



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

Preparing for ANiC's synod: Proposed constitution and canons

Synod 2010 will discuss – and hopefully approve – a new set of constitution and canons for ANiC. The proposed documents have been two years in the making, having been developed by a sub-committee of ANiC's Board of Directors chaired by Joyce Lee; approved by the Board; sent to the parishes for consultation and input; and revised based on comments received from our parishes. The current documents are the result of this broad-based consultation and rewriting process.

Our hope is that synod will not have to labour over these documents. We want to ensure they have received the attention and participation required – prior to synod – to make them ready and worthy of synod approval. In order to achieve that, we have again sent the revised documents to parishes.

ANiC's archdeacons will now organize meetings with rectors and clergy in charge of ANiC congregations in the next few weeks to receive final comments on the documents. In the meantime, rectors will organize meetings within ANiC parishes for parish synod representatives to review and discuss the documents. Any unresolved questions should be directed to ANiC's executive director, John MacDonald 1-866-351-2642 extension 4022 or jmacdonald@anglicannetwork.ca.

You can see a draft agenda for synod, register online and find out about the synod hotel [on the ANiC website](#). The keynote speaker, Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, will also be a prominent participant in 125th anniversary celebrations being held by St George's (Ottawa) on the weekend of November 5-7 – including giving speeches at several venues around Ottawa.

Archbishop John Chew makes 1st visit to Canada and challenges us

On September 18-19, **Archbishop John Chew** (SE Asia) spoke at a series of meetings in Vancouver at the Anglican Network Church of the Good Shepherd promoting the work of ARDFC. This was, he noted, his first visit to Canada. Although, as chair of the Global South Primates Committee, Archbishop Chew is currently one of the most influential leaders in the Communion, his focus is clearly on spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who have never heard it.

Noting that, ironically, while Asia is becoming a global economic powerhouse, "*SE Asia has never been on the radar screen of Anglicanism*". However, his diocese – the Diocese of Singapore – has been given a vision for reaching countries in Asia that have little or no Anglican witness, and often few Christians – especially Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal, Laos and Thailand. In Thailand, for example, Christians make up only one per cent of the population and the first Anglican church was started in 1991. The Diocese of Singapore is reaching out in these countries through evangelism, planting churches and practical ministries such as English language training, skills training, ministries to street children, and orphanages.

Archbishop Chew said that there are opportunities for North Americans to partner with his diocese by sending career missionaries, short-term mission teams, evangelists, pastors, community workers, language teachers and more. He challenged ANiC parishes to assess their resources (both skill sets as well as financial) and prayerfully think through their role in missions.

Photos will be posted soon to the [ARDFC website](#).

Update on litigation and negotiations involving ANiC parishes

While the Vancouver appeal hearing is over and it could be several months before the panel of judges reaches a decision, the Anglican Church of Canada's publication, the [Anglican Journal has an article](#) summarizing the hearing – from the diocese's perspective. The author, former Diocese of

New Westminster communication officer Neale Adams, writes that the hearing demonstrated “Two very different views of how parishes should relate to their dioceses”.

Meanwhile, in Ottawa, negotiations between the ANiC parishes – St George’s and St Alban’s – and the Anglican Church of Canada diocese continue. On September 19th, the Rev George Sinclair (St Alban’s) wrote, “*We believe that legally and canonically we own the building and assets. As Christians, we also believe that a peaceable solution should be sought first. In light of that we met for our second session with a mediator on Thursday. That day ended with a promise to continue conversation without the assistance of the Mediator. Our two churches have now sent a letter to the Diocese and are awaiting a response.*”

ANiC parishes, as a matter of conscience and policy, have always sought (in most cases repeatedly) a negotiated settlement rather than resort to the courts.

The [AEC blog notes](#) the number of parishioners attending the Anglican Church of Canada’s services in the building used by ANiC’s St Matthew’s (Abbotsford). According to the blog, the numbers have been steadily declining since the services began a few weeks ago. On Sunday, September 12, one count put the number at 11.

Please pray for all ANiC parishes involved in litigation or negotiation, as well as for the three judges contemplating their decision in the Vancouver appeal. May God’s will be done.

