

The Canadian Council for Catechesis

Vision: To encourage and equip ANiC in the work of catechesis.

Catechesis is the Church's God-assigned task of grounding believers in Christ and in the foundations of the Christian faith. It is making disciples by teaching them all that Christ taught the apostles, and calling them to live in the light of that teaching.

Colossians 2:6-7 "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Foundational Principles:

Principles of Belief: We seek to be:

1. Biblically grounded/ informed and faithful in all we do and teach. We believe the Bible is God's word written, and the foundation of all true discipleship.
2. Faithful to the sound doctrine of Scripture as articulated in the four ecumenical councils and the three historic creeds: the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian.
3. Faithful to our church tradition by submission to our historical Anglican formularies: the 39 Articles, 1662 Prayer book, and the Ordinal.
4. Informed by the Church's inheritance of sound catechetical practise (founded on the "three pillars" of the Creed, Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments). We will also use as a reference and resource, the new ACNA catechism.

Principles of Catechesis

1. Catechesis assumes that the Christian faith needs to be effectively and systematically taught and learned.
2. Catechesis begins with right believing and leads to right living.
3. Catechesis is intentionally done within the context of the body of Christ, for the growth and discipleship of each member, for the up-building of the whole church, and the extension of God's kingdom.
4. Catechesis should be introductory, intensive (e.g., training prior to baptism or confirmation), and continuous in the life-long process of discipleship.
5. Catechesis is for all people of all ages and needs to appropriately target both age and experience.
6. Effective catechesis requires effective catechists (whether lay or clergy). Because the work of catechesis includes both *right believing and right living* catechists must be both skilled teachers and pastorally minded individuals.

Principles of Organisation and Operation

1. We are endorsed by and accountable to the ANiC bishops. Archdeacon Dan Gifford has been appointed by the House of Bishops to provide oversight.
2. We are in relationship with the ACNA Taskforce for Catechesis and will share ideas across the Anglican Network.

3. The council will have a chair, vice chair, and secretary as well as several general members who will meet occasionally face-to-face and regularly via conference call. All members of the committee will be approved by ANiC bishops.
4. We aim to be supportive of local ANiC Parishes particularly by equipping clergy and laity on a parish level to implement catechesis.

Implementation: This committee will plan, oversee, and implement the following:

1. The writing and recommendation of resources for catechesis of all ages (i.e. children and youth, adult and family-based catechesis)
2. The planning and running of workshops to train catechists in the principles of sound catechesis, general catechetical skills, and the use of specific resources.
3. The establishment of networks for like-minded people in each age category who are committed to catechesis to encourage and support one another.
4. Communication within ANiC to explain the necessity for catechesis and to promote new resources and training opportunities.

Committee members - as of April 7, 2015

Bronwyn Short (Chair)
Ben Roberts (Acting Chair)
Penny Love
Kimberley Graham
David McElrea
Bethany Murphy