



**Handle with prayer**

**News – ANiC and AEN**

**BC Supreme Court decision**

Exactly six months after the start of the court hearing in the BC Supreme Court in Vancouver, Mr Justice Stephen Kelleher [issued his decision](#) and Reasons for Judgment on November 25 in the case involving four Vancouver-area ANiC churches (St John's Shaughnessy, St Matthews (Abbotsford), St Matthias and St Luke's and Church of the Good Shepherd) and the Diocese of New Westminster.

You can see our [news release](#), [background information](#) on the trial, the Diocese of New Westminster's [news release](#) and St John Shaughnessy's [letter to parishioners](#). In his pastoral letter to the Diocese of New Westminster, Bishop Michael Ingham [invites](#) ANiC parishioners in the Greater Vancouver area back into the "big tent" of the Anglican Church of Canada so they can continue to worship in their buildings.

Some dioceses received the decision gleefully. The Diocese of Niagara's [statement is here](#).

**The Anglican Church League** (Australia) posted [an encouraging message of support](#) for the ANiC Vancouver churches saying, "*The Anglican Church League commends the leadership of the Anglican Network in Canada on its godly response to the decision of the B.C. Supreme Court. We remain committed to supporting the faithful men and women of the four congregations... who have suffered over the past months and now face a measure of uncertainty about the future. Throughout this ordeal it has been apparent to those who have been watching around the world that these four congregations are facing persecution for their steadfast resolve to remain true to the word of God. In this they have shown themselves to be faithful disciples of Christ and true heirs of the Anglican heritage of Cranmer, Latimer, Ridley and others. We have been encouraged by their graciousness amidst extraordinary provocation and by their refusal to surrender biblical principles for the sake of an illusory peace. With or without their buildings they are the blessed people of God who by their example are blessing others*".

**Media coverage** of the decision included:

CP – Nov 25 2009 - [BC Supreme Court rules bishop can't fire trustees of break-away parishes](#)  
[Interestingly, this article was quickly removed by CP and replaced on Nov 26 with the following article – but not before the AEC bloggers copied and preserved the original]

CP – Nov 26 2009 – [Dissident Anglicans can leave church, but can't take churches with them](#)

Vancouver Sun – Nov 25 2009 – [Anglican Diocese retains ownership of four disputed church...](#)

News 1130 – Nov 25 2009 – [BC Supreme Court: Anglican Diocese to keep ownership of churches](#)

Canadian Press – [Churches don't belong to Anglican dissidents, says B.C. court ruling](#)

National Post – Nov 26 2009 - [Dissident Anglican parishes in B.C. have no rights to property: court](#)

CBC – Nov 26 2009 – [Breakaway Anglican parishes told to settle with church](#)

Anglican Journal – Nov 26 2009 – [Court rules church properties remain with diocese...](#)

LifeSiteNews – Nov 27 2009 - [Breakaway Traditional Anglicans Can't Keep Churches: B.C. Judge](#)

A **Wall Street Journal** article [offers some interesting insight](#) into the historic differences between British/Canadian law and US law in church disputes.

**Motions of synod**

The resolutions passed by synod [are now posted](#) to the ANiC website. The only motion which was not overwhelmingly approved dealt with a formula for allocating funds for church plants. Bishop

Don reports that he has already acted on motions 3, 4, 5 and 6 – writing to the Queen, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Gregory Venables, and ANiC leaders who were unable to attend due to health concerns, including Dr J I Packer, Canon David Short and the Rev Howard Hines.

### **Ordering commemorative photo albums of the consecration**

By Friday, December 4, you will be able to order a beautiful photo album featuring the historic November 13<sup>th</sup> consecration service for Bishops Charlie, Stephen and Trevor. This bound book will feature about 40 pages of quality photos from the consecration service and synod. By Friday, you will be able to see example pages on our website, giving you a sense of the quality and appearance of the book. The book [can be ordered](#) in hard cover for \$60 or soft cover for \$45. (Prices include shipping.) The deadline for pre-ordering the books is **December 20**. We anticipate the books will be printed and shipped by the end of January.

### **Prayer requested for ordination of four new deacons**

Bishop Don will ordain four men – Ted Powell, Andrew Carlson, Michael Bickford and Chris Logan – to the diaconate at Holy Trinity Anglican Church (Marlborough, Massachusetts) on December 7. Father Michael McKinnon asks us to pray that these new deacons, “by the grace of God given through the Laying on of Hands, may serve the Lord and His Church with the heart of a servant”. Once ordained, these new deacons will serve at Holy Trinity and her church plants/missions. Ted Powell will serve as deacon in Marlborough and from time to time in a possible fourth mission to be launched in early 2010. Andrew Carlson will have primary care for one of Holy Trinity’s three missions, while Chris Logan will serve as a civilian chaplain to military personnel in the region. Michael Bickford intends to finish his PhD and assist Father McKinnon at Holy Trinity. Andrew Carlson, Michael Bickford and Chris Logan intend to pursue ordination to the priesthood. Please remember Bishop Don and these four ordinands in your prayers.

