

## Pre-synod workshop summary

### Catechesis

Earlier this year, the Anglican Church in North America College of Bishops released ACNA's new catechism (for trial use) – *To Be a Christian*. (See <http://anglicanchurch.net/?/main/catechism>) ANiC members Dr J I Packer and Bronwyn Short are members of the Catechesis Task Force which produced "To Be a Christian".

*To Be a Christian* is designed to help inquirers in a post-Christian culture come to an understanding of the Christian faith, and help disciples deepen their relationship with God. Dr Packer, who had a major role in the ACNA task force, describes the purpose of *To Be a Christian* saying, "It is designed as a resource manual for the renewal of Anglican catechetical practice. It presents the essential building blocks of classic catechetical instruction: the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments (the Decalogue)."

This workshop will offer both an introduction to catechesis – what it is and why it's important – as well as practical examples of how catechesis can be applied in your parish context.

Dr Packer will introduce the concept of catechesis and explain why catechesis ought to play a central role in each local church. This will be followed by several short presentations offering practical ideas and examples of how catechesis has been applied in children's, youth, young adult and adult ministries in ANiC parishes.

### Presenter: The Rev Canon Dr J I Packer



Dr Packer is among the best known and most respected Christian theologians of our time. Originally from Britain, he moved to Canada in 1979 to become professor of systematic and historical theology at Regent College.

A prolific author, his seminal book, *Knowing God*, sums up the shared beliefs uniting Christians across denominations. He served as General Editor on the team of over 100 translators and Biblical scholars involved in the acclaimed English Standard Version translation of the Bible and led the Anglican Church in North America's Catechesis Task Force which produced ACNA's catechism, *To Be a Christian*.

Dr Packer's current activities and commitments include: Assistant Minister at St John's Vancouver and Board of Governors' Professor of Theology & Director of the Anglican Studies Program at Regent College.

Dr Packer and his wife have adult three children and live in Vancouver. He enjoys classical as well as early jazz music, railroads and the quintessentially British game of cricket.

### Additional presenters



#### Jeremy Graham

Jeremy Graham is Director of Children and Family Ministry at St John's Vancouver and has 10 years' experience in children's, youth and young adult ministry.

#### Archdeacon Dan Gifford

Dan+ is associate rector of St John's Vancouver and serves as ANiC's archdeacon for the Lower Mainland area of British Columbia.



#### The Rev Jordan Senner

Jordan+ was ordained to the priesthood in April 2014. He is curate at St John's Vancouver, serving in young adults' and men's ministry.

#### Catherine Bailey

Cathy is dean of Saint Matthew's School of Life and Ministry and has 30+ years of teaching both in BC's public schools and as an adjunct prof at UBC. She knows that Christianity is more than an academic pursuit but is practical and dynamic.

