



Handle with prayer

News – ANiC and AEN

Moderator and bishops send Christmas and Advent letter

In [his Christmas message to members](#), Bishop Donald Harvey said, “Although ANiC membership has expanded considerably... we still... feel the intimacy of being part of one extended family. It is to this family that is so very precious to me that I now send these greetings...”

“Every member of our ANiC family had to make a choice which often was painful ... It is only when we gaze at the Babe in the manger with His outstretched Arms that we realize it was all for Him. Just as He came to love and redeem us, so we, determined to remain true to Him and His Word at all costs, have bound ourselves together in this way, as we joyfully put our destiny in His Hands, regardless of the personal cost... For those of us who are worshipping in borrowed or rented surroundings, or who stand in danger of losing buildings we hold so dear, we simply turn our gaze to the bare stable of Bethlehem, and realize that with Jesus there in the midst, nothing else really matters.”

Update: Vancouver-area congregations continue to discern God’s leading

In her letter of December 4, ANiC Chancellor Cheryl Chang indicated that the four ANiC parishes in the Vancouver area might make a decision regarding an appeal of the Supreme Court of BC decision by December 14. However, no decision has been made to date and the congregations are continuing to pray and confer as they seek God’s leading. With Christmas and statutory holidays, the expiry of the appeal decision period is December 29.

Many of the parish leaders who met on December 14 expressed a profound sense of God’s grace and blessing in the discussions and meetings that continue to take place within the parishes. A thought-provoking question many are wrestling with is whether God is calling them to leave the buildings and “get on with the ministry” or whether defending the right to maintain orthodox Anglican faith in these buildings “is a ministry” to which God is calling them.

In keeping with an earlier commitment, St Matthias and St Luke will hold a special vestry meeting on December 20 and their decision will be brought back to the other parishes’ trustees as they consider together how to proceed.

Please continue to pray for these congregations, that they will hear God’s voice clearly and maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and that God will be glorified in their actions.

An [article in the New Westminster News Leader](#) reports that “[ANiC Chancellor Cheryl] Chang said there are clear grounds for an appeal, which can be filed now and discontinued at a later time. However, if the deadline is missed there is no other opportunity.”

Clergy retreat speaker confirmed; mark your calendars!

While retreat details are still being worked out, the Rev Canon David Roseberry has been confirmed as the speaker at ANiC’s annual clergy retreat to be held at [Cedar Springs Christian Retreat Center](#) (near Abbotsford, BC) from March 16-18. He is the rector of [Christ Church Plano](#), an ACNA church which started as a mission in 1986 and now welcomes 2000 worshipers in six services on an average weekend. Fr Roseberry will focus on Bible teaching and church planting.

Bishop Ron Ferris explains his decision to leave the Anglican Church of Canada

In an [excellent article published by the Anglican Planet](#), ANiC’s Bishop Ron graciously responds to Dr Philip Turner’s article “Staying On” which outlines Turner’s reasons for staying in the Episcopal

Church despite the growing apostasy. Saying, "I have chosen a different path," Bishop Ron goes on to explain, *"In my opinion the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and the synods of many of its large dioceses have gone contrary to the teachings of Scripture and the Solemn Declaration and have abrogated the terms of their own constitutions... If anyone is "departing", it is those structures that are wrongfully changing teachings and disciplines contrary to the advice of all of our Instruments of Unity."*

Bishop Ron identifies the fundamental differences he has with Dr Turner: what constitutes the Church and the priority of unity or truth. He says, *"In his article Dr. Turner seems to confuse the present corporate structures with "the Church". The loyalty Anglicans hold for "the Church" is much larger than any temporary human institutional expression. In fact the ultimate loyalty of any Anglican is to God and to his One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church... Because Dr. Turner cannot find a "purer place" he seems to argue for unity at all costs. But the Reformers who began the Anglican tradition clearly believed there were truths that took precedence over unity. They even spelled them out in the 39 Articles. Anglicans of conscience will differ on when the turning point has been reached, but to argue there is no turning point goes against our very foundations... A prominent church leader wrote to me expressing the hope that I would someday return to the church that I had spent my whole life serving. My answer to him is that I am serving the same church I have always served -- the Church that the Risen Christ summons anew in each generation!"*

Parish news

St Chad's (Toronto) – Bishop Doc Loomis, of the Anglican Mission in the Americas, worshiped with the people of St Chad's on Sunday, December 13 following the ACNA's House of Bishops and Provincial Council meetings in Toronto. He encouraged "the remnant" in their witness for the Gospel by recounting the "Christian miracle" taking place in Rwanda in the wake of the horrific 1994 genocide.