ARDFC update

The [Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada](#) has now raised close to \$6500 towards our malaria reduction project in the Diocese of Maseno (located in the SW corner of Kenya). Contributing to that total, ANiC members and glass artists John and Norma Bos (from Williams Lake, BC) have started a fundraiser, with the entire profits from the sales of glass pendants – in a variety of both cross and fish designs – going to ARDFC’s malaria reduction project. Watch for more details in a future newsletter. You can also see a short, compelling, [newly released video](#) produced by our US-based sister organization, the ARDF.

Attention C S Lewis fans and Toronto area residents

St Chad’s (Toronto) is sponsoring a 10-week series of discussions examining C S Lewis’ *Mere Christianity*. The sessions will be led by Terry Barker, Humber College instructor and former secretary of Oxford University’s C S Lewis Society. For information, please call 416-889-8248.

Time: Tuesdays, 7pm, beginning October 5 for 10 weeks

Location: 155 Wychwood Avenue, Toronto (upstairs); NE corner of Wychwood and St Clair

Clergy wanted...

Please remember these needs in prayer:

- [Anglican Network Church of the Good Shepherd](#) (Vancouver, BC) [is seeking](#) an associate priest to work with Bishop Leung.
- [St Andrews \(Tsawwassen, BC\)](#) is also seeking a priest who is also a church planter.

Prayer requested for Newfoundland

The Venerable Darrell Critch reports that “*The destruction from the hurricane was far greater outside the St John’s area [where ANiC’s two parishes are located]... On other parts of the island, most especially the Burin Peninsula and Random Island areas, there has been much greater damage. [We] welcome prayers for those parts of the island... and for the family of the one fatality from the hurricane, the sister of whom is a parishioner of Good Samaritan [one of the two ANiC parishes in Newfoundland].*”

Parish, church plant and ministry news

Church of the Good Samaritan (St John’s, NF) organized a drive for the local food bank that collected \$20,000 worth of groceries and essentials – weighing in at 10 tonnes. Included were full

pallets of both baby diapers and baby formula. The St John's Telegram noted the achievement in the September 18th newspaper.

St George's (Burlington) is sponsoring a youth retreat October 1-2, with young people also coming from other ANiC churches in the area. The theme is "*Getting serious about Jesus*". Please pray for the Holy Spirit to come in power.

St Alban's (Ottawa) – The church's [campus ministry](#), led by the Rev David Robinson, is hosting a speaker for two engagements on the University of Ottawa on October 7. James K A Smith, a Christian philosopher and professor at Calvin College (Grand Rapids, MI), will speak at noon on "*Globalization and the post-secular public*" and in the evening his talk is entitled "*Beyond A/Theism: Post-modernity and the future of God*". With classes now back in session, the campus ministry – known as *The House* – has been visible on campus with a promotional table, meeting students and inviting them to various church activities. Please pray for this campus ministry and the two lectures.

St Matthew's (Abbotsford) has a new [home in cyberspace](#). And **St George's (Ottawa)** is also sporting a [brand new website](#).

St Andrew's Project (Tsawwassen, BC) has begun weekly 9:30am Sunday services at a new location: Tsawwassen Longhouse, 1710-56th Street, Delta.

If your parish has news that would be of interest to others in ANiC, please [email Marilyn](#) or call 1-866-351-2642 extension 4020.

Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support

- Sept 26, 6:30pm – [Christ The King \(Toronto\)](#) launches
- Sept 29 – Holy Trinity, Marlborough, MA - Ordinations to the priesthood
- Oct 1-3 – [Christ Awakening Montreal](#)
- Oct 3 – Life Chains, to promote the pro-life alternative, at [locations across Canada](#) and [the USA](#)
- Oct 7 – [Heritage Preaching Lectures](#) with Dr Darrell Johnson, Cambridge, ON
- Oct 10 – [International day](#) to pray for the world's poor and act to alleviate poverty
- Oct 16 – Billy Graham Association [Cross the Street conference](#), Burlington, ON
- Oct 23 – St John's Richmond, [Bible in a Day seminar](#)
- Oct 24, 6:30pm – [Christ The King \(Toronto\)](#) service of celebration and thanksgiving
- Nov 3 – Clergy day, Ottawa, ON
- Nov 4-6 – [ANiC synod](#) with featured speaker Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, Ottawa, ON
- Nov 14 – [International day of prayer](#) for the persecuted church
- Jan 25-27 – [ACNA 2011 church planting summit](#) in Plano, TX with speaker Tim Keller
- March 29-31 – ANiC's 2011 pastors' retreat near Abbotsford, BC

