



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

Report on actions directed by November 2008 synod

A number of [motions were passed](#) by synod delegates at the November 08 ANiC synod. Here is an update on the resulting action:

- Bishop Donald Harvey sent a letter to the Queen assuring her of our loyal support and of our prayers and received a letter of acknowledgement.
- We have registered ANiC's membership in the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (which grew out of the GAFCon movement).
- Bishop Don sent a letter – via Archbishop Peter Jensen – expressing our gratitude to the GAFCon Primates for their support, encouragement, sacrificial labour and fellowship in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Bishop Don has conveyed the gratitude of ANiC members for the ongoing work of the Common Cause Partnership in the development of a North American Province. As directed by synod, Bishop Don and Archdeacon Charlie Masters (as well as a number of other ANiC members) are throwing their energies into the building the Anglican Church in North America, which we pray will be recognized eventually as a full Province in the Communion.
- Bishop Don sent a letter conveying greetings from the ANiC synod and the assurance of our prayers to His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.
- Both by letter and in person, Bishop Don has expressed our gratitude to Archbishop Gregory Venables (Southern Cone) for providing – on an emergency, temporary and pastoral basis – Primatial oversight to the Anglican Network in Canada. He also assured Archbishop Greg of our prayer and support.

Update on the task given Bishop Don and Bishop Malcolm to appoint new bishops

Bishop Don met with Bishop Malcolm Harding earlier this year to prayerfully consider who God is calling to serve as bishops for ANiC. Separately and together they developed their short list. Then they opened the sealed envelopes of nominees from synod delegates – and were delighted to find the names most frequently nominated by synod delegates exactly matched those on the bishops' shortlist. Bishop Don has had an initial conversation with Archbishop Greg; however, it remains, in Bishop Don's words, "a work in progress".

Bishop Donald Harvey writes in the Church Times

Writing in the Church Times, Bishop Don [shares](#) with the Anglican Communion how ANiC has grown despite needless litigation and intimidation. He says, *"The growing gulf between the orthodox and the liberals in North American Anglicanism cuts to the very essence of our faith. It is not trivial, as so many wish to portray it. The irony is that we have had to leave in order to stay — leave the increasingly renegade North American structures in order to stay in the mainstream of global and historic Anglican orthodoxy."*

The full article Bishop Don submitted to the Church Times, before it was edited for length, can be seen on the [ANiC website](#).

Joining Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans

ANiC has joined the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (FCA) as an organization, but we also encourage all members of ANiC to register your membership as well – both as parishes and as individuals. It only takes a moment to register online at www.fca.net. The only criteria are that you assent to the Jerusalem Declaration and the goals of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans.

ANiC in the news:

Evangelicals Now (posted on Anglican Mainstream) – April 09 – [The Anglican Network in Canada – a great burden lifted](#)

Church of England Newspaper – March 20 09 – [Canada – two more parishes quit](#) [Article contains some errors]

News shorts – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

Largest Anglican province formally recognizes ACNA

In its statement, the Anglican Province of Nigeria Standing Committee said: *“The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) has resolved unanimously to be “in abiding and full communion” with the emerging Anglican Church in North America. The Church of Nigeria, which counts more than a quarter of the world’s Anglican Christians as members, is the first Anglican province to formally accept the Anglican Church in North America as its North American partner within the Anglican Communion. In making their decision, the leaders of the Church of Nigeria’s 153 dioceses also recommended that their province send a delegation to the Anglican Church in North America’s inaugural Provincial Assembly, to be held June 22-25 in Bedford, TX, “to demonstrate our enduring partnership in the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” See the full [news release](#).*

ACNA receives applications from six dioceses – including ANiC!

On March 25, ANiC formally applied for membership in the Anglican Church in North America as a national diocese. Prior to our application being received, the Living Church [reported](#) that applications had been received from five groups hoping to form dioceses in the Anglican Church of North America. More applications to ACNA are anticipated prior to the April 15 deadline. ACNA’s provincial council meets April 24-25 to consider these applications and prepare for ACNA’s inaugural provincial assembly June 22-25 in Bedwell, Texas.