### **reFocus Canada: Preaching and theology conference for pastors and seminarians**

Bishop Charlie Masters has now joined the “line up” of keynote speakers at the reFocus conference, one of the best clergy conferences in the country. Conference information and registration is available on the [reFocus website](#).

Date: 7-9 April 2010

Location: [Willingdon Church](#), Burnaby, BC

Theme: *Suffering for the Gospel*

Keynotes: Dr John Piper, the Hon Preston Manning, Dr John Neufeld, Dr Bruce Ware and Bishop Charlie Masters.

### **Please continue to pray for the ACNA summit which ANiC is hosting**

Our ANiC staff and bishops are hosting the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) House of Bishops and Provincial Council meetings in Toronto, December 9-12. Please pray for ANiC staff members who are coordinating arrangements and for God’s blessing and leading in the meetings.

### **Bishop Don’s citation**

The Rev Darrell Critch attended the Fall Convocation at Nashotah House Seminary (Wisconsin) at which Bishop Don was awarded a honorary doctorate and has obtained the citation that was read. This citation is now [posted on our website](#). It concludes: “*For his exemplary and faithful ministry and his leadership in these times of great challenges and renewal in the Anglican Communion, Nashotah House is pleased to confer upon Donald Frederick Harvey, the degree Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa.*”

### **Parish news**

[St Hilda’s](#) (Oakville, ON) – The people of St Hilda’s celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this past weekend by meeting in their church building for a special Sunday worship & celebration service for the first time since May 2008. Church warden, Paula Valentine reports that the weekend kicked off with an open house on Saturday which featured displays set up by parishioners to showcase parish

life and community outreach over the years. The congregation was joined by old friends – some travelling quite a distance – as well as many community visitors who came to join the celebration and show their support. A coffee house Saturday evening brought together current and former church youth – many bringing along spouses and children. The weekend culminated with a festive congregational dinner. Paula reports, “*We look forward with great anticipation to what God has in store for the next 50 years.*” David Jenkins has [captured the event in photos](#).

**[Church of the Good Samaritan \(St John’s, NL\)](#)** – 14 parishioners are headed to Guatemala in April for a missions trip coordinated through the [Arms of Jesus Children’s Mission](#). They will travel to Parramos, Guatemala to bring 1400 pounds of donated medical, hygienic and school supplies, as well as clothing, and other goods to the local mission school. While in Parramos, the team will build six houses, conduct educational workshops and medical clinics, and participate in food and clothing distribution. If you would like to assist the team, you can send your donation, payable to ANiC-Parish of the Good Samaritan, to the following address:

Parish of the Good Samaritan  
58 Ferryland Street West  
St. John’s, NL A1E2L7  
Attn: Father Darrell Critch

### **Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support**

- Dec 7 – Ordination of four deacons at Holy Trinity, Marlborough, MA
- Dec 9-12 – ACNA House of Bishops and Provincial Council meetings in Toronto
- Mar 16 -18 – Annual ANiC clergy retreat at Cedar Springs (near Abbotsford, BC)
- Apr 7-9 – [reFocus Canada](#) – a preaching and theology conference for pastors and seminarians

### **ANiC in the news**

**Bishop Trevor Walters** – Newly consecrated **Bishop Walters** [was featured recently](#) in the Abbotsford News.

**Chatham, ON church plant** – A [recent Chatham Daily News article](#) featured the embryonic ANiC church plant proposed for Chatham by St Aidan’s Ministries (Windsor, ON). It says, “Local Anglicans could have another choice in what church they attend locally, including what interpretation of scriptures they agree with. The Anglican Network In Canada (ANiC) is exploring the possibility of establishing new churches in Chatham and Belle River.” The article quotes ANiC church planter Phil Rutledge as well as a diocesan spokesperson who said the division in the Huron diocese “simply is a reflection of what’s going on in the Anglican church in North America and, in fact, the Anglican communion around the world.”

