacancies that may occur.

COGS members took a coffee break from 10:00 to 10:30.

Anglican Covenant

Archdeacon Harry Huskins, member of the Anglican Communion Working Group, provided a brief history of the Anglican Communion Covenant. He reminded council that the idea for a covenant arose in the early 2000s during a time of major tension in the Communion. The covenant was written, in several drafts, between 2006 and 2009, and Mr. Huskins noted that the Anglican Church of Canada had been faithful in considering and commenting on drafts. The working group has also produced a study guide for the church, available on anglican.ca.

Council members discussed what resolution about the Covenant should be brought to General Synod. Some



noted that there has been little interest in the Covenant at the local level. Others wondered who would oversee further study and work on the Covenant.

Council members agreed to table the resolution and set up a smaller group to decide on new wording at this meeting.

COGS members took a lunch break from noon until 1:00.

Conversations about structures: part three

Janet Marshall, facilitator of the structures consultation, and Archbishop Colin Johnson, member of the ongoing structures working group, shared results from the feedback COGS members submitted yesterday—their affirmations, questions, concerns, and significant reservations.

Ms. Marshall reported that many people affirmed the idea of moving to smaller committees, fewer meetings, and more resources for ministry rather than governance.

There was less agreement, however, on the questions, concerns, and reservations. Archbishop Johnson shared one of many contradictions in the responses. For example, one comment said the proposal was as “a move to decentralization” and another saw the same thing as “a move to centralization.”

Ms. Marshall also said she sensed a theme of lament in the feedback. Members expressed that some things will be lost as this work continues.

The structures working group set up workshops based on the main concerns from the feedback. COGS members rotated through these three:

1. General Secretary the Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson and Chancellor David Phillip Jones led a conversation on leadership that explored how a number of groups such as the Officers of General Synod, the Planning and Agenda Team, and the Management Team could support and serve the Council of General Synod.

2. Archbishop Colin Johnson and Cynthia Haines-Turner led a conversation on relationships and participation. They discussed, among other things, the differences between electronic and face-to-face meetings.

3. Janet Marshall and Melissa Green led a conversation on “The way that we work.” They covered the questions “How can we ensure that work over next triennium holds to values?” and “How can all these parts stay coordinated?”

Members met in workshops until 3:35 and took a short break. They returned to plenary at 4:00.

Faith, Worship, and Ministry

Members from the Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee presented the wide variety of work they have accomplished over the triennium. The Ven. Dr. Lynne McNaughton introduced the work that they hope will continue into the next triennium. Dr. Lela Zimmer showed how FWMC manages many relationships with bodies inside and outside of General Synod. She stated a need for communication with Anglican Communion and ecumenical partners. The Very Rev. Peter Wall provided an update on the work of the Liturgy Task Force.

The Rev. Canon Andrew Asbil, FWMC chair, reflected on a full triennium. He said the committee believes that a standing committee is important to maintain, but it welcomes the work of the structures consultation and the opportunity to organize in new ways.

Mr. Asbil asked COGS to reflect on two questions: First, “Is there a highlight for you in the work that FWM has done over last triennium?” (Responses included “youth initiatives,” and “Competencies for Theological Education for Ordination to the Priesthood.”)

Second, “What are some of the emerging issues we need to face that are missing from our report?” (Members noted “a continuing discussion of open table,” and “Anglican identity,” among other points.)

FWMC has presented a variety of resolutions to COGS, but after a brief discussion, council agreed to only address two now. The rest will be considered after final structures decisions at this meeting.

Resolutions

Council of General Synod recommended the following motions to General Synod:

That General Synod receive the Jerusalem Report of the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission (To Love and Serve the Lord), and refer it to the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission to coordinate a process of study and response.

That the General Synod receive the Final Report of the Primate’s Commission on Theological Education and Formation for Presbyteral Ministry and adopt Competencies for Theological Education for Ordination to the Priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada and commend this document to the dioceses for

implementation. (This resolution also contained specific recommendations for how General Synod could mobilize this document at all levels of the church.)