News shorts – Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

Archbishop Bob Duncan issues E100 challenge

Speaking on Cornerstone TV, our Primate, Archbishop Bob Duncan, discussed his challenge to his Diocese of Pittsburgh to acquire Biblical literacy. The diocese is using the Scripture Union's E100 challenge of reading and studying 100 "essential" Bible passages – 50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. For more information on the Scripture Union's E100 challenge, see www.e100challenge.com. You can watch the entire, wide-ranging and very interesting interview through [a link on the AEC blog](#).

Anglican Relief and Development Fund approves \$400,000 in projects for 2011

The Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF), ACNA's US-based global aid arm and the sister organization to the ARDF-Canada (or ARDFC), held its semi-annual board meeting in Texas on September 21-22 at which it approved \$400,000 in projects for the coming year – all in the Congo. Global South representatives on the ARDF board are responsible for approving projects, while the North America board members are responsible for funding projects.

A news release issued following the meeting states that, in the last year, ARDF doubled both donations and donors. Donors gave \$647,000 for emergency relief in Chile, Haiti, Indonesia, Malawi, Myanmar, Samoa and Uganda. In addition, development projects were completed in Ethiopia, Nepal, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The international board of directors consists of several Global South Primates – including Presiding Bishop Mouneer Anis (Middle East), Archbishop Justice Akrofi (West Africa) and Archbishop John Chew (SE Asia) – as well as Archbishop Bob Duncan (ACNA), Baroness Caroline Cox (honourary chair), and a number of North American representatives, including ANiC’s treasurer Claus Lenk. Photos of the ARDF meeting are [posted here](#).

Recommendation to remove the Filioque clause from the Nicene Creed clarified

For those of a theological and historical bent, ACNA Bishop Ray Sutton, chair of the ACNA Ecumenical Relations Task Force, [responds on the StandFirm blog](#) – graciously and at length – to earlier concerns regarding that task force’s recommendation that ACNA remove [the Filioque](#), thus returning “to the original Nicene Creed”. (For background see the [13 July 2010 ANiC newsletter](#).)

Bishop Sutton argues convincingly that, while the Filioque clause is true, it was an inappropriate addition to an ecumenical creed. However, the recommendation of the ACNA task force will be considered by the “*entire body*” of ACNA and includes an appeal to the GAFCon primates for guidance on how to proceed. He says, “...we are at the beginning of our own local deliberations and no final decision has been made.” However he notes that previous Lambeth Conferences, which involve bishops from throughout the Anglican Communion, made similar recommendations.

Bishop Sutton ends by saying, “*We are not altering Truth by suggesting the removal of the Filioque... The Truth stands. Indeed we are trying to stand together in the Truth of the original creed with other faithful, creedal Christians for the purpose of proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to our world. This goal is not without many challenges, not the least of which is the rapid collapse of Western Culture. I/we have a sense that if the historic, Biblical and Creedal Church does not enter evangelical witness and Eucharistic fellowship together, we cannot save the West. Neither Rome, Orthodoxy, the Anglican Church, nor the world of Protestantism can re-evangelize the West alone. We must all come together in some kind of massive Gospel sense to do it. It is to this end that I work and covet your support.*”

Clergy Leadership Training Institute seeks support

The American Anglican Council has developed a [Clergy Leadership Training Institute](#) because research they conducted, involving some ANiC clergy, found that “*Anglican clergy across North America are longing to lead from a place of personal intimacy with Jesus Christ. To be spiritually healthy, our clergy need support, training and encouragement.*” The research found that Anglican clergy in the US and Canada are most interested “...in coaching and peer support on topics like:

- *The leader’s walk with God - spiritual disciplines*
- *How to prevent burnout and moral failure*
- *How to cultivate a healthy marriage*
- *Resources for preaching*
- *Peer support and fellowship - to be able to talk to other pastors and learn from their experience*”

The proposed three-year program will address “...issues such as the priest’s personal walk with the Lord, the health and direction of their ministry, and leadership coaching...” Check out [The Clergy Leadership Training Institute](#) online. And, if you wish to financially support this ministry, the folks at the [American Anglican Council](#) would be thrilled!

