

**INTERIM CONSTITUTION OF  
THE SYNOD OF THE ANGLICAN NETWORK IN CANADA CHURCH  
(the “Synod”)**

**Declaration of Principles**

1. In the name of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

We, the Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the Anglican Network in Canada Church, assembled in the first Synod, and intending, under the providence, mercy, blessing and guidance of Almighty God, to consider and determine upon all such matters as shall appear necessary for the welfare of that part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church committed to our charge, desire, in the first place, for the avoiding of all misunderstanding, to declare the principles upon which we propose to proceed, which principles once affirmed at two consecutive Synods shall not be altered or revoked.

The Anglican Network in Canada Church and Synod seek to be and desire to continue, in full communion with all Anglican Dioceses, Provinces, networks and regional churches throughout the world, as an integral portion of the One Body of Christ composed of the Churches which, united under the One Divine Head and in fellowship with the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, hold the One Faith revealed in Holy Scripture, as defined in the Creeds which were maintained by the undivided primitive Church in the undisputed Ecumenical Councils.

We hold the Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the word of God written, containing all things necessary to salvation; teach the same Word of God; partake of the same Divinely ordained Sacraments, through the ministry of the same Apostolic Orders; and worship One God and Father through the same Lord Jesus Christ, by the same Holy and Divine Spirit who is given to them that believe.

And we are determined by the help of God to hold and maintain the Doctrine, Sacraments, and Discipline of Christ as the Lord has commanded in Holy Scripture, and as the Anglican Church has received and set forth in *The Book of Common Prayer 1662, the Ordinal, and the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion*; and to transmit the same unimpaired to our posterity.

**Provincial Membership**

2. The Anglican Network in Canada Church and Synod shall be under the jurisdiction of the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone or may affiliate with a new Province in North America, at the discretion of the Network Council, until the second meeting of the Synod, after which Provincial membership or affiliation will be as specified by Canon.

**Definitions**

3. In this Constitution and in the Canons.

“Anglican Network in Canada” means the charitable corporation established to build the Church in Canada to, among other things, articulate the historical doctrines of the Anglican faith, promote worship, prayer and teaching of the Holy Scriptures, and preaching the gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ;

“Archdeaconry” means an Archdeaconry of the Church as defined by the Network Council until the second meeting of the Synod, and thereafter by Canon;

“Bishop” means a person holding the office of Bishop, either elected pursuant to the Canons or as appointed by the Most Reverend Gregory Venables;

“Church” means the Anglican Network in Canada Church;

“Clerks in holy orders” means persons who have been admitted to the Orders of Deacon and/or Priest in the Church of God and whose Orders are recognized by the Moderator of the Network;

“Canon” or “Canons” means the Canon(s) of the Synod of the Anglican Network in Canada Church;

“Commissary” means an Anglican Network in Canada bishop or priest who is appointed by the Moderator as the Commissary for a period of time;

“Congregation” means a body of Christians recognized by the Moderator;

“Deanery” means a Deanery of the Church as defined by the Network Council until the second meeting of the Synod, and thereafter by Canon;

“Lay members” means the members of the House of Laity as constituted by this Constitution;

“Moderator” means the Chair of the Anglican Network in Canada and President and Chair of the Synod. The Moderator shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of the Anglican Network in Canada until the second meeting of the Synod, and thereafter, as elected or appointed pursuant to the Canons.

“Network Council” means, until December 31, 2010, the Board of Directors of the Anglican Network in Canada. Thereafter, the Network Council shall be constituted pursuant to this constitution.

## **Members of the Synod**

4. The Synod shall consist of
  - a. The Moderator;
  - b. The House of Bishops;
  - c. The House of Clergy; and
  - d. The House of Laity.
5. The Moderator is the President and Chair of the Synod.

6. The Secretary of the House of Clergy and the Secretary of the House of Laity shall be the joint Secretaries of the Synod.

### **The House of Bishops**

7. The House of Bishops shall consist of
  - a. the Moderator;
  - b. the Bishop coadjutor, if any, of the Church;
  - c. every Bishop or suffragan Bishop;
  - d. and such other person or persons, being a person or persons in episcopal orders working in the Church, as the Moderator of the Network, with the concurrence of the Network Council, may nominate.
8. The Moderator of the Church shall be the President of the House of Bishops.
9. The Rules of Order of the Synod shall be the Rules of Order of the House of Bishops *mutatis mutandis*,

### **The House of Clergy**

10. The House of Clergy shall consist of
  - a. Any person in episcopal orders who is licensed to any parish or otherwise working in the Church who is not nominated by the Moderator pursuant to Article 7 (d) of this Constitution,
  - b. the Clerks in holy orders instituted to or licensed by the Moderator;
  - c. the Clerks in holy orders licensed to any extra-parochial ministry by the Moderator of the Network;
  - d. the Chancellor of the Network, if in holy orders;
  - e. three representatives from each Archdeaconry elected by the Clerks in holy orders holding the Moderator's general permission to officiate; and
  - f. the archdeacons, as appointed by the Moderator.
11. The Rules of Order of the Synod shall be the Rules of Order of the House of Clergy *mutatis mutandis*.