Council members took a dinner break from 5:30 until 7:00.

Racial Justice in our Church

Esther Wesley, Anglican Healing Fund coordinator, spoke about the reality of racism today. She said that some people experience it on a daily basis but some will never completely understand the reality.

Henriette Thompson, public witness coordinator for social justice, introduced the Hon. Justice Frank Iacobucci's report on First Nations representation on Ontario juries. The report found that First Nations people are overrepresented in prisons and underrepresented on juries and in roles that administer justice. Ms. Thompson said this was just one recent example of institutionalized racism.

Each COGS member received a copy of *Cracking Open White Identity towards Transformation*, produced by the Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network, of which the Anglican Church of Canada is a member. Council members spent time in table groups discussing one of the book's reflections.

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

The Rev. David Pritchard, vice-president of the PWRDF board, and Adele Finney, executive director of PWRDF, updated the council on recent work.

Ms. Finney noted that PWRDF has been hard at work rewriting its bylaws in accordance with Imagine Canada regulations. They were helped in this work by former chancellor Ron Stevenson and current chancellor David Phillip Jones.

Ms. Finney also noted that like General Synod, PWRDF is also working to improve its structures. They have reduced the number of board members and use task forces for their work.

As PWRDF moves through a time of transformation, said Ms. Finney, she asks staff to consider "How does what we propose to do support vulnerable people to become agents of transformation in their own lives and in their communities?" Ms. Finney believes this is a Biblical perspective, as God calls people to participate in restoration.

Ms. Finney turned to describe three new, key PWRDF projects. First, PWRDF and Indigenous Ministries are

exploring a partnership around water. Second, PWRDF is partnering with Episcopal Relief and Development to develop an office of integrated development in the Episcopal Church of Cuba, which has a longstanding relationship with General Synod. This new office will provide community development training to 25 community leaders per year.

Finally, Ms. Finney described a recent visit to a model village in Haiti supported by PWRDF. This and other Haitian projects were accomplished through much collaboration with other faith-based NGOs.

Anglican Communion Covenant

COGS returned to address the earlier matter of the Anglican Communion Covenant:

Resolution

COGS passed the following resolutions to General Synod:

Request the conversations in the Anglican Church of Canada about the proposed Covenant for the Anglican Communion continue during the next triennium, and

Request the ACWG to monitor continued developments about the proposed Covenant for the Anglican Communion and report to the spring 2016 meeting of COGS and

Direct COGS to bring a recommendation regarding the adoption of the Covenant to General Synod 2016.

The council then discussed how the Anglican Covenant conversation should be handled on the floor of General Synod. Some wondered if it should be a time for committee of the whole so that people could share their views on this important topic. Others wondered if there would be enough time for conversation in a tight Joint Assembly agenda.

The Joint Assembly Planning Committee will now consider this input in shaping the agenda.

At 8:45, council members ended the day with Holden Evening Prayer, sung in the chapel.



COGS Highlights



Council of General Synod

March 16, 2013

*At 8:45, COGS members began their day with Bible study.
At 9:30 they gathered for business.*

The Very Rev. Peter Elliott, chair of the Planning and Agenda Team, said that the schedule for the day would be fairly flexible in order to give members time to discuss and make decisions on structures.

Conversations about structures: part four

Janet Marshall, structures consultation facilitator, and Archbishop Colin Johnson, member of the structures working group, summarized the main points that they had heard in the workshops yesterday.

Archbishop Johnson likened the structures work to the discipline of healthy weight loss: "Losing 15 pounds doesn't mean I'm going away," he said. "It means I'll be healthier and last longer."

Among other points of feedback, people expressed the need for clear terms of reference, job descriptions, and orientation for whatever new structures emerge.