Priest reaches plea bargain with Colorado district attorney

A complex, long-running and draining court battle in Colorado Springs has concluded with a rector of an ACNA parish agreeing to plead “no contest” to one charge of theft, although he still maintains his innocence. In exchange, other charges against the Rev Donald Armstrong were dropped. The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that:

“In 2007, Mr. Armstrong’s congregation... quit the diocese of Colorado, joining the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA). The diocese responded by deposing Mr. Armstrong and litigation ensued over control of the property. On March 24, 2009 a court awarded ownership of the multi-million dollar church to the diocese. In its quest to retrieve the buildings, the diocese had accused Mr. Armstrong of tax fraud and misappropriating church funds to pay for his children’s university education. However... an investigation by Federal tax authorities had found no wrongdoing.

The parish, which left the Episcopal Church in 2007 and has fully supported its rector throughout the protracted and financially draining legal wranglings, issued a statement welcoming the decision, saying it brings “to conclusion this long and torturous ordeal for our congregation”. The statement adds that the parish believes the charges were a direct result of the parish’s quitting TEC.

CANA confirmed that ... *Rev Armstrong remains a “priest in good standing” and Bishop Martyn Minns “will soon be making a visit to the parish in Colorado Springs to more fully understand this difficult and sad situation.”*

News shorts – Canada

International days of prayer to be observed in Canada

- The [International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church](#) will be on Sunday, **November 14**.
- **October 10** has been set aside to pray for the world’s poor and consider the church’s role in alleviating poverty. See the [Micah Challenge website](#) for more information.

Pro-life “life chains” planned for Sunday, October 3

[According to LifeSiteNews](#), the Life Chain, an annual “*pro-life prayer and witness event*”, will be held in Canada, “...*simultaneously in more than 200 locations, with well over 30,000 people taking part*”. You can see Canadian [locations here](#) and North American [locations here](#).

[LifeSiteNews also notes](#) that 238 locations around the world, including Canada, are participating in the annual **40 Days for Life campaign** of prayer and fasting from September 22 through October 31. Nine cities in Canada are participating this year. Prayers for the campaign [are here](#); international information [is here](#) and Canadian information [is here](#). Past years have seen God work in remarkable ways.

The Government of Canada is [reported by LifeSiteNews](#) to be reconsidering an earlier decision to cut off funding to international abortion providers.

Quebec begins hearings on euthanasia

A Quebec commission [has begun a ten-city tour](#) seeking input on euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Diocese of New Westminster facing discrimination complaint

The Diocese of New Westminster [is a defendant](#) in a BC Human Rights Tribunal complaint filed by a person evicted from an apartment which is managed by a diocese-affiliated society. The complainant, a self-proclaimed transsexual, maintains that the eviction was based on sexual bias, and was not due to being in arrears of rent as maintained by the building’s manager.

Other Canadian news

CTV.ca – September 23 2010 – [Anglican bishops take to street to sell church](#)
 Anglican Journal – September 24 2010 – [Reflections on the BAS, 25 years on](#)

News shorts – United States

How much has TEC spent on litigation?

Canon law expert, A S Haley, in his seven-part series the Episcopal Church (TEC) and its “runaway train” of litigation, [finds that](#): There is no accountability within TEC for money spent on litigation. TEC attorneys seemingly have a blank cheque. Mr Haley says, “...*the actual amount which the Church has spent, and is spending, on lawsuits over Church property is not in the Church’s official*

budget, and never has been. The numbers shown in the budget are simple placeholders, and are constantly revised upward long after the fact.”