**Dr J I Packer** – Vancouver Sun religion reporter Douglas Todd profiles Dr Packer in [a recent blog](#). Todd says, “*Unlike many clergy and theologians today, Packer is not abundantly cautious in sharing his views with the wider, secular world, which he judges, along with liberal Christianity, infected by Satan... Packer does not pull his punches. Like it or not, and many don’t (including most mainline Christians and even many evangelicals), with Packer you know exactly where you stand.*” Todd drew his material from [a World Magazine article](#).

**The Rev Ray David Glenn** was interviewed November 30<sup>th</sup> on 100 Huntley Street about the consecration of our three new bishops and recent developments within Anglicanism. You can watch the interview in two parts: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#). In addition, the Rev Glenn is providing “*Truth to Go*” teaching segments each day in December on [100 Huntley Street](#) in which he traces how the first Christmas fulfilled God’s covenant promises found throughout Scripture. He also explores that covenant fulfilment through the eyes of the Christmas “cast”, including Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Simeon and even King Herod.

## News shorts – Canada

### Christian Leaders Connection seminars planned

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada – of which ANiC is a member – has scheduled more highly recommended one-day seminars. These seminars address the theme "*Being Evangelical in a Complex World: Stats, Facts and Trends*". New dates and locations are:

- January 19 - [Edmonton](#), AB
- January 21 - [Calgary](#), AB
- January 25 - [Toronto](#), ON
- February 16 - [Belleville](#), ON
- March 25 - Winnipeg ([Otterburne](#)), MB
- March 26/27 - Caronport ([Briercrest](#)), SK
- April 13 - [Ottawa](#), ON

### Diocese of Huron releases liturgy for blessing same-sex unions

The Diocese of Huron [has issued a liturgy and protocols](#) for “the celebration of a civil marriage with same sex couples”.

The [Anglican Journal reports](#) that Bishop James Cowan (British Columbia) “...has reversed a policy that prohibits clergy in same-gender relationships from serving in the diocese. As a result, he has been able to match up a parish looking for clergy, with “a fine, fine priest.” She had been on leave for eight years because she was in a same-gender relationship. His rationale was based on the Lambeth moratorium on the ordination of clergy in same-gender relationships as bishops. He said, “*That wording said to me...[that] Lambeth is acknowledging that there are people in same-gender relationships who are priests who canonically would be eligible for election and consecration... The moratoria says we will not elect and consecrate... But it [still] says that they are there.*”

### Diocesan finances collapse

According to the [Anglican Journal](#), “*the Diocese of Quebec is “teetering on the verge of extinction” as parish finances continue to collapse and the number of parishioners dwindles.*” The bishop, Bishop Drainville, told the recent ACoC House of Bishops meeting that he could well be “*the last bishop of Quebec*” and that “*There will be many other dioceses that will fail.*” He attributed this to churches that were “*unfocused, had difficulty in understanding the call of God,*” and clergy who were “*unengaged and felt directionless.*” Diocesan demographics reflect the malaise. The Journal reports, “*[Bishop Drainville] noted that a vast majority of Quebec congregations (50 of 82) virtually have no children, 35 had parishioners with an average age of 75, and usually had only 8 to 10 people attending Sunday services.*”

### ACoC bishop entangled in TEC canon contortions

Bishop Mark MacDonald, former Bishop of Alaska and now serving as the Anglican Church of Canada’s (ACoC) National Indigenous Bishop, was shocked to learn that the Episcopal Church’s (TEC) presiding bishop is calling on him to renounce his orders in TEC – despite being on loan to the ACoC under the presiding bishop’s supervision. It seems this latest action was required in order to support the presiding bishop’s refusal to allow Bishop Keith Ackerman (retired Bishop of Quincy) to serve in the Diocese of Bolivia. In removing him as a bishop in TEC, she told Bishop Ackerman, “...as you know there is no provision for transferring a bishop to another province”. Bishop Ackerman has since been admitted into the ACNA. The Living Church has [the full story](#).

### Canadian Lutherans head down same path as Anglicans

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada has issued a *Study of Human Sexuality* and begun the process of encouraging members to study it and provide feedback. [Critiquing the study](#), the Rev Dr Peeter Vanker says, “*One of the premises embedded in the study seems to be that human sexuality is inexorably linked with the issue of social, political as well as personal justice... The study would therefore have the reader simply proceed from the premise that the issue of human sexuality, whether in the social, political or personal realm has to be considered largely in the*

*context of power and discrimination. Another premise seems to be that the Scriptures are not a particularly helpful vehicle in a study of human sexuality because the ancient Scripture writers were unaware of modern social, political and cultural changes, and especially of the modern notion of sexual orientation. A further premise is that sexual orientation is genetic... [and] irreversible.” He says, “The participants should, the study suggests, “agree to disagree”*

