

14 March 2008

Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC) Newsletter

Proceed with prayer

As you read through the newsletters, please read prayerfully. Each item can be turned heavenward as you pray for God's Kingdom to come and His will to be done.

April 25-26 "Compelled by Christ's Love" registration opens

Finally! You'll find detailed [conference information and registration](#) forms now posted to our website. Thank you for your patience! It is especially important to book your hotel room as quickly as possible, as there is only one hotel in the immediate vicinity of the conference facility and the special rate we've negotiated is only available until **March 24th**.

We are thrilled and honoured that Archbishop Greg plans to participate in the conference with us. He has graciously and willingly provided ANiC parishes with an ecclesiastical home. We want to express our gratitude to him, to the Province of the Southern Cone and, most importantly, to God. We look forward to a great time of celebration, Bible teaching and commissioning for ministry.

On our website, you will find a conference [bulletin insert](#) and a [8½ x 11 inch poster](#).

More clergy granted "Southern Cone" licences

Bishop Don has issued licences under the jurisdiction of the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone to more clergy members. This brings to 13 the number of priests licenced. The latest are:

- the Rev Andrew Hewlett
- the Venerable Sharon Hayton
- the Rev Brian Kirby
- the Rev David Fuller
- the Rev George Sinclair

Parish developments

British Columbia (Vancouver Island) – St Mary's Metchosin

The diocese and clergy of St Mary's Metchosin – Sharon Hayton and Andrew Hewlett – came to an [amicable agreement](#) on severance of employment with the Anglican Church of Canada under Canon XIX. In a joint statement released March 4, the diocese and clergy said they will meet with Archbishop Terry Buckle (British Columbia and Yukon) to "seek an alternative to litigation respecting the property and assets. In the interim, the people of St Mary's will have continued use of the church building.

Brandon – Read [Steve's description](#) of the birth pains of the Brandon church plant. March 16 (Palm Sunday) will be the first time the [Brandon ANiC church](#) worships together on a Sunday. Please remember them in prayer.

Toronto – St Chad's

St Chad's Sunday services have been held at 2pm in Patterson Presbyterian Church, [109 Harvie Ave](#). After much prayer, the St Chad's leadership has secured a new interim home at Toronto Heritage Adventist Church, [24 Innes Avenue](#). In this new location, they will be able to hold 11am Sunday morning services again. Easter Sunday (March 23) will be St Chad's first worship service in this new facility. They will also have office facilities and full use of the building on Tuesdays and Sundays. Praise God for this good arrangement and for the affordable terms granted to St Chad's.

The Anglican Network in Canada and St Chad's issued a [statement responding](#) to stories posted on the [diocese's website](#).

Niagara – St Hilda's, St George's (Lowville) & Church of the Good Shepherd

You can read the judge's comments from his February 29th decision in the case of the [Diocese of Niagara vs the Wardens and Parishes](#). Despite the court decision, there has been more activity in Niagara.

- The janitor for the ANiC parish of Church of the Good Shepherd received a dismissal notice from the Diocese in which it was claimed she had resigned.
- In the Niagara region, prior to last Sunday, radio and TV stations announced that the (ANiC) parishes of Church of the Good Shepherd (St Catharines) and St George's Lowville would not hold Sunday services due to the weather. This was not true. Although the diocesan service that was to have been held at the old Lowville Schoolhouse was cancelled, neither St George's Lowville nor Good Shepherd had cancelled their services. The announcement was, to say the least, confusing.
- Meanwhile last Sunday's [diocesan service](#) for "alienated" St Hilda's parishioners saw a disappointing turn-out. Seems the diocesan-appointed administrator came but there was no audience.

The next court date for St George's Lowville and St Hilda's is March 20th. Prior to that, on March 17-19, various ANiC representatives will be cross-examined on their affidavits. Please pray for a judge who will see clearly and understand the issues; for clarity of thought and presentation for our legal representatives; that God would be honoured in all we do; and that the outcome would be to His glory and the building of His Kingdom.

Ottawa – The Rev George Sinclair, despite relinquishing his licence for ministry in the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC), has been issued a Notice of Presumption of Abandonment of the Exercise of the Ministry according to ACoC Canon XIX by the Bishop of Ottawa. He joins good company with Dr J I Packer and the rest of the Vancouver-area ANiC clergy who received the same notice earlier from the **Diocese of New Westminster**. (See below for an explanation of this charge.)