Ms. Marshall said that by the end of the day, COGS would likely be passing resolutions relating to structures, some of which would be passed on to General Synod.

The Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson, General Secretary, presented a possible work-flow timetable that would move the structures work along between now and the next COGS.

The possible work flow would be

1. Describing the work of committees by June 2013.
2. Electing committees at Joint Assembly, July 2013.
3. Coaching committee chairs on new structures between summer and fall 2013.
4. Reviewing Resources for Mission, Communications, and General Synod's information technology capacity by October 2013.

5. Holding a proposed mission coordination meeting in early fall to plan what COGS and committees will do.

6. A joint COGS/committee meeting will happen by mid-November. This could be a time to decide on task forces to continue the work.

In a wide-ranging, open conversation, council members expressed their concerns around structural change.

Some of the participants focused on what was constitutionally possible. Others wondered how we would ensure accountability in these new structures. Still others wondered about the financial implications. For example, how much money would be saved by the proposed changes? (Treasurer Hanna Goschy said the absolute maximum would be "a couple hundred thousand" in the year.)

Council members took a break from 10:30 to 11:00.

Conversations about structures: part five

The Very Rev. Peter Elliott reviewed the process of consensus decision-making with the council.

Some discussion continued based on the earlier topics of the morning. Some members wondered whether to move the structures proposal further, even to the point of removing committees. Others commented that the look of a mission-focused church is very different from a maintenance-focused church.

The Primate led council members through a series of informal polls in order to gauge their feelings about pursuing resolutions on various topics relating to structures. If there was no clear sign of an emerging common mind, the Primate led the committee in conversation. Members of the structures working group considered these straw polls when designing resolutions for later in the day.

From noon to 1:30, council members took a lunch break.

Marks of Mission photo contest winners



Ali Symons announced the winners of the Marks of Mission photo contest. This is the last of three Marks of Mission contests (the others being a Sunday School curriculum contest and a song contest). The grand prize-winner was Daniel Brandsma, who will receive a \$250 gift certificates for photography supplies. Other winners will be announced through anglican.ca next week.

Vision 2019

Melissa Green and Michael Thompson updated council on the work of the Vision 2019 Implementation Team, which met last in early February. Ms. Green said the group has provided facilitation support at COGS meetings (through the Ven. P.J. Hobbs), has monitored priorities and practices in the work of General Synod, and reported on their findings. Measurement has been an ongoing but necessary challenge and the group commends this work to the next triennium.

Mr. Thompson said that all priorities and practices are visible in the reports of standing committees. He thanked the Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, for his leadership in championing the priorities and practices of Vision 2019 and the Marks of Mission.

Later in the meeting, COGS will see a resolution recommending two co-chairs to lead the work of planning and agenda next triennium. One will focus on the work of General Synod and the other will focus on the priorities and practices of Vision 2019.

In table groups, members considered several questions:

1. How has Vision 2019 guided the work of COGS in this triennium?
2. Which three messages should be passed on to the next council regarding Vision 2019?

These messages were gathered and then grouped according to theme.

Partners panel

Bishop James Cowan chaired a panel of partners: Martha Gardner (The Episcopal Church), the Rev. Doug Reble (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada), and the Rev. David Pritchard (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund).

Partners were first asked to consider an incident in the life of the council that exemplified its spirit.

Ms. Gardner highlighted the joint meeting with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's National

Church Council and their style of Biblical meditations called "Dwelling in the Word." Mr. Reble praised the respect of Indigenous voices at COGS but noted that COGS is often bureaucratic. Mr. Pritchard remembered Bishop Dennis Drainville's call for major structural change earlier in the triennium, and said that dissent has existed at COGS but the tone has been respectful.

Partners then reflected on messages to the next COGS.