Mr Haley adds, “...an estimated total of some **Twenty-one Million, Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$ 21,650,000)** [has already been] dedicated thus far by the Church of Katharine Jefferts Schori to lawsuits and illegal disciplinary actions. That is quite a negative achievement for someone who has been in office for not even four years yet. If the spending continues at the same rate, by the time her term is up in November 2015 (and assuming her last budget is like those before it), she will have committed the Church to an impossible-sounding **Sixty-Four Million Dollars** in legal costs.” He concludes, “There is only one word for what has gripped the Episcopal Church at its highest national and diocesan levels since Bishop Jefferts Schori came into office, and that word is madness.”

More litigation

Unwilling to accept an earlier court ruling that the ACNA Diocese of Fort Worth, led by Bishop Jack Iker, is the true and only Diocese of Fort Worth, the puppet diocese established by Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori after the vast majority in the diocese voted to realign out of TEC, has filed a “complaint” in Federal District Court naming Bishop Iker as the sole defendant. This new litigation accuses Bishop Iker of improperly using the diocese’s logo. Read the [ACNA diocese’s statement here](#) and [the TEC group’s statement here](#). Canon law expert [A S Haley calls](#) TEC’s actions “simply crazy” and goes on to explain the absurdities of this latest action.

South Carolina convention resolutions distance diocese from TEC; draw fire

[Proposed resolutions](#) for the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina’s October 15th reconvened convention are designed to assert the jurisdictional independence of the Diocese while remaining part of the Episcopal Church. The diocese, led by Bishop Mark Lawrence, is one of the most orthodox dioceses still within TEC. [EpiscopalLifeOnline reports](#) that these convention [resolutions](#) are seen by the diocese as “essential element[s] of how we protect the diocese from any attempt at un-constitutional intrusions into our corporate life in South Carolina.”

Already dissidents in the diocese [have written](#) to TEC’s House of Bishops and Executive Council charging the diocesan leaders with “*accelerating the process of alienation and disassociation*”. Among the charges they bring against the diocese is that there has been no legal action against a parish that has left the diocese and TEC. Another charge is that some websites of churches in the diocese link to “*breakaway Anglican organizations*”.

Bishop Mark Lawrence (South Carolina) immediately responded forcefully and clearly to each of the seven charges made by the dissidents in a [letter posted to the diocese’s website](#). He concludes, “*It is increasingly clear that we are engaged in a worldwide struggle for the soul of Anglicanism in the 21st Century... What will emerge from this struggle we cannot say—but I am convinced of our vocation to Make Biblical Anglicans for a Global Age... Not unlike a battalion in a military campaign which is ordered to hold a pass even against overwhelming odds, we are called to resist what appears is a self-destructive trajectory by many within The Episcopal Church. We are called to stand our ground and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ until it is no longer possible; and at the same time to continue to help shape the emerging Anglicanism in the 21st Century... let us hold fast to the best of our Episcopal heritage while sharing Christ’s transforming freedom—with hearts set free—to a needy world today.*”

TEC Diocese of Springfield elects new orthodox bishop

The Diocese of Springfield, previously lead by Bishop Peter Beckwith, [has elected](#) a graduate of Nashotah House, the Rev Dan Martins, as its next bishop. Under the Episcopal Church (TEC) procedures this election must be approved by a majority of bishops and diocesan standing committees in TEC before a new bishop can be consecrated and installed. In response to the election, the liberals in TEC [have launched](#) a smear campaign. [EpiscopalLife Online has more information](#) on Bishop-elect Martins.

TEC House of Bishops begs disgraced bishop to resign

After an episcopal court dismissed his charge of disgraceful conduct due to a “statute of limitations”, the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church (TEC) has asked Bishop Charles Bennison (Diocese of Pennsylvania) to voluntarily resign. [According to the Episcopal News Service](#), 35 years ago as a rector, Bishop Bennison failed to respond properly after learning that his brother, who was a youth minister in the parish, was “engaged in a sexually abusive and sexually exploitive relationship” with an adolescent girl in the youth group.

