



Anglican Network in Canada

News release

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Preparing to grow Anglican churches in BC

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Delta, BC – More than 30 frontline Anglican church planters – and “want to be” church planters – met in Delta on Thursday, September 9. The attendees were all part of the newly founded Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) and its mission partner churches and are eager to begin founding new Anglican congregations in British Columbia in the next few years.

The workshop speaker, Canon Ron McCrary of Plano Texas, is a member of *Anglican 1000*, an initiative directed at launching 1000 new Biblically-faithful Anglican churches in North America by mid-2014. The ACNA and its partner churches already have more than 50 clergy and 28 congregations in British Columbia – and more than 800 churches with a membership of over 100,000 throughout North America.

Workshop participants came from Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island and the Okanagan, many from parishes launched within the past year. Others were from communities that want to launch new churches. The thrust of the workshop was to impart the key challenges and the steps to fostering new congregations.

Participant comments included:

"This day was important to me with its focus on the Trinity, and how the many gifts among God's people may be used to plant and grow a church." – the Rev Dr Joy Vernon (Duncan, BC)

"Today has helped to articulate the clear and simple teachings of Jesus on how to do the things he taught." – the Rev Rodney May (Victoria, BC)

"New church planting is important because Canada has forgotten its story and heritage." – the Rev Ed Hird (North Vancouver, BC)

"Canadians need the renewed sense of hope that Jesus Christ brings. We are here to see how we can be part of that process." – Mr Ken Light (Kelowna, BC)

Bishop Ron Ferris, who hosted the event, observed, *"It is great to be part of a growing parish, diocese and province, where Christ is central, scripture is honoured and Christ's command to proclaim and gather takes highest priority."* Bishop Ferris, himself a church planter, recently launched a new Anglican parish in Langley, BC – the Church of the Ascension.

The [Anglican Church in North America](#) (ACNA) has been growing at a rate of three churches per week since its inception and has set itself the goal of planting 1000 new churches within five years – primarily through reaching unchurched North Americans with the life-transforming good news of Jesus Christ.

The [Anglican Network in Canada](#) (ANiC) is one of 20 dioceses in the ACNA, and comprises 38 parishes and a number of small developing congregations.

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