Mr. Pritchard asked COGS not to forget the Council of the North, and to continue to give love and compassion in words and action to Indigenous Peoples. Mr. Reble reminded COGS not to take the ELCIC for granted and to continue to build on full communion relationship. He also called for the next COGS to move towards full inclusion of the GLBT community at all levels of church. Finally, Ms. Gardner reminded future COGS members to ground their work in the handbook's job description. She suggested organizing future meetings around Vision 2019, and to continue relationships with ELCIC and the Episcopal Church.

COGS members took a break from 3:15 to 3:45.

In their table groups, COGS members reflected on the same questions as the partners did before the break. The input from this conversation, the partners panel, and the Vision 2019 "sticky wall" will be shaped into key messages for the next COGS.

Structures conversation: part five

COGS members returned to consider resolutions arising from their informal polls earlier in the day. They passed the following resolutions by consensus:

Resolutions

1. That this COGS receive the reports of the consultation on structures "Embodying God's Call" and the structures working group and express its thanks to all who have contributed to this work.
2. This COGS affirms the principle that more of the work of General Synod should be done by task forces, working groups, and commissions.
3. This COGS calls on the General Secretary to ensure that the following reviews recommended in "Embodying God's Call" be done as a matter of priority:
 - a) Resources for Mission
 - b) Communications
 - c) The IT capacity of Church House to support electronically the meetings of councils and committees.

4. This COGS encourage the officers, staff, council, and committees of the General Synod to seek out new and expanded partnerships with dioceses and other Anglican entities, the ELCIC, and other partners.

[The above was amended to include “Anglican entities” so that partners such as PWRDF and TEC could be included]

5. This COGS encourages the Planning and Agenda Team, officers, and the next COGS to consider carefully what business of COGS which, in part or in entirety, might be done at any point in the year using communication information technologies and electronic methods of meeting.

6. This COGS recommends that the next COGS review the length and number of physically gathered meetings to minimize cost while ensuring it effectively fulfills its governance mandate.

7. Request Primate and Metropolitans to initiate with House of Bishops a review of the House of Bishops’ role and the focus and frequency of their meetings, recommended in “Embodying God’s Call.”

COGS members then considered a resolution to revise section 39 of the constitution in order to incorporate new changes suggested by the structures consultation.

Resolution

COGS passed, by consensus, a revised version of section 39 to present to General Synod.

This version includes the same descriptions of the Pensions Committee and the Financial Management Committee and names five coordinating committees: Faith, Worship, and Ministry; Partners for Mission and Ecojustice; Resources for Mission; Communications and Information Resources; and the Anglican Journal. Each coordinating committee includes three members elected by General Synod and two members appointed by Primate.

COGS returned to address a resolution on mission coordination meetings, which would organize General Synod work at the start of the triennium. Members considered and rejected an amendment that would only gather chairs of committees at this meeting. They felt a face-to-face meeting of all members was most important at the start of the triennium.

Resolution

COGS resolved that the members of the coordinating committees meet in conjunction with the fall 2013 meeting of COGS.

Cynthia Haines-Turner raised the question of how to potentially separate the work of Partner in Mission and Ecojustice so this work could be monitored by two separate committees. The Primate had reported earlier that this was desirable. The chancellor said he would look into this and return with a proposal to COGS.

After a heavy afternoon of consensus decision making, using the raising of hands, one bishop playfully offered a Vulcan salute.

From 5:15 until 7:00, members took a dinner break.

Governance Working Group

David Phillip Jones, chair of the Governance Working Group, introduced several resolutions that COGS will present to General Synod:

Resolutions

COGS resolved to present a resolution to General Synod that would eliminate duplication between the Declaration of Principles and the constitution.

COGS resolved to present Canon 23 on election of the bishop ordinary to General Synod 2013. (The bishop ordinary was previously a diocesan bishop but this office has become stand-alone so provisions need to be made for election and possible consecration of future bishops.)

At General Synod 2010, the GWG proposed a new formula for deciding on clerical and lay members of General Synod. A variation on its formula was passed at General Synod 2010 but the GWG realized later that it would result in a larger General Synod. The GWG is now proposing another formula, based on this previous work and statistics that they gathered from dioceses. (Not all dioceses submitted statistics as requested.)