Ottawa parishes – The [Anglican Gathering of Ottawa](#) (AGO) was formed half a decade ago to "build strong local biblically-faithful Anglican churches throughout the Ottawa region and beyond". Its newsletter, [AGO Fellowship Call!](#), facilitates communications between Ottawa-area projects and parishes, however the stories and experiences shared in this newsletter may encourage and bless others as well.

St George's (Ottawa) is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2010 and capping the celebrations, ANiC will hold its third synod in Ottawa November 3-6. The keynote speaker at the event will be Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, recently retired Bishop of Rochester, England.

Anglican Planet covers ANiC synod and consecration service

An [article in the December Anglican Planet](#), reporter Sue Careless provides a nice overview of the ordination and consecration of our three new bishops. She explains the need for the consecration, saying, *"Five active bishops may seem top-heavy for a church of only 4,000 members, but the next year will be one of transition. Bishop Malcolm Harding retired last June. The moderator, Bishop Don Harvey, has announced his retirement after Synod 2010. The third former ACC bishop, Ron Ferris, is focused primarily on church planting in the lower mainland of BC."*

Reporting on synod, the article states, *"...church planting was the synod's major theme. [Archbishop Bob] Duncan has challenged his Province, the Anglican Church in North America, to which ANiC belongs, to plant a thousand new churches in five years across the continent... In the past ANiC only went to a community if it was invited. Now they plan to move from passive to active mission, and advertise their presence in various cities. Eventually they hope to have an ANiC congregation "within a 20-minute drive of 90 percent of the Canadian population."*

Deadline for ordering consecration photo album extended to January 3

You can [order online](#) a beautiful photo album featuring the historic November 13 consecration service for Bishops Charlie, Stephen and Trevor. This bound book will feature 40 pages of

professional photos from the consecration service. To get a sense of the quality and appearance of the book, you can check out some [example \(proof\) pages](#) on our website. The book can be ordered in hard cover for \$60 or soft cover for \$45. (Prices include shipping and taxes.) The deadline for pre-ordering is **January 3**. We hope to have the books printed and shipped by the end of January.

Closed for Christmas; last newsletter for several weeks

The ANiC office will be closed from December 24 (Thursday) through January 3 (Sunday). The next newsletter will out in three weeks.

Calendar of upcoming events – for your interest and prayer support

Dec 24 – Jan 3 – ANiC office closed

Dec 25 – Merry Christmas!

Jan 7 – [St Aidan's Ministries](#) meeting in Chatham, ON to discuss a church plant

Jan 12 – Meeting of ANiC Examining Chaplains in Toronto

Jan 13 – Meeting of Archdeacons and Bishops in Toronto

Jan 13 – [St Aidan's Ministries](#) meeting in Belle River, ON to discuss a church plant

Jan 14 – Meeting of Bishops in Toronto

Mar 16 -18 – Annual ANiC clergy retreat at Cedar Springs (near Abbotsford, BC)

Mar 18 – [Ministry leadership seminar](#) at Heritage Seminary, Cambridge ON

Apr 7-9 – [reFocus Canada](#) – a preaching and theology conference for pastors and seminarians

ANiC in the news

Abbotsford News – Dec 16 2009 – [Letter to the editor: Resolution for all](#)

News shorts – ACNA

ACNA House of Bishops and Provincial Council meeting communiqué

Following their meeting in Toronto last week, ACNA's House of Bishops and Provincial Council [issued a communiqué](#) which:

- embraced the 1000 Churches Proclamation and committed to church planting [See below]
- welcomed a new diocese into ACNA – the Diocese of the Gulf Atlantic
- urged all ACNA clergy and laity to sign the [Manhattan Declaration](#)
- expressed support for the Church of Uganda which is unfairly embroiled in controversy due to proposed government legislation imposing harsh penalties for homosexual activity
- urged all ACNA congregations *“to make a special effort to reach out [this Christmas] with the transforming love of Jesus Christ, especially to those in their surrounding communities who face economic hardship, or other challenges that lead to their marginalization.”*

A [discussion on the Stand Firm in Faith blog](#) regarding this communiqué begins with skepticism regarding the “1000 church plants” target but then some commenters begin sharing inspiring “testimonies” of God’s blessing on ACNA church planting endeavors.

Planting 1000 ACNA churches

Archbishop Bob Duncan has challenged ACNA members to establish 1000 new churches in five years. To help achieve this challenge, an ACNA church planting movement, called Anglican 1000 Movement, has formed with [a website](#) and [a proclamation](#) – which calls for new models of ministry and the deployment of lay evangelists, catechists and missionaries. Now an Anglican 1000 church planting conference is planned for February 22-23 in Plano, TX. You can [register here](#).

Anglican Fourth Day movement announces meeting

ACNA's version of Cursillo, Anglican Fourth Day (A4D), has announced plans for a province-wide meeting in Bedford, Texas, August 12-15. Everyone is invited to the event, called an Ultreya, which will feature celebration, worship, prayer, friendship and learning. For more information on A4D and its handbook, see www.anglican4thday.com.

News shorts – Canada

Anglican Communion Alliance outlines its ministry

In [a letter sent to members](#) of the Anglican Communion Alliance (formerly Anglican Essentials Federation) and Anglican Essentials Canada, ACA Chair the Rev Canon Dr Brett Cane outlines the focus of ACA's activities: political action at the Anglican Church of Canada's General Synod, networking across Canada, and working with like-minded Anglicans in Canada and globally.

ACA outlines plans to [sponsor](#) a cross-Canada tour, May 21 – June 2, immediately prior to synod, featuring the Rev Canon George Kovoov, Principal of Trinity College in Bristol (UK) and originally from North India.

Bishop of Ottawa ordains a man in a same-sex marriage

The [Anglican Planet reports](#) that earlier this fall Bishop John Chapman ordained a man to the transitional diaconate who was known to be in a same-sex marriage.

Canadian Anglican news

Church of England Newspaper – Dec 4 2009 – [Church in Quebec is 'dying'](#)

News shorts – United States

US legal update

The [LA Times reports](#) that St Luke's (La Crescenta, California) [is appealing](#) a California court ruling to the US Supreme Court. Earlier the state Supreme Court had refused to hear their appeal. The hope that the "US Supreme Court will establish a uniform approach for state laws to follow in church property disputes."

In its [news release](#), St Luke's says its appeal is "...asking the Court to decide whether California courts violated the United States Constitution by conferring on The Episcopal Church and its Diocese in Los Angeles a special power – not available to nonreligious persons or nondenominational churches – to seize its property and take over its corporation based on its religious affiliation... Even though St. Luke's owned its property "free of any trust" for decades, and is a California nonprofit religious corporation governed by a board of directors and its members, the decision of the California courts has forced the St. Luke's congregation off their property when they exercised their religious freedom and conscience to affiliate with another branch of the Anglican church... Under longstanding law, no one can unilaterally impose a trust over someone else's property without their permission. Some California courts have ruled that certain denominations – those that claim to be a "superior religious body or general church" – can unilaterally impose a trust on the property of spiritually affiliated but separately incorporated local churches, resulting in the local church forfeiting its property if it ever chooses to leave the denomination. St. Luke's will argue before the U.S. Supreme Court that this preferential treatment for certain denominations violates the U.S. Constitution."

South Carolina church votes to realign

Despite orthodox Bishop Mark Lawrence's efforts to distance the Diocese of South Carolina from the Episcopal Church, the largest parish in the diocese [has voted](#) 93 percent to join the Anglican Church in North America. The 'straw' vote at St Andrew's (Mt Pleasant, S Carolina), which followed a 40 day discernment process, was 838 to 58. It now rests with church leadership to decide in the New Year how to proceed.