ACNA hires Chief Operating Officer

The Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) is building the needed organizational structure and appointing key staff members. Most recently, ACNA [announced](#) that Mr Brad Root, an experienced business leader, has been hired to serve as Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Growing churches

A parishioner [recounts](#) in a Wall Street Journal article how he was asked to leave his orthodox ACNA church... to plant another. This is an encouraging account of church growth.

News – Canada

Toronto clergy protest Toronto bishops’ unilateral decision

Fourteen clergy [have written](#) the bishops of Toronto to express their “deep distress” at the decision of the bishops to proceed with same-sex blessings as well as the process by which they plan to implement this decision – without even putting it to a vote at synod. The clergy say this is not a matter to be “treated lightly”, nor “entered into by subterfuge”.

They write: “The proposed pastoral response, insofar as it involves the blessing of a sexual relationship, takes us into the realm of marriage and the doctrines and canons of the church. Therefore we continue to ask not only that the bishops of this diocese will respect the polity of the church, its synods and global councils, but that the church will be faithful to its gospel, its own ancient narrative of creation and redemption, of sin and salvation, in which even the marriage of man and woman has its place.”

The dissenting clergy also question the bishops’ rationale for proceeding, saying *“the rationale suggests that the church needs to adjust its marriage canon in light of the decisions of the civil courts about the nature of marriage. This is to make the vision of the church dependent on a secular vision.”* They conclude, *“We hold, as a church, not a “diversity” of opinion, but two opposed and irreconcilable visions.*

This letter has triggered a [lively discussion](#) on the AEC blog. Please pray for the faithful clergy – and parishioners – in this and other liberal dioceses.

News shorts – United States

Sioux Indian congregations leave the Episcopal Church (TEC)

Members of nine congregations located on Sioux Indian reservation in South Dakota [have left](#) TEC and formed the Lakota Oyate Episcopalian Church. Last year, the Diocese of South Dakota closed the congregations' buildings, even though these are located on tribal lands.

Colorado congregation forced to give up building

A [court decision](#) is forcing the large congregation of Grace Church & St Stephen's to vacate their building in Colorado Springs. The congregation left TEC two years ago to align with the Convocation of Anglicans in North America – or CANA – which is under the jurisdiction of the Church of Nigeria. The congregation plans to appeal, saying the judge made errors of law.

In the US media

Religious Intelligence – Mar 19 09 – [Now a bishop is blacklisted in USA](#)

Church of England Newspaper – Mar 25 09 – [Episcopal Church wins property battle](#)

News shorts – International

Covenant obstacles

Archbishop Drexel Gomez, chairman of the Covenant Design Group, says the Anglican Covenant, which will be submitted soon to the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), will be hard to “sell” in Canada and the US where the established Churches have their own agendas and aren't interesting in accommodating the rest of the Communion. The ACC is scheduled to meet in May in Jamaica. The Living Church [reports](#) that *“The ACC, which represents every Anglican province and comprises bishops, priests, and laity, is expected to send out the covenant for ratification by the Anglican Communion's 38 provinces. Two-thirds majority approval is necessary for implementation.”*

Lambeth Conference debt due to poor management

A report by the Archbishops' Council and the Church Commissioners [has determined](#) that the \$500,000 deficit, a legacy of the Lambeth Conference, was a largely the result managerial incompetence and systemic bungling. The report offered recommendations, according to George Conger, *“...stressed the need for sound business practices and clear lines of authority”*.