What does it mean?

The **Notice of Abandonment of the Exercise of the Ministry**, under ACoC General Synod Canon XIX, could be interpreted to say that the priest has abandoned the exercise of ordained ministry and so no longer has the right to exercise spiritual authority as a minister of the Word and Sacrament as conferred in ordination. This interpretation is equivalent to removing the person from the order of clergy so that he/she becomes a "lay" person again; the "priesthood" is taken away from him/her. The Notice does not specify that this only has effect with respect to ministry within the Anglican Church of Canada, and therefore, it could be seen as an attempt to take away the "priesthood" from the person worldwide. As a result, this is a very serious attack on the person who receives the charge. It can mean that he or she cannot be an Anglican priest anymore. Therefore, the concerned clergy are taking this charge very seriously and will provide a full response in due course.

Media coverage of Anglican Network in Canada

Toronto Star – [March 4 08](#) – *St Chad's padlocked by diocese*

Toronto Star – [March 8 08](#) – *Diocese holds services*

Victoria Times Colonist – [March 6 08](#) – regarding St Mary's (Metchosin)

Edmonton Journal – [March 7 08](#) – *Same-sex dispute hovers over vote*

100 Huntley Street – select the [March 6 08](#) program (or an [edited version here](#))

Toronto Sun – [March 10 08](#) – What's a middle of the road Anglican to do?

The Tyee – [March 3 08](#) – An uncharitable piece by commentator Rafe Mair

What's on the blogs?

In a [Toronto Star article](#), the Rev Alan Perry, a church canon law expert, is quoted appealing to the writings of early church father St. Ignatius of Antioch in which he teaches loyalty to the local bishop. Since the story appeared, [bloggers](#) have been busy showing the absurdity of the Anglican Church of Canada using this 1900 year old argument against churches breaking ranks with the ACoC today when the Anglican Church itself broke ranks with the Roman Catholic Church less than 500 years ago.

[CanadianChristianity.com](#) juxtaposes three different writer's views for an interesting study on the current crisis within the Anglican Church.

[Sydneyanglicans.net](#) discusses the crisis in North America and announces an information meeting

On Fulcrum, [Dr Andrew Goddard](#) discusses the Diocese of New Westminster's treatment of ANiC clergy, including Dr Packer.

Other blogs also continue to [express outrage](#) over the Diocese of New Westminster's threat to suspend Dr J I Packer from ministry.

A [letter in the Church of England newspaper](#) says Bishop Michael Ingham's threat to suspend Dr Packer should be a warning to orthodox Anglicans to get their heads out of the sand.

[LambethConference.net/Canada](#) has this chilling report by a lay delegate to the Diocese of Niagara synod last fall.

Have you been bitten by the blogging bug? Here are some Canadian blogs you can check out:

www.anglicanessentials.ca/wordpress - Peter, Kate & Scott follow Anglican news

www.lambethconference.net/canada/ - Michael Daley's blog on Canadian Anglicanism

<http://prairiewords.wordpress.com> – Steve Lanaghan, ANiC Brandon member

<http://theagetocome.wordpress.com/> - Peter Lillington's blog

<http://kiwirev.wordpress.com/> - Gene Packwood's blog

Wycliffe College's Refresh conference

Date: May 13-16

Speakers: Marva Dawn and Graham Kendrick (Both are excellent!)

More info: www.wycliffecollege.ca

News shorts - Canada

The Diocese of Edmonton has elected a [new bishop](#). The Very Rev Dr Jane Alexander, rector of All Saints Cathedral and Dean of Edmonton was elected March 8. Read the [Edmonton Journal report](#).

The Bishop of Ottawa has appointed a priest who is in a marriage relationship with a same-sex partner as incumbent in a parish.

Lutherans experiencing same crisis

A Lutheran friend draws our attention to the same crisis in the Lutheran Church (ELCIC) where a couple [parishes have voted](#) to leave the denomination over the same issues facing orthodox Canadian Anglicans. These churches are joining the [Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations](#) – incorporated in 1994 and now counting six churches among its number. [Solid Ground](#) is the ELCIC equivalent of Anglican Essentials Canada.

News shorts – USA and North America

The Bishop of New Hampshire, **Gene Robinson**, has been informed he will not be invited to Lambeth despite the efforts of a committee from the Episcopal Church (TEC) House of Bishops. Read [his response here](#) and an [analysis of this response](#).