Salvation Army boycott

The [San Francisco Chronicle reports](#) that homosexual lobbyists are pushing a boycott of the Salvation Army because of that charity's stand on moral issues. The Salvation Army is the largest charity in the US and consistently provides services to those in need regardless of sexual orientation. Donations are already down nationally 8-10 per cent due to the economy and the negative publicity.

US church in the news

Fresno Bee – Dec 12 2009 – [Valley properties contested after Episcopal Church split](#)

Charleston Post and Courier – Dec 19 2009 – [Parish looks to leave](#)

World Magazine – Dec 18 2009 – [Rising from the ashes](#)

News shorts – International

Fourth “Anglican Global South to South Encounter” announced

The Global South Anglican Primates Steering Committee [has announced](#) plans for a fourth “encounter” to build on the last encounter held in Egypt in 2005. This meeting will take place in Singapore, April 19-23. Their announcement indicates that the Global South primates will proceed with affirming the Anglican Covenant and will, through their invitations to the meeting, clearly identify which other provinces and dioceses are in communion with them.

The announcement says, *“We will explore how we may relate to one another in covenantal and communion autonomy with accountability in matters of faith and order; partnerships and networks in existing and new mission fields; and mutual capacity building for increased self-reliance for greater service.*

“We aim to affirm the Anglican Covenant as the basis in intensifying the ecclesial life between churches in the Communion, and explore ways churches should stand firm side by side in one spirit and with one mind for the faith of the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ. The Steering Committee emphasised that provincial and invited participants should be unequivocally committed to uphold the spirit and intent of the 1998 Lambeth Resolution 1.10 and the proposed Anglican Covenant (full Ridley Draft). Participation will be on provincial basis.... Associate participants from non-Global South Anglican provinces/dioceses will be on an invitational basis.”

Commentary on Jerusalem Declaration now available

Forty Anglican theologians from 14 countries in Africa, Asia, the UK, the US, and Oceania, have joined forces to prepare and release a commentary on the Jerusalem Declaration. Entitled, “Being Faithful: The Shape of Historic Anglicanism Today” this commentary explores the full meaning of the declaration and how it relates to scripture, Anglican formularies and historic Anglicanism.

The Jerusalem Declaration was written and released by the 1200 Anglican leaders, bishops, clergy and lay people from 27 provinces of the Anglican Communion who had gathered in Jerusalem in June 2008 for the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCon). It is proving to be a landmark document for orthodox Anglicans and forms the basis of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans, a growing global movement of orthodox believers.

The General Secretary of the GAFCon Primates Council, Archbishop Dr Peter Jensen called the “Being Faithful” commentary *“an important study of the theology at the heart of the GAFCON/FCA movement. It is a theologically-driven movement which calls us to historic belief and the great truths of the gospel that will strengthen and grow our communion. The latest developments in the United States only heighten the need for a book such as this.”*

“Being Faithful” is available from [Amazon.ca](#) (for those in Canada) or [Amazon.com](#) (for those in the US). It serves as a resource and study-guide for churches seeking to affirm their Anglican identity.

Anglican Covenant sent to Provinces for approval

The [final text of the full, four-section Covenant](#) was sent December 18 to all Provinces in the Communion for formal approval. Following the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) debacle in May, the Section 4 of the Covenant, which deals with discipline of Churches violating the terms of the Covenant, was sent for revision to a committee appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury – a group comprised of representatives from predominately western churches and including Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori. This committee then submitted their revisions to the 15-member Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion.

In [a commentary](#) on the revised Section 4, the Standing Committee points out changes designed to allow only those Provinces currently recognized by the Anglican Consultative Council to officially sign on to the Covenant. Although it notes that any group (such as dioceses) can commit to the Covenant, such *"adoption of this covenant does not confer any right of recognition by, or membership of, the instruments of communion, which shall be decided by those instruments themselves."* Although the Instruments of Communion may invite additional Churches to adopt the Covenant, these invitations must follow the ACC's multi-year process.