Resolution

COGS resolved to present to General Synod the Governance Working Group’s proposed amendments to the proposed 2010 formula:

(a) “Average attendance” should be based on attendance averaged over four liturgical celebrations



(Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and the second Sunday in September) over two years. Using eight will provide a better measurement than using just one, and will mitigate the possibility that the average attendance figure might be unduly skewed in a particular place by a storm or other untoward event.

(b) The minimum representation should be one clergy and one lay member per diocese (in addition to the youth member and bishop) rather than two of each.

(c) A table should be used for determining the number of clergy and lay members from a diocese, rather than a mathematical formula.

(d) The size of General Synod should be decreased somewhat.

The GWG struggled to get accurate attendance data from all dioceses in order to do their work. Several members asked what General Synod was doing to improve the collection of such statistics, given that it is a stated priority of Vision 2019.

Handbook Concerns Committee

Mr. Jones introduced several changes to the General Synod handbook, including fixing typos and updating committee names.

Resolution

COGS approved an omnibus resolution with several handbook amendments, for presentation to General Synod.

COGS ended the meeting with a Vigil of the Resurrection in the chapel.

Following the service, members held a (early) St. Patrick's Day party, complete with green beer and a limerick competition. Party planners had set up such difficult first lines as "The language of meeting is acronym..."



COGS Highlights



Council of General Synod

March 17, 2013

COGS members began the day with a 9:00 Eucharist where the Primate was presider and homilist. Members then each received certificates in appreciation for their work at COGS.

At 10:30, after a short coffee break, members gathered for business.

Anglican Award of Merit

The General Secretary, the Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson, announced the winners of the Anglican Award of Merit:

- **The Hon. Mr. Justice Brian Burrows** (Diocese of Edmonton) has served as chancellor of the Diocese of Edmonton and the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land. Mr. Burrows has served on various General Synod committees, including the General Synod Organization Committee, the Handbook Taskforce, and the first Governance Working Group.
- **Mrs. Carolyn R. A. Chenhall** (Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island) has been active in numerous diocesan committees and helped oversee the transition from Women's Auxiliary to Anglican Church Women at a diocesan and national level. She has been a member of six General Synods and is currently a member of the Vision 2019 Implementation Team.
- **Ms. Annette Graydon** (Diocese of Niagara) is a founding member of her parish's Mothers' Union branch and past president of the diocesan and Canadian Mother's Union. She has represented Canadian Anglican women at the Mothers' Union Worldwide Council and at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.
- **Canon Bud Smith** (Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior) served as chancellor and historian of the Diocese of Cariboo. He continues to give leadership in the creation of the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior by advising key leaders—both locally and at the

level of ecclesiastical province.

- **Mr. Roger L. Spack** (Diocese of Montreal) was a leader in the Anglican Young People's Association (now Anglican Youth Movement) at the parish, diocesan, and national levels. Mr. Spack served as member of and observer at the Montreal Diocesan Synod for 35 years, as well as a delegate to provincial synods and General Synods. Mr. Spack was secretary of Anglican Essentials (now Anglican Communion Alliance) for 12 years.

Resolution

COGS approved the recipients of the Anglican Order of Merit.

Planning and Agenda Team

COGS members returned to this subject, discussed yesterday:

Resolution

COGS adopted terms of reference for its Planning and Agenda Team for the triennium 2013 to 2016.

Financial Management Committee

Bishop James Cowan, member of the Financial Management Committee, and Treasurer Hanna Goschy presented the Financial Management Committee's report and related resolutions.

Resolutions

COGS received the report of the Financial Management Committee

COGS ratified the grants approved by the Ministry Investment Fund Committee at its meeting on December 19, 2012 for a total of \$95,590 for 2013.