A S Haley (aka the Anglican Curmudgeon) [calls this action](#) pathetic and hypocritical. While the House of Bishops, in 2008, voted to depose Bishop Robert Duncan for merely contemplating the removal of his diocese from TEC, they now show a “*pathetic... lack of will to address a problem which they acknowledge is a scourge of the Church: abuse of minors by clergy, and the subsequent cover-up of that abuse by the clergy's superiors. Instead of addressing the problem, [TEC bishops] mouth pious platitudes which are completely belied by their... inability to act.*”

Other commentators suggest that the Presiding Bishop’s inability to remove Bishop Bennison demonstrate that TEC is not a hierarchical organization, as its lawyers claim in the courts to support TEC claims on the property of departing congregations. Still others believe that the House of Bishops’ weak response to Bishop Bennison is a calculated move designed to distance TEC from the disgraced bishop while keeping front and centre as an example of why the Church needs the draconian changes to clergy discipline canons slated for 2011.

News shorts – International

Ecumenical relations jeopardized by growing liberalism in Anglicanism

A Metropolitan Archbishop of the Russian Orthodox Church has told Archbishop Rowan Williams that the Anglican Communion’s growing embrace of liberal theology is harming its ecumenical relations with the Orthodox Church. Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, the chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate’s Department for External Church Relations, also decried the failure of the church to safeguard truth in favour of politically correct pluralism.

[According to LifeSiteNews](#), he said, “*The abyss that exists today divides not so much the Orthodox from the Catholics or the Catholics from the Protestants as it does the ‘traditionalists’ from the ‘liberals’... It is impossible to pass silently by the liberalism and relativism which have become so characteristic of today’s Anglican theology.*” He also lamented the refusal “...*to preach Christian moral values in secular society and prefer to adjust to worldly standards.*” However, he expressed the hope that this would change: “*I very much hope that the official position of the Anglican Church on theological, ecclesiological and moral issues will be in tune with the tradition of the Ancient Undivided Church and that the Anglican leadership will not surrender to the pressure coming from liberals.*” The Metropolitans’ [full address is here](#).

The pope makes historic visit to Britain

Despite months of negative publicity prior to the visit, Pope Benedict’s brief trip to Britain was widely portrayed in the media as an unmitigated triumph. A [National Post article](#) quotes Lord Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, saying, “*He came; he saw; he conquered.*” He unflinchingly challenged secularization and compromise in society, government and the church – and rather than repelling people as predicted, thousands were attracted to the pope and to his message.

The [Guardian reported](#): “*Benedict XVI used the first papal state visit to Britain to launch a blistering attack on “atheist extremism” and “aggressive secularism”, and to rue the damage that “the exclusion of God, religion and virtue from public life” had done in the last century.*”

His visit was also pastoral. When asked what the church needs to do to become more attractive, he responded “...*that a church which seeks above all to be attractive would already be on the wrong path, because the Church does not work for itself... The Church is at the service of Another; it does not serve itself... but it strives to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ accessible, the great truths, the great powers of love and of reconciliation that come always from the presence of Jesus*”

Christ. In this sense, the Church does not seek to be attractive, but rather to make herself transparent for Jesus Christ.”

The National Post contrasted the Pope’s unapologetic preaching to “*churches that have changed wholesale their teaching... now celebrating as holy what they previously taught was sinful*”. It goes on to relate the Pope’s message to a group of schoolchildren in which he said, “*What God wants most of all for each one of you is that you should become holy.*” The article concludes, “*holiness... never loses its power to attract*”.

The [Catholic Herald reports](#) that Prime Minister David Cameron “...*told Pope Benedict XVI in a powerful farewell speech that his visit had made Britain “sit up and think.”*”

Church of Australia votes to study Jerusalem Declaration

The synod of the Church of Australia has voted to send the [Jerusalem Declaration](#), issued by the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCon) in 2008, to its dioceses and churches for study. Reacting to this decision, [Archbishop Peter Jensen of the Diocese of Sydney](#) noted that the Jerusalem Declaration – to which ANiC whole-heartedly subscribes – was a document that expresses the heart and mind of millions of Anglicans – especially in the Global South, and therefore worthy of study. The Church synod also “received”, rather than “welcomed”, the Covenant and has sent it to the dioceses for study for the next three years.