The revised Covenant names the Standing Committee as the guardian of the Covenant and the arbiter of disputes and violations of its terms. It also specifies that only representatives of Provinces which have adopted the Covenant, or are in the process of adoption, can participate *"...in the decision making of the Standing Committee or of the Instruments of Communion..."*

Changes to Section 4 are [noted here](#). In [a video message](#), the Archbishop of Canterbury indicates that Provinces have three years to consider the Covenant. The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Canon Kenneth Kearon believes the Covenant is too weak to unify the Communion. [Responding](#) to the Archbishop of Canterbury's statement in the video that the Covenant is not going to be a constitution for the Communion, Bishop Rodgers says, *"We do have a constitution in the Gospel and Apostolic Faith as we Anglicans have received it, and any Communion Covenant should celebrate and confess it authoritatively, clearly and thankfully. Nothing less will do."*

Moratoria reaffirmed

In light of the recent election by the Diocese of Los Angeles of a partnered lesbian bishop, the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion [has reiterated](#) the three moratoria on same-sex blessings, active homosexual bishops, and cross-border activity and called for "gracious restraint".

Where does the Archbishop of Canterbury stand?

Charles Raven of the UK's Society for the Propagation of Reformed Evangelical Anglican Doctrine (SPREAD) [writes about](#) the vehement public attacks on the Archbishop of Canterbury by theological liberals since he signaled his disapproval of the election of a self-declared partnered lesbian as suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Los Angeles. The Rev Raven considers this hostility a tactical error on the part of the revisionists. He says, *"By running ahead and disowning their erstwhile champion, they have made it much less likely that the majority of the Communion's Primates can be brought round. They have made it plain that they are no longer interested in his tortuous process of dialogue and debate when it no longer seems to serve their purposes."*

However, Raven continues it would be an equal mistake to view the Archbishop of Canterbury's position as supportive of those holding to traditional Anglican teaching. Rather, the Archbishop's thinking is Hegelian; *"He sees truth merging as opposite ideas are held together in tension in the hope that a 'higher truth' will emerge. On this basis, it is perfectly logical that he should respect the current mind of the Communion without having to renounce his personal views. Unfortunately, this process becomes manipulative and frustrating where fundamental theological convictions, especially about Scriptural authority, are no longer held in common... The agonizingly slow progress of the Covenant process over which Rowan Williams presides is the practical outworking of his Hegelianism."*

"Applied to the struggle over sexuality in the Communion... Rowan Williams has not been given sufficient credit by his liberal critics for the way in which he has managed to institutionalise through much of the Communion a 'listening' or 'indaba' process... With patience, it is not impossible to conceive that in the long run a sufficient number of the orthodox leaders in the Communion could be sufficiently desensitized by this process to enable a widespread acceptance of homosexual practice throughout much of the Communion, especially as this would be given constant encouraging by the prevailing assumptions about sexual rights and expression in the wealthier and historically dominant provinces of the Communion."

News from around the Communion

Rwanda – [LifeSiteNews reports](#) that “*The Rwandan Parliament is now considering legislation that would amend the country's penal code to criminalize homosexual acts, and would impose prison sentences and heavy fines on individuals convicted of engaging in or promoting homosexual behavior.*” While the proposed legislation is not as harsh as that in Uganda, the Church of Rwanda may come under pressure from homosexual lobbyists as has the Church of Uganda. Canon Dr Chris Sugden, [writing in Evangelicals Now](#), discusses the attempts by liberal westerners to impose their sexual ethics on traditional African and Asian societies.

West Africa – The [Liberian Daily Observer reports](#) that the bishop of the Diocese of Liberia, in the Church of the Province of West Africa, has invited the US Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori for a weeklong visit beginning January 2.

International media coverage

Guardian – Dec 11 2009 – [Church of England issues cash call to the faithful](#)

Religious Intelligence – Dec 18 2009 – [Konunga launches Christmas offensive](#)

Church of England Newspaper – Dec 11 2009 – [Liberals are playing dirty](#)

Telegraph – Dec 16 2009 – [Just half of Britons now call themselves Christian after a 'sharp decline' in faith over the past 15 years](#)

Religious Intelligence – Dec 17 2009 – [Sudan 'on brink of civil war'](#)

Soul food

Just for fun

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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-20-2001

SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT

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Out of the mouths of babes

The minister was preparing to launch into his painstakingly prepared sermon, but as was his custom, began with prayer. “Dear Lord,” he reverently intoned, arms extended heavenward, face upturned, ‘without you, we are but dust...’ Pausing briefly for full effect, he was about to continue when a small child’s clearly audible voice filled the silence: “Mommy, what’s ‘butt dust’?”

