

NURTURING NEW LIFE



Anglican Network
in Canada

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In November 2008, the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC) launched with two bishops, two priests and two churches. By early 2014, it had grown to **72 congregations** and **181 clergy** and a Sunday attendance of around 4500.

ANiC is a founding diocese in the continent-wide Anglican Church in North America which comprises 1000 congregations and has set the audacious goal of planting an additional 1000 churches in short order. This passion for church planting is transforming us, reorienting our focus to a world in need of a Saviour and a culture desperate for Good News.

At the same time, we together with others in the ACNA are reviving and revelling in our rich Anglican heritage. ANiC members, including Dr J I Packer, have played key roles in the development of a Book of Common Prayer which is true to ancient Anglican texts in today's English and the creation of a catechism which faithfully communicates historic Church teaching for a post-Christian context.

ANiC's mission is **Building Biblically faithful Gospel sharing, Anglican churches.**

Perhaps the most exciting ANiC church plants minister to marginalized Canadians, new immigrants, visible minorities, students and young adults, and those struggling economically. Several larger churches are taking strides in developing theological education and discipleship programs and in forming future Anglican leaders. Here are a few of our stories...



IMMANUEL (VANCOUVER, BC): **Ministering to the “disconnected, disaffected and hurting”**

Immanuel Vancouver (www.immanuelchurch.ca) focuses on the city's seedy east side, commercial core, and meets in a run-down theatre. It is “a church for the disconnected, the disaffected and the hurting”. The congregation is eclectic; some are young and from the “alternative scene”, some are older and bear the physical, emotional and mental scars of years spent living on the streets, others seem more middle class.



The Rev Simon Neill, who launched Immanuel in 2008 with 12 people, has seen it grow to a regular group of 125 adults, with about 90 in church on Sunday. He says the church is “...a bunch of nutcases, but we love each other.” Of the congregation, Simon+ estimates that at least 45 per cent have a history of drug addiction, 25 per cent have serious mental health issues, only 22 per cent have a full time job, 48 per cent never attended a church before coming to Immanuel, and 20 per cent do not consider themselves Christians – yet.



Simon+ says, “We are all about transformation. We believe that if you walk with Jesus the inevitable thing is transformation. With this level of brokenness – it simply takes time. Eighteen months ago, it almost killed us – it is so brutal and thankless. But isn't that what I do to God? This is the story of God.” And lives are being radically transformed, by the power of God's Holy Spirit.

But don't call Immanuel a church with a ministry to the poor. Rather, says Simon+ “we are the poor... [we are a] community of people that recognize our poverty together and recognize the richness in each other...”



THE TABLE (VICTORIA, BC): **Confronting a cynical culture hungry for the Bread of Life**

The Table Church in Victoria, BC (www.tablechurch.ca) is a “non-traditional” church plant which is committed to the health of its city. The people it ministers to – primarily unchurched youth, single parents and young couples – tend to be in transition and with little disposable income.



Jim and Camden are typical of those whose lives have been turned upside down. Although they were militantly agnostic, they kept coming to The Table, engaging with the teaching and worship and being drawn into the community. Over a period of two years God transformed their hearts and minds and they came to faith in Christ.



The Table church planters, the Revs Josh Wilton and Andy Withrow, find that the best way to connect is to follow Jesus' example of eating with people. Since launching in 2010, The Table has grown to an average of 120 at its large group – “Big Table” – bi-weekly Sunday Eucharistic services. On alternative Sundays the congregation meets as community tables which offer a safe place for open, honest conversation and developing authentic friendships. One community group is poised to become another Big Table, and will grow its own community tables.

Josh+ and Andy+ liken The Table to a pomegranate with its many clusters. Another one of these clusters is an outreach ministry called “Table Conversations”; it builds relationships and community through substantive conversations that gently but relentlessly challenge cultural norms and prevailing worldviews. The group has grown significantly in its first year and tends to attract middle-aged, divorced atheists. One regular, a pagan priestess, said that in this gathering she “experienced grace for the first time”.

Another ministry called Marketplace Gathering serves downtown Victoria's business and government professionals through biweekly Tuesday lunch-time forums held in ANiC's Church of Our Lord's historic downtown facility. Most regulars are Christians who find the group to be a safe place to wrestle with issues related to the intersection of faith and the marketplace.



CHURCH OF OUR LORD (VICTORIA, BC): **Building unity based on Truth**

Church of Our Lord, or COOL (churchofourlord.org), has a long and venerable history dating back to 1874. Until October 2012 the congregation was a member of the Reformed Episcopal Church – also a diocese in the Anglican Church in North America. The Reformed Episcopal churches had left the Anglican Church of Canada (ACoC) and the US Episcopal Church in the late 1800s. Now this healthy congregation in the heart of Victoria has merged with a healthy ANiC congregation which walked away from the ACoC and its long-time building in 2008. The merged church retained the COOL name and came under the ANiC banner.

Together the people of Church of Our Lord are focused on ministering to the community. One ministry known as Living Edge is forming into a church with a big heart for serving its community.