Archbishop of Canterbury announces next meeting of Primates

Dr Williams [has announced](#) that the next meeting of the Primates of the Anglican Communion will be 25-31 January 2011 at Emmaus Retreat and Conference Centre in Dublin, Ireland. Previously, some Global South Primates made it clear that they would not attend any Primates meetings attended by the Primates of the US Episcopal Church or the Anglican Church of Canada.

Primate dishes on the state of the Communion

[VirtueOnline reports](#) that Presiding Bishop Mouneer Anis (Middle East), speaking at a clergy day in the Diocese of Fort Worth, addressed the state of the Anglican Communion. He called the Anglican Consultative Council, from which he resigned earlier this year, dysfunctional, and said that GAFCon and the Global South were a growing force for historic Christian orthodoxy within the Communion. However, he warned that the Episcopal Church (TEC) was effectively manipulating some poor African provinces with money, buying their silence. He also expressed concern about the number of African clergy accepting TEC scholarships to study theology in the west, saying “They do not know they are committing suicide.” His concluding emphatic advice to ACNA was to remain united.

Timeline of the dissolution of the Instruments of Unity

Jill Woodliff has [posted on the StandFirm website](#) an extensive “Timeline of the dissolution of the faith and order of the Anglican Communion”, starting in 1967 and going through to July 2010.

Archbishop of Canterbury clarifies his views on homosexual bishops

Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury is [telling British media](#) that while he has no problem with homosexuals being bishops, they must remain celibate. His rationale, however, was not theological but institutional. He said, that “*the cost to the church overall was too great to be borne*”.

News in brief from around the world and around the Communion

England – The [Church of England Newspaper reports](#) that, the UK Mothers’ Union is combating the commercialization and sexualization of childhood. Its “*Bye Buy Childhood*” campaign is designed to hold the government accountable to its pledge to address the sexualization of children.

England – [Voting began this week](#) to elect new members to the Church of England Synod. Members sit for a five year term and meet twice annually, with the next meeting in mid-November. The composition of the next synod is significant given the weighty matters before synod.

Rwanda – The Province of the Anglican Church of Rwanda [has elected](#) the Rt Rev Onesphore Rwaje as Primate, succeeding Archbishop Emmanuel Kolini. Archbishop-elect Rwaje, who now serves as Bishop of Byumba Diocese and Dean of the Province, was elected on the first ballot.

Uganda – The Ugandan government is [reportedly contemplating](#) legislation designed to crack down on pornography. Convictions of distributing pornography, under the proposed legislation, would result in fines and prison sentences of up to 10 years.

China – [LifeSiteNews reports](#) that a province in China is “*implementing a new program to encourage chastity in students, using materials produced by the evangelical protestant organization Focus on the Family*”.

Zimbabwe – [Voice of America News reports](#) that dissident former bishop and crony of Dictator Robert Mugabe, Bishop Nolbert Kunonga has taken his war on the legitimate Anglican Church in Zimbabwe to a new low. Not only has he, with the help of the police, succeeded in barring parishioners from using existing, disputed church facilities, now he has employed police to seize a recently built church on property the parishioners had recently purchased.

Supporting our persecuted brothers and sisters

Open Doors, which focuses on serving persecuted Christians worldwide, is [promoting three initiatives](#) designed to: 1) prevent further erosion of religious liberty especially in Muslim countries; 2) advocate for Christians in Plateau State, Nigeria where so many were slaughtered in night-time attacks this spring; and 3) urge China not to repatriate refugees fleeing from North Korea. Their [website](#) suggests ways you can stand with those who are suffering.

Other international news

Church of England Newspaper – September 10 2010 – [Scottish Episcopal Church defends inclusive language liturgies](#)

Anglican Communion News Service – September 21 2010 – [Communion report to the UN highlights Anglicans’ work towards hitting poverty targets](#)

Church of England Newspaper – September 17 2010 – [No break in Africa’s united front on the Episcopal Church](#)

Soul food

Just for laughs

A pastor, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the pastor asked the man where he had gone.

"I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But, why didn't you do that before the service?" asked the pastor

"Because," the gentleman said, "I didn't need one then."

Courtesy of www.mikeysFunnies.com

Thoughts

Experience is what you have just after you need it.