### **Critiquing revisionist’s case for same-sex marriage**

Writing in the Living Church, Professor Ephraim Radner [offers a point by point rebuttal](#) to a recent article by Episcopal Church Bishop John Chane (Washington, DC) posted on the Washington Post weblog and titled “A Christian case for same-sex marriage”. Dr Radner writes, *“Bishop Chane’s logic, in making all his (largely unfounded) points, is that “our evolving understanding of what marriage is leads, of necessity, to a re-examination of who it is for.” That is, we now believe marriage is about mutual love, but we didn’t before; we now believe it has spiritual, not just economic, potential, but we didn’t before; and therefore, if we can change in this direction, we can apply these insights to same-sex partnerships. Bishop Chane’s rhetoric of “continual change” masks his argument’s many weaknesses: the purported changes never really took place as described, and never moved logically or closely in the direction of same-sex marriage. His argument and conclusion are false.... Finally, it is important to point out that the errors in this picture are not merely the mistakes of the misinformed. They serve a political purpose within Bishop Chane’s church whose malice cannot be overlooked.”*

### **News shorts – United States**

#### **Massachusetts bishop approves solemnizing same-sex ‘marriages’**

The [Boston Globe reports](#) that Bishop Thomas Shaw, whose diocese covers eastern Massachusetts, has released [a letter](#) to diocesan priests and parishes informing them of his decision to allow the solemnizing of marriages of “all eligible couples”. He said, “Christian marriage is a sacramental rite that has evolved in the church” and marriage “must be open to all as a means of grace and sustenance to our Christian hope.” He indicated that homosexual ‘marriages’ like heterosexual marriages are “characterized, just as our church expects, by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, and the holy love which enables spouses to see in one another the image of God... It’s time for us to offer to gay and lesbian people the same sacrament of fidelity that we offer to the heterosexual world.”

### **US church in the news**

Washington Times – Nov 19 2009 – [Lutherans second church to split over gays](#)

Religious Intelligence – Nov 25 2009 – [New lawsuits face Church in USA](#)

Wall Street Journal – Nov 25 2009 – [Church fights for assets, members and legitimacy](#)

### **News shorts – International**

#### **British politician accuses Church of making “global warming” its new faith**

The Church of England Newspaper [reports that](#), “MEP Roger Helmer stated the “*Church of England seems to have abandoned religious faith entirely and taken up the new religion of climate alarmism instead.*” He added, “*Many commentators have remarked on the similarities between religion and climate alarmism... both are based more on faith than on evidence. Both warn of dire consequences unless we have faith and change our way of life.*” Mr Helmer cited noted children’s author and former Anglican priest GP Taylor who said that “*many bishops spend more time preaching about climate change than preaching a gospel of salvation*”.

### **How many will take up Rome’s offer?**

While many commentators believe the exodus from the Anglican Communion for the Roman Catholic Church will be a small trickle, others claim that it will be much more significant. [The Times claims](#) the Church of England could face a loss of one-tenth of its clergy within five years.

## News from around the Communion

**Sudan** – The Archbishop and bishops of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan [are urging us](#) to take up the cause of the poor and oppressed in the Sudan by bringing the urgent need in the Sudan before our government. They ask that the previously negotiated Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the warring factions in the government/Muslim controlled north and the Christian/animist south be enforced so that a free and fair election and referendum on southern self-determination can be held.

*They say, “With less than five months before National Elections and just over one year to the referendum on southern self-determination, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is on the brink of collapse... We strongly condemn all [externally instigated] inter-ethnic violence currently witnessed across much of Southern Sudan, the ongoing violence against civilians in Darfur, and the violent attacks on civilians being perpetrated by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the south-west of the country... We strongly condemn the damage being done to the environment by oil companies in Unity and Upper Nile states. Our waterways are being polluted and our people displaced by the profit making of others. We bring this before our government and the international community, and ask and pray that the resources of our land be fairly utilized in future for the good of all our people.*

*We call...attention... to the sever threat of famine in Southern Sudan at this time, due to the failure of rains in various parts of the country this year. We appeal to our partners to assist us... in providing for the physical as well as the spiritual needs of our people...*

*...It is the escalation of non-traditional de-stabilising violence, specifically targeting civilians and the government that will make registration and voting in the elections and referendum very difficult. The conclusion that is drawn is that this violence is intended to negatively effect the elections and referendum.*

*...Unless international support for the CPA is urgently stepped up, the Sudan is in very real danger of descending back into a war which will not harm those people who create it, but which will again destroy the lives of those voiceless masses for which the Church now cries.”*