TEC House of Bishops has [voted to "depose"](#) **Bishop John David Schofield** (San Joaquin) and **Bishop Bill Cox** (retired from TEC). Bishop Schofield responded with his own [news release](#). Just one problem: the vote by the House of Bishops [violated the TEC's own canons](#). See also [StandFirmInFaith.com](#). Now, the HoB are preparing to try several more orthodox bishops, including retired [Bishop Edward MacBurney](#) (Quincy), for the canonical "crime" of ministering to a Southern Cone Anglican parish in the "territory" of the TEC Diocese of San Diego.

The Anglican Communion Network [news release](#) states:

...both bishops [Cox and Schofield] had come under the care of another province of the Anglican Communion, rendering the action of the House of Bishops a symbolic, but essentially meaningless, gesture. "This is a bit like saying 'you can't quit, you're fired!'" said the Rev. Canon Daryl Fenton, Chief Operating Officer for the Network. "It will have no practical effect on the ministry of these two godly

leaders, but instead makes crystal clear the scorched earth policy that the current leadership of The Episcopal Church intends to prosecute against those who can not in good conscience follow them out of the Christian mainstream. There is no question that both Bishop Cox and Bishop Schofield remain bishops in the Anglican Communion and will continue in ministry.”

There is also [evidence](#) that the TEC Presiding Bishop [plans to speed up deposition](#) of **Bishop Bob Duncan** of the Diocese of Pittsburg – possibly moving the matter up to a hastily called May House of Bishops meeting. ([Read more on this.](#)) The Pittsburgh steering committee for realignment away from the TEC wrote this [letter to parishioners](#). The vitriol of the TEC leadership is astounding. Please uphold in prayer our orthodox brothers and sisters in the US – and particularly the leadership who are under intense attack.

Matthew 5:12 *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Common Cause Partnership news

An [Anglican Men's Retreat](#) is to be led by Archbishop Orombi (Province of Uganda) May 16-19 in Newport Beach, California. The theme is “Courage”.

Common Cause partnerships are forming at the grassroots level as parishes join together in ministry. You can [read the full story](#) of what is happening in the US. In Canada, the recent **Common Cause Pacific Coast Anglican Awakening: First Steps** in the Vancouver area saw several Common Cause Partners worshiping and working together.

GAFCON leadership meeting

Those planning and leading the GAFCON event, scheduled for June 22-29, met this past week – including Bishop Don. In addition to ensuring preparations are on track, they affirmed the following goals for GAFCON:

- Provide an opportunity for fellowship [allowing participants] to continue to experience and proclaim the transforming love of Christ.
- Develop a renewed understanding of our identity as Anglican Christians within our current context.
- Prepare for an Anglican future in which the Gospel is uncompromised and Christ-centered mission a top priority.

Lambeth invitation list to be reviewed

A Church of England [newspaper report](#) says that the invitation list for Lambeth will be reviewed. The Archbishop of Canterbury is said to be keen to find a way to “bring back” Provinces where the bishops have announced they will not attend Lambeth since some of their number were not invited. These include: the Southern Cone, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Nigeria – all of which have bishops serving churches in the US and Canada

More advice on working with media

A journalist who reads our newsletters reminds us that a good journalist will report both sides of the story. This doesn't necessarily reflect bias – just fair reporting.

Easter trivia...

Patricia Burkett passed along this trivia... Easter 2008 will probably be the earliest Easter you will ever experience. The next time Easter will be this early (March 23) will be the year 2228 - 220 years from now. The last time it was this early was 1913. The next time it will be a day earlier, March 22, will be in the year 2285 (277 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring!

Food For Thought

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

He/she who kneels before God can stand before anyone.

When praying, don't give God instructions, just report for duty.

Additional prayer requests

Archbishop Greg Venables asks prayer for the situation in Bolivia – which is part of the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone. His daughter and her family live in Bolivia where violence is spreading.

Please pray for Christians in Iraq – and other Muslim countries – who are targeted for attack because of their faith. A [Roman Catholic bishop](#) was recently kidnapped and killed in Iraq.

The Anglican Network in Canada is featured this week (Holy Week) in the [Common Cause cycle of prayer](#) – together with prayer requests we submitted.

And now a Word from our Sponsor...

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4: 4-8 (ESV)