Courtesy of www.mikeysFunnies.com

Worth reading & watching

- The [Gospel Coalition offers](#) a list of “important sermons and articles” that have profoundly influenced some contemporary Christian leaders.
- The Gospel Coalition also gives **advice to theological students** and new pastors: [part 1](#) & [part 2](#)
- **Anglicanism in perspective** – [In a two-minute video](#), Canon Phil Ashley of the American Anglican Council offers a penetrating insight into Christian unity in light of the pope’s visit to

Great Britain and a Russian Orthodox leader's clear warning of the damage caused to ecumenical relations by liberal theology in the Anglican Communion.

- **Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali** has [written an article](#) in The Australian arguing that Islamic law, which the radical Muslim worldview would have imposed universally, is fundamentally at odds with western and Christian concepts of freedom and equality. He says, "*It is basic to Western societies that there should be one law for all. This idea emerged from the Judaeo-Christian tradition that all humans are made in God's image... [However] Muslim scholars recognise the three great inequalities of their legal tradition: between men and women, Muslims and non-Muslims, slave and free... Muslims, like anyone else, should be free to practise and propagate their faith. They are free also to contribute to public debate. The principle of one law for all, however, cannot be compromised.*" Bishop Nazir-Ali is keynote speaker at ANiC's 2010 synod.

Resources

- The Rev Charles Raven's newly released book, *Shadow Gospel: Rowan Williams and the Anglican Communion Crisis*, [is characterized](#) as "*the first serious attempt to link [Dr Williams' theology] with his ecclesiastic policy*". Bishop John Ellison says the book provides "...convincing evidence about the real problem facing us in the Church of England and how this has affected the wider Anglican Communion. He argues that we are experiencing not so much an ecclesial deficit as a confessional one." The book can now be ordered from [Latimer Trust](#).
- A newly launched [UK-based website](#) offers video sermons drawn from a number of preachers.
- Students heading back to university might want to check out the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada's guide to campus "[Pro-Life Clubs and the Law](#)". In recent years campus pro-life clubs have experienced increased hostility from university administrations.
- [Christian Today reports](#) that the 350th anniversary of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer will be celebrated in 2012 and a website has been launched. "*The website, www.bcp350.org.uk, details the history of the liturgy*" and will also "...feature a new online version of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer".
- Christianity.ca [offers guidance](#) on how to start podcasting your parish's sermons.

Please pray...

Pray for the ordinations planned at Holy Trinity, Marlborough, MA on September 29 when the Rev Andrew Carlson and the Rev Christopher Logan will be ordained to the priesthood.

For the planning and preparations for **ANiC's 2010 synod** in Ottawa, November 4-6.

For our **bishops and clergy** and their families – especially those battling illness.

For **ANiC projects, church plants and parishes**, and for their proclamation of Good News to those in their communities who desperately need new life in Christ.

For the three BC Court of Appeal judges considering the decision regarding the use and beneficial ownership of Vancouver-area ANiC parish properties and a bequest, as well as the awarding of court costs.

For the other legal challenges faced by ANiC parishes, including:

- The mediation process involving **St George's & St Alban's (Ottawa)** and their former Anglican Church of Canada diocese.
- The ongoing litigation involving **St Aidan's (Windsor)**, resulting in mounting expense

For all the **congregations** involved in court proceedings and disputes. Pray for a continued focus on, and blessing upon, their ministry in the midst of this turmoil. Pray for peace for the **wardens and trustees** who are on the front lines and bear the burden of risk and responsibility.

For the **leaders and parishioners of the dioceses** pursuing eviction of and legal damages against ANiC congregations and wardens.

For much needed donations **to the legal cases and disputes** involving ANiC congregations:

For those affected by devastating storm damage and flooding in **Newfoundland**.

For funding of the **ARDFC's** [malaria prevention project in Kenya](#).

For **persecuted Christians** in Muslim lands.

For steps to be taken in the **Sudan** to ensure a fair and peaceful referendum in January.

For repentance and revival in **our nation** – as well as a hunger for God and a thirst for His Word.

For all those in positions of leadership and influence in the **Anglican Communion**, that they would seek to honour and obey God above all else.

And now a word from our sponsor

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

Psalm 47