**Uganda** – The Church of England Newspaper [reports](#) that the Church of Uganda has come under severe pressure because of a legislation proposed by the government of Uganda that would “toughen” sodomy laws in that country. The report says, “...the furor in church circles over the “Anti-Homosexuality Bill” speaks more to the rift between the African and Western Anglicans than to the politics of the proposed legislation. The campaign mounted in the West to defeat the bill will likely change few minds in Uganda, while the Church of Uganda’s response will likely [be] seen... as moral cowardice in the face of injustice... The church’s role in lobbying the government, one senior Ugandan cleric explained, was to avoid partisan politics but preach the practical lessons of the Bible. Public political lobbying demanded by activists in the UK is not how the Church of Uganda operates. “The church will tend to make statements to guide moral thinking rather than interfere in ‘word-smithing’ proposed legislation,” the Kampala cleric said.”

[LifeSiteNews reports](#) that the impetus for the Ugandan legislation was the external interference “from European and American gay activists attempting to do in Uganda what they’ve done around the world - homosexualize that society.” In particular, legislators are concerned about “the many male homosexuals coming into the country and abusing boys who are on the streets.” Uganda still celebrates an annual feast on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to commemorate 22 Christian attendants of the king of Uganda who were executed in the 1800s for refusing the king’s homosexual advances.

**India** – The Church of England Newspaper [reports that](#), “The Government of India’s Maharashtra state has ordered the halt of all sales of Anglican Church property, pending an investigation into insider dealing and corrupt practices in the administration of church lands in the Diocese of Bombay.... While Anglican attention has focused on the 60 US church property lawsuits, the DNA

*India news service reports that over 5,000 church property lawsuits are making their way through the Indian courts."*

### **Soul food**

#### **Issues related to God's design for His creation**

**Euthanasia** – If you want to make your voice heard on the legislation before the House of Commons, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) has provided [a sample letter](#) you can adapt and send to your parliamentarians. The EFC also [provides to resources](#) to help you learn more about the issue.

#### **Just for fun**

The little boy wasn't getting good marks in school. One day he surprised the teacher by tapping her on the shoulder and saying, "I don't want to scare you, but my daddy says if I don't get better grades, somebody is going to get a spanking."

Courtesy of [www.mikeysFunnies.com](http://www.mikeysFunnies.com)

A (non-Anglican) minister was completing a temperance sermon.

With great emphasis he said, "*If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.*" With even greater emphasis he said, "*And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.*" And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, "*And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.*"

Sermon complete, he sat down.

The hymn-leader slowly stood to his feet and nervously announced the closing hymn. "*Let us close by singing hymn #365, 'Shall We Gather at the River.'*"

#### **Please pray...**

For our **ANiC projects, church plants, parishes, bishops and rectors.**

That we would **share the Good News** with those around us who need to meet our Lord & Saviour.

For the legal cases

- For the **four Vancouver area ANiC parishes** and their lawyers who are reviewing the decision issued by Mr Justice Stephen Kelleher and seeking God's clear leading. May God grant clarity and unity as they discern whether or not to appeal the decision.
- For the **Windsor case** (involving St Aidan's) which is being dealt with in London, Ontario.
- For the remaining issues being negotiated following the arbitration hearing involving **St George's, St Hilda's and Good Shepherd** (in Southern Ontario), particularly in light of the Diocese of Niagara's letter following the New Westminster court decision.
- For all the **congregations** involved in court proceedings and disputes. Pray for peace, particularly for the wardens and trustees who are on the front lines and bear the burden of risk and responsibility. Pray for a continued focus on, and blessing upon, their ministry in the midst of this turmoil.
- For sufficient contributions to the **Legal Defence Fund** so that legal costs can be covered and the churchwardens and trustees are not at personal financial risk. The Ontario parishes, in particular, need greater financial support at this time.
- For the **leaders and parishioners of the dioceses** pursuing eviction of and damages against ANiC congregations and wardens in court.
- For **repentance and healing**, and that those being persecuted will be able to forgive so there can be hope for future reconciliation.
- That God will be glorified in all court proceedings and may people who would not otherwise attend a church hear the good news and turn to Jesus.

For the **Anglican Relief and Development Fund (Canada)** and those in government who are considering the application for charitable status.

For the **Anglican Church in North America** and its dioceses.

For the **persecuted church** around the world and Christians who are suffering for their faith.

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

**And now a word from our sponsor**

*Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!*

*Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.*

*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!*

*For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.*

*For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.*

*Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*

*Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!*

*Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!*

*Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!*

*Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"*

*Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."*

*Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!*

*Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.*

*He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.*

*Psalm 96 (ESV)*