Bishop Cowan introduced the revised Statement of Investment Policy and Goals of the Anglican Church of Canada Consolidated Trust Fund. Changes included new wording for the section on corporate social



responsibility. Bishop Cowan explained that this revision would allow investment managers to use Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) screens.

COGS members had a variety of questions about this revised statement. Some wondered if this corporate social responsibility wording was an improvement or not. Others wondered how General Synod evaluated investment performance.

The Treasurer said they had recently undergone a review and sought to balance reasonable investment fees and good performance. Overall performance for 2012 was 9.5% (before investment fees) against benchmark return of 6.2%.

Resolution

COGS approved the revised Statement of Investment Policy and Goals.

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

The Rev. David Pritchard, PWRDF vice president, and Adele Finney, executive director of PWRDF, addressed COGS in order to "seek clarification about PWRDF's role in changing structures."

Ms. Finney said she felt "some uneasiness about lack of mention of PWRDF" in recent structures conversation. She said that she heard that COGS understood PWRDF as a related entity and partner in ministry.

Ms. Finney said she understands that PWRDF will continue to be a voice at COGS with the opportunity to present its work. PWRDF is open to more participation and joint work at various levels in current and emerging structures.

Division of Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Committee

The chancellor, David Phillip Jones, presented a resolution that would divide the Partners in Mission and Ecojustice committee into two separate committees. He provided two alternatives that would unfold according to what General Synod decided about new structures. If General Synod adopted the new structures proposal, the Mission and Ecojustice would become two coordinating committees. If General Synod did not adopt the proposal, then the current standing committee would be divided into two standing committees.

A discussion followed about whether to plan such action for both scenarios. Members decided that part two was not desirable. If General Synod does not adopt the new committee structure, there is no point in

creating another standing committee—this would only increase the size of governance structures. The chancellor agreed to reword this resolution.

Faith, Worship, and Ministry Resolutions

Members returned to address several outstanding resolutions from the Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee:

Resolution

In response to Resolution 15.33 of the Anglican Consultative Council-15, COGS received Rites Relating to Marriage: Report of the Canterbury International Anglican Liturgical Consultation 2011 and, subject to available financial resources and Council's priorities, coordinate and finalize the Canadian response to this Report.

Resolution

Subject to available financial resources and Council's priorities, COGS resolved to make arrangements for the continuation of the ethical reflection in the areas of (1) the theology of money and (2) social media.

Resolution

COGS resolved that the General Secretary circulate the portion (pp.23-90) of the IASCUFO report to ACC-15 dealing with communion ecclesiology to bishops, theological faculties, diocesan doctrine committees, persons or groups involved in Anglican Communion networks and companion relationships, and others with appropriate interest and expertise, for study and response.

Resolution

Subject to available financial resources and council's priorities, COGS resolved to establish a task group to determine how we best coordinate our Anglican Communion and Ecumenical relations.

Resolution

COGS resolved to recognize the importance of several areas of ongoing work currently in progress and find ways to continue this work, subject to financial resources and council's priorities. (Examples in this "omnibus resolution" included work on adult Christian formation and national policies concerning physical abuse, sexualized violence, bullying, and harassment.

COGS also resolved to pass this next resolution to General Synod, as it is a high point in ecumenical work and agreement:

Resolution

COGS received with appreciation the document *The Church: Towards a Common Vision* (Faith and Order Commission, World Council of Churches) and commended it for study to the Anglican Church of Canada. (The resolution also included appreciation for Canadian Anglicans who contributed to this work and suggested ways to disseminate the text and encourage response.)

COGS members took a lunch break from noon to 1:00.

Resolutions

COGS members returned to address remaining resolutions from various areas of work:

Resolution

COGS members resolved to update the Communications and Information Resources Committee Terms of Reference. (This was to omit mentions of areas of work that no longer exist.)