LIVING EDGE (VICTORIA, BC): **Nourishing body, soul and spirit**

Living Edge (www.livingedgecommunity.com) is another non-traditional church which cares for its low income community by offering bread and the Bread of Life. Two mornings each week, Living Edge volunteers prepare bags of groceries for up to 500 area residents – a total of 35,000 bags in 2013. Sunday worship services at 4:30pm feature great music and the clear application of God's Word to daily life. Then a hot plated meal is served for 200 to 300. In 2013, 14,500 meals were served. Various weekly gatherings build relationships, provide support for those in crisis, care for families, and engage children and youth.



ST GEORGE'S (BURLINGTON, ON): **Building on a firm foundation**

St George's (www.stgeorgesonline.com) was among the first congregations to join ANiC. When they lost their long-time building, the congregation like most ANiC churches rented facilities. But St George's temporary home was unique. Crossroads Communications, the Christian media organization which produces 100 Huntley Street aired across Canada, offered its chapel and other facilities for St George's ministry. The partnership has been wonderful. But in February 2014, God enabled St George's to break ground on a building of its own – which is expected to be completed in December 2014.



ST LUKE'S (PEMBROKE, ON): **Catering to the community**

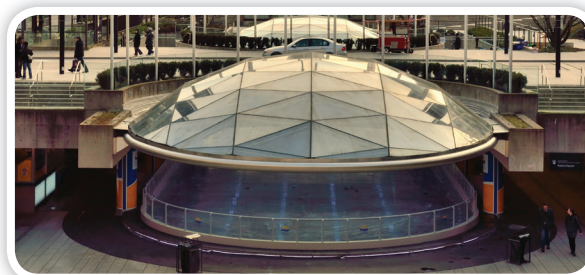


St Luke's formed at the end of 2008 and, within a year, the congregation was able to purchase and transform an old catering hall into a lovely church building. God has blessed St Luke's with both spiritual growth and numerical growth. Like most ANiC congregations they have been deeply blessed by the tremendous support they received along the way from Christians in other denominations. They are active in community events and ministries to those in need, run well-attended Alpha programs, and offer an annual Vacation Bible School that reaches about 40 children with the Gospel. Recently several people accepted Christ as their Saviour and Lord.



ST PETER'S FIRESIDE (VANCOUVER, BC): **Staking Christ's claim in the heart of the city**

St Peter's Fireside (www.stpetersfireside.org) seeks to be a place where Christ meets us in our failure and where His love overcomes our betrayal. This new church, sponsored by St John's Vancouver, held three "preview" services from May to September before starting weekly Sunday services in November 2013; these attracted between 140 and 215 people. This worshipping community attracts a younger, often unchurched crowd – offering the Good News of Jesus to a jaded people and the rootedness of Anglicanism to those adrift.





FAITH ANGLICAN CHURCH (EMBRUN, ON): **Blooming where you're planted**

For the past three years, Faith has rented facilities in a local school and grown strong relationships with the school board. Desiring to reach families in the neighbourhood, they decided to reach out to the youth first by involving them in the production of a Christmas play. The first year saw 18 children involved and about 80 turn out for the performance. This led to a Friday night youth group forming with almost every member of the congregation involved.

Soon another Christmas production was in the works and this time the addition of a "Coffee Corner" allowed parents of the young performers to visit with church members while enjoying refreshments. This time the performance was a dinner theatre and 103 people were served and entertained. Members of Faith are enthused by the youth outreach and confident that God will grow His kingdom through the relationships they are building with the children and their families.



SAINT MATTHEW'S (ABBOTSFORD, BC): **Proclaiming 'ancient faith for today's world'**

The people of Saint Matthew's (www.saintmatthewsanglican-church.com) feel they are a blessed community. When they had to leave their building, a nearby congregation opened its doors and has been sharing its ample facilities ever since. In early 2012, the church took advantage of the classroom space and launched Saint Matthew's School of Life and Ministry (www.smlm.ca) with the goal of 'Making mature disciples of Jesus Christ who in turn can make disciples'. The courses, workshops and seminars have been eagerly received by both parishioners and community members.



In 2013 Saint Matthew's worked through a parish planning process – a process which will now be rolled out to all ANiC parishes. The process sharpened Saint Matthew's vision and is now shaping its ministry. Noticing that many newcomers were in the 20-30 age group, the church is developing a ministry for young adults, as well as exploring the possibility of holding Anglican services at two nearby universities, Trinity Western University and the University of the Fraser Valley.



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ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION (LANGLEY, BC): **Following where God leads**

The Anglican Church of the Ascension in Langley launched in the fall of 2009. Bishop Ron and Jan Ferris, newly retired from their previous ministry, were led by God to plant an ANiC church in Langley, BC. They were thrilled to connect with a Bible study group in that community which had been asking God to raise up a Biblically faithful Anglican church. God had prepared the way. The strong response enabled the church to launch surprisingly quickly.

The congregation is engaged in Bible study and discipleship programs, mission projects locally and overseas, and outreach to the community. Encouraging the next generation of leaders is a priority, so Ascension has engaged interns, theological students and a curate, helping to form these young people for future ministry. Already three have been ordained.





RESURRECTION ANGLICAN CHURCH (KELOWNA, BC): **Standing in awe at God's work**