### **The House of Laity**

12. The House of Laity shall consist of:
  - a. The lay members or their substitutes as elected by the parishes and congregations of the Church in accordance with this Constitution;
  - b. The Chancellor of the Network, if not in holy orders;
  - c. Church Army Officers, not in holy orders, licensed by the Moderator and in active ministry in the Church;
  - d. The youth members as elected by the parishes and congregations of the Church in accordance with this Constitution;
  - e. Lay members of the Board of Directors of the Anglican Network in Canada that are not in holy orders.

13. The Rules of Order of the Synod shall be the Rules of Order of the House of Laity *mutatis mutandis*.
14. The lay members, their substitutes and the youth members, if any, shall be elected at a general meeting of the parish or congregation.
15. The lay members and their substitutes shall be elected for a term not exceeding two years. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.
16. The number of lay members that each parish or congregation is entitled to elect shall be based upon the Average Sunday Attendance of that congregation computed as follows:
  - a. The Average Sunday Attendance shall be computed based upon the Sunday Attendance for the period of 12 months prior to the General meeting where the lay members are elected, or for such lesser period from the commencement of Sunday services as an Anglican Network in Canada parish or congregation.
  - b. The entitlement of lay members shall be in accordance with the following table:

Between 0 and 150 = 2 lay delegates
Between 151 and 225 = 3 lay delegates
Between 226 and 300 = 4 lay delegates
Between 301 and 400 = 5 lay delegates
Between 401 and 500 = 6 lay delegates
Between 501 and 600 = 7 lay delegates
601 or more = 8 lay delegates

17. In addition to the above number of lay delegates, each parish or congregation may, at the discretion of a general meeting of the congregation, elect one person as a youth member of the Synod who will be between the age of 16 and 21 years at the date of commencement of the Synod,. If a congregation so chooses to elect a youth member, all other lay members and their substitutes shall all be of the full age of 22 years.
18. Each youth member so elected shall be elected for a term of one year.
19. After each general meeting of the parish or congregation, at which lay members, youth members or their substitutes have been elected, the Vestry Clerk or the Clerk of the congregation shall certify to the Secretary of the House of Laity the Average Sunday Attendance of the parish or congregation and the names and addresses of the lay members, the substitutes and the youth members, if any, duly elected by that parish or congregation in such form as the Secretary of the House of Laity may determine.
20. When a lay member of Synod is not present at a meeting of the Synod, that member's place may be taken by a substitute lay member from the same parish.
21. The right to attend meetings of the Synod as a substitute lay member belongs to the substitute lay members in the order in which their names appear on the certificate of their election.

22. A substitute lay member shall sit and vote until the end of the meeting of the Synod, or at any adjournment thereof, at which the place of the lay member of the Synod has been taken.
23. A lay member of the Synod whose place has been taken by a substitute lay member may not sit or vote at the same meeting of the Synod unless the substitute lay member does not attend at some adjournment thereof.

### **Meetings of the Synod**

24. The Synod shall meet at such time and place as the Moderator with the concurrence of the Network Council shall determine, and shall meet at least once in each calendar year, providing that no more than thirteen months shall elapse from the adjournment of one meeting of the Synod to the commencement of the next meeting of the Synod. Such summoning of the Synod shall be issued by the Moderator by declaration made under his signature and seal.
25. The Moderator, or when the Moderator is absent or incapacitated, the Moderator's Commissary or the Network Council, in that order, may summon by proclamation in writing a special meeting of the Synod.

### **Notice of Meetings of the Synod**

26. Notice of a meeting of the Synod shall state the time and place of the meeting and such other information as the Moderator and the Network Council may direct.
27. At least four weeks before a meeting of the Synod, the Secretaries of the Synod shall deliver notice thereof, both by regular postal service and where possible by electronic means, to each member of the Synod. Notices for all members of the Synod from one parish or congregation may be delivered to the mailing address of that parish or congregation for immediate distribution to the individual members of the Synod.