Worth reading

In a [National Post article](#), Charles Lewis, talks about the plight of the homeless and marginalized at Christmas and how God’s Son was born also into desperate poverty. As a man, Christ became the friend of social outcasts who, like many of the marginalized today, “...had to go somewhere else for food, compassion and love. They had to find someone who would listen and not turn away in disgust. They ran into the arms of God.”

Resources

Canon Dr J I Packer is interviewed by the principle of Oak Hill College on the crucial importance of theological training. The [three-part online video](#) on the interview “*unpacks what he believes it means to be a pastoral theologian [and is] highly relevant for those answering the call to pastoral ministry today*”.

Made in God’s image, marred by sin

Homosexuality – [LifeSiteNews carries an interview](#) with Michael Glatze, a former activist and founder of a leading gay youth magazine, in which he recounts how God changed his heart and continues to change his desires – and the intense opposition he has encountered since leaving the gay lifestyle. Glatze says, “*The fury that comes from ‘gay’ people against people like me can be vicious and vile, and it can hurt... There are countless individuals who have successfully left the homosexual lifestyle, have gotten away from the habits of homosexual sin, and who have happy and healthy lives... ‘Heterosexuality is normal human sexuality, while homosexuality is a deviation. These are obvious things. What is so ground-breaking is how successful activists have been at clouding out reality... I think as the angry media continues to perpetuate the myth that homosexuality can’t be cured... I want to continue to send the message of truth in opposition to that lie, supported by the fact that I have just continued to be happier, more confident, and much, much more healthy – and much less, less ‘gay’...*”

Euthanasia – A December 12 [National Post article discusses](#) the Euthanasia bill before Parliament and clarifies misconceptions about this bill. Many support the bill mistakenly thinking it is simply about stopping medical intervention to allow a natural death – an option that already exists. However what “*...the bill proposes to do is allow active euthanasia which requires a planned and purposeful act such as a doctor giving a patient a lethal injection. In the United States lethal injection has been challenged in court as a cruel and unusual punishment for death row inmates, here in Canada we have banned the death penalty as inhumane, too fraught with mistakes. Now Parliament is considering allowing the sick to be given what we find unacceptable for criminals... Canada does need a full and frank discussion on dying with dignity but I fail to see what is dignified about dying by lethal injection at the hands of a doctor sworn promote and sustain life, not take it.*”

Abortion and maternal mortality – A [Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute report](#) citing global statistics on maternal mortality, has found that countries with the greatest legal restrictions on abortion generally have much lower maternal mortality than countries with the laxest abortion laws. This finding refutes abortion advocates’ claim that restrictive abortion laws force women to seek unsafe abortions, leading to higher maternal mortality.

Please pray...

For our **ANiC projects, church plants, parishes, bishops and rectors**. Especially pray for meeting of our bishops and leaders, January 12-14. Also pray for St Aidan’s Ministries’ church plant organizational meetings in Chatham (Jan 7) and Belle River (Jan 13).

For the **ministry of ANiC congregations** to our communities during Christmas – especially the mission planned by St John’s Richmond and the Artizo interns in the community of Richmond, BC.

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. Pray especially for the December 20 special vestry meeting of St Matthias and St Luke as they vote on this issue.
- For the **Windsor case** (involving St Aidan’s) which is being dealt with in London, Ontario.
- For all the **congregations** involved in court proceedings and disputes. Pray for peace 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.
- 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.

Praise God for the interim negotiated agreement with the Diocese of Niagara providing stability for **St George's, St Hilda's and Good Shepherd.**

And now a word from our sponsor

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice,

"Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me,

"Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 5



Merry Christmas!
May the wonder of God's great Gift fill you with joy.