Messages to the next COGS

A small writing group (consisting of Brianna Locke, the Ven. Dr. Lynne McNaughton, and Ali Symons) presented a summary of messages for the next COGS. They developed this material by reviewing input from yesterday's Vision 2019 conversations, partners' reflections, and input from table group discussions. Messages included "In all you do, continue to evaluate the priorities and practices of Vision 2019," and "Grow together with our Indigenous sisters and brothers."

Division of Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Committee (continued)

The chancellor returned with a redrafted resolution on this subject.

Resolution

COGS recommended that General Synod amend section 39 of the constitution to read "Partners in Mission Committee" and "Ecojustice Committee." (This will be proposed if General Synod decides to revise section 39 of the constitution to create coordinating committees.)

Partners in Mission and Ecojustice resolutions

COGS agreed to pass several resolutions from the Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Committee to General Synod:

Resolution

COGS recommended to General Synod that it strengthen its commitment to the pursuit of peace with

justice for all in Palestine and Israel. (This resolution contained several specific recommendations, including joint work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and KAIROS.)

Resolution

COGS recommended that General Synod support creation care across the church, specifically by helping parishes in living out a commitment to the fifth Mark of Mission. (This resolution also included specific recommendations, including "undertaking green audits in partnership with Greening Sacred Spaces.")

Resolution

COGS recommended that Joint Assembly endorse a draft Joint Assembly Declaration. (This declaration explains the biblical roots of being "Together for the Love of the World.")

Dr. Andrea Mann, global relations coordinator, offered greetings on behalf of the Canadian Companions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. She thanked the COGS members who have joined the companions group.

Dr. Mann presented a resolution for General Synod that would recognize the seventh Sunday of Easter as Jerusalem Sunday. On this Sunday churches would give special attention to Anglican ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and take up an offering for this work.

Some conversation followed about the pros and cons of designating certain Sundays for themes that are not part of the liturgical calendar. The Primate noted that the companions took these concerns into consideration when planning this date and endeavoured to find a time when the theme fit into the liturgical season.

Resolution

COGS recommended that General Synod resolve to observe the seventh Sunday of Easter, commonly known as the Sunday after Ascension Day, as Jerusalem Sunday.

Thank yous

The Primate thanked staff for their work supporting the meetings of the Council of General Synod this triennium.

He acknowledged the work of Dianne Izzard and Josie De Lucia in coordinating all details of the meetings; Pat Henshaw for her work in taking minutes; Sister Elizabeth, SSJD, who served as chaplain to COGS; Ali Symons (General Synod Communications) and Tess



Sison (Anglican Journal) for their reporting work; Bob Falby, prolocutor; Archdeacon Harry Huskins, deputy prolocutor; David Phillip Jones, chancellor; and Ann Bourke, vice chancellor.

Pensions

Bob Boeckner, member of the Pensions Committee, and Judy Robinson, executive director at the Pensions Office Corporation, gave an update on the Anglican Church of Canada's pension plan. Ms. Robinson noted that they had a good financial year, earning a return of 13.2%.

However, the pension plan is somewhat vulnerable as a mature plan, with not enough younger members paying in. Ms. Robinson said they are seeking to invite other plans to join their plan in order to diversify their members.

In the meantime, in order to prepare for any future strain on their sustainability, the Pensions Committee is recommending amendments to the regulations so that, if necessary, accrued benefits may be reduced in accordance with provincial laws.

Resolution

COGS resolved to make changes to regulations 17 and 20 as requested by the Pensions Committee.

Conclusion

The Primate ended the last meeting of the triennium by reading a reflection from Herbert O'Driscoll's *Four Days in Spring*. He then asked for prayers for all those leading during Holy Week and Easter, that all would "keep Holy Week devout and Easter joyous."

COGS members ended by singing "He Came Singing Love," a New Zealand hymn that Canadian members had discovered at the last meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council.

Members then said their own farewells to each other before dispersing in taxis and cars (then planes and trains for some), back to their homes, work, and ministries across Canada.