### **Network Council**

28. The composition of the Network Council shall be determined by the Synod no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 2010.
29. The Network Council may appoint whatever committees in its discretion are needed to advance the work of the Synod and the Council.

### **Quorum of the Synod**

30. (a) No business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Synod unless a quorum of the Synod is present when the meeting is called to order and proceeds to business.  
(b) One half of the members of the House of Bishops, one half of the members of the House of Clergy and one half of the members of the House of Laity whose elections have been certified to the Secretary of the House of Laity constitutes a quorum.  
(c) If a quorum is not present at the time appointed for the opening of a meeting of the Synod, any lesser number of members may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum is obtained.

- (d) Any number of members of the Synod may transact business at a meeting of the Synod at any time after the meeting has been called to order with a quorum present.

### **Rules of Order**

31. The Synod shall adopt such Rules of Order as it shall deem necessary for the effective management of its meetings.

### **Validity of Resolutions**

32. (a) No act or resolution of the Synod is valid without the concurrence of the Moderator, or in case of the absence or incapacity of the Moderator, or when the office of Moderator is vacant, the presiding officer together with a majority of the members of the House of Bishops, the members of the House of Clergy and the members of the House of Laity present, unless a higher threshold is specified in this Constitution; but a presiding officer who is not the Moderator may reserve any act or resolution of the Synod pending receipt of the Moderator's consent or refusal of concurrence.
- (b) Upon any motion, the votes of the Synod voting as one House shall be taken collectively unless the Moderator, or the presiding officer or any ten members of the Synod request that the votes of the members be taken by Houses, in which case the concurrence of a majority of each House voting separately is required.

### **Presiding Officer**

33. The Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Synod unless otherwise provided for by Canon.
34. If the Moderator is not present at a meeting of the Synod, the Commissary, the Bishop coadjutor, if any, the Bishops by order of date of admission to the Church, or the archdeacon, senior by date of appointment as an archdeacon, in that order, shall preside; or if all these are absent, the members of the Synod present may elect a chair.
35. The Moderator may temporarily vacate the Chair during any session of the Synod and designate any member of the Synod in his discretion to occupy the Chair during his temporary absence.

### **Secretaries of the Synod**

36. The Moderator with the concurrence of the Network Council shall appoint one member of the House of Clergy and one member of the House of Laity to act as the joint secretaries of the Synod.
37. The Secretaries of the Synod shall
- (a) issue all notices required by this Constitution and the Canons;
  - (b) keep and record regularly minutes of the meetings of the Synod, of its committees and of the Network Council;
  - (c) assist in preserving all records, papers and documents relating to the Synod;
  - (d) certify all public acts of the Synod or of any committee thereof, and of the Network Council;

- (e) affix the seal of the Synod to any document when required to do so by any competent authority, and attest to the same; and
- (f) deliver into the hands of a successor all property, books, records, documents, papers and electronic files relating to the Synod that may be in his or her possession or control.

### **Canons, Regulations, Directives and Guidelines**

- 38. The Synod may enact such Canons as are deemed necessary for carrying out its functions.
- 39. The Synod and the Network Council severally may make such regulations, directives and guidelines as are deemed necessary for carrying out their respective functions, provided that the Network Council shall report to the Synod a detailed account of all regulations, directives or guidelines that it may have issued since the last meeting of the Synod and shall seek ratification of all such regulations, directives or guidelines.

### **Amendment of this Constitution**

- 40. (a) An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed at a meeting of the Synod if notice of proposed amendments have been given at the previous meeting of the Synod and copies of any proposed amendments, replacement constitution or proposed Canons, are delivered to the members of the Synod at least eight weeks prior to the next meeting of the Synod.
  - (b) An amendment to or replacement of this Constitution may be adopted by a vote of two-thirds of each House in attendance at the meeting of the Synod at which it is considered and by the Moderator whose assent shall be signified to the Synod at the meeting. However, if the Moderator is absent or if there is a vacancy in the office of the Moderator, the amendment shall not enter into force until the Moderator gives his assent.
  - (c) An amendment to this Constitution enacted pursuant to this section comes into force upon the signification of the assent of the Moderator after having been adopted by each House of the Synod.
- 41. Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, no amendment shall be made to section 1 of this Constitution headed "Declaration of Principles" after it has been in the same form approved by two consecutive Synods.

### **Effective Date**

- 42. This Constitution shall take effect from the date of adoption by the Synod and shall continue in effect until the earlier of December 31, 2010 or the adoption of a replacement constitution at a subsequent meeting of the Synod.

*Carried Unanimously  
Anglican Network in Canada  
Inaugural Synod  
November 13-15, 2008*