In the international news

Church of England Newspaper – March 20 09 – [End in sight for Kunonga?](#) (Zimbabwe)

Soul food

Worth reading

- Writing in Christianity Today, **Charles Colson** makes a [passionate appeal](#) for Christians to brush up on the basic tenets of our faith, citing the many heresies that are creeping into the church – even among those who call themselves evangelicals. He says, *“A new emphasis on orthodox doctrine could also transform the church and culture today”* – much as it brought about the Reformation centuries ago. He concludes: *“The greatest challenge for serious Christians today is ... rediscovering its core teachings.”*
- **The Rev Charles Raven** compares the crisis in the Anglican Communion to the current global financial crisis. He says: *“The global financial crisis may seem more urgent than the spiritual crisis of the West, but the consequences of the former are temporal, and probably temporary, while the consequences of the latter are eternal. Yet both have their origin in a failure to recognise what really matters because of a controlling ideology.”*

The root problem, he argues is *“Misplaced faith in ecclesiastical institutions and the ideology that being Anglican is defined by relationship to the Archbishop of Canterbury”* and has *“led the 'instruments of unity' to concentrate on legalistic form rather than spiritual substance, with disastrous results... With no effective restraint, a counterfeit Christianity has established itself*

within the Anglican Communion, pushing well beyond the boundaries of orthodox faith and morality in North America with the British Isles not far behind.”

The Rev Raven holds out hope, however: *“What the Communion does have... is the Jerusalem Declaration. The GAFCON movement began as a rescue mission for global Anglicanism and represents a radical return to our confessional roots. [It] calls the Anglican Communion back to sound doctrine so that it is free to proclaim a coherent gospel.”*

- One of foremost authorities on the Bible and sexual ethics, Professor Robert Gagnon, offers a [carefully reasoned](#) rebuttal of five often-heard “liberal” arguments, such as the attempt to discredit the Biblical position on sexuality by drawing analogies to Biblical references to slavery.

Just for laughs

A teenage boy came to his father proudly holding his newly acquired driver's license and ask, if he could use the car.

His father said he'd make a deal: “You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible every day, and get your hair cut, then we'll talk about the car.” The boy thought about it for a moment, but agreed.

After about six weeks, the father said, “Son, you've brought your grades up and I see that you're studying your Bible regularly, but I'm disappointed that you haven't gotten your hair cut.”

The boy replied, “You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my study of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.”

To this the father replied, “And did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?”

Please pray...

For **new ANiC congregations and fledgling church plants**. May they know the Lord's leading and experience His blessing on their congregations. Pray for God's peace for church leaders.

For the many groups forming across Canada with the intention of seeking membership in ANiC as **church plants**.

For wisdom as ANiC seeks to find more effective ways of ministering to and encouraging “**Orphaned Anglicans**” who have no orthodox Anglican church in their community.

For the faithful clergy and parishioners in the Diocese of Toronto and other liberal dioceses.

For **congregations involved in court proceedings** and disputes. Pray for wisdom, courage and peace for the congregations. Pray particularly for the **judges and lawyers** involved. Pray for the **leadership of the dioceses** pursuing ANiC parishes in court. Pray that the Author of Truth, Love and Justice would bless them with a deeper insight into the riches found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Pray particularly for the Hamilton court proceedings involving St George's (Lowville), St Hilda's (Oakville) and Church of the Good Shepherd (St Catharines). Pray for an equitable decision in the awarding of court costs.
- Pray also for the upcoming court hearings involving St Aidan's (Windsor), set for March 31st in Windsor and April 6th in London as the diocese attempts to move the proceedings from Windsor, where the church property is, to London, where the diocesan office is. Pray for St. Aidan's lawyer who is being bombarded by numerous motions, affidavits and unreasonable demands by the diocese's lawyer, all of which appear to be designed to increase legal costs and wear down the congregation.
- Pray also for the legal team in New Westminster as they continue to prepare for the upcoming trial commencing May 25th.

For the **needed money to support the legal defence** of ANiC congregations.

For our **national, provincial and civic leaders** as well as for **our nation**. May God be pleased to grant repentance and cause a revival to sweep our land.

And now a word from our sponsor

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

Psalm 84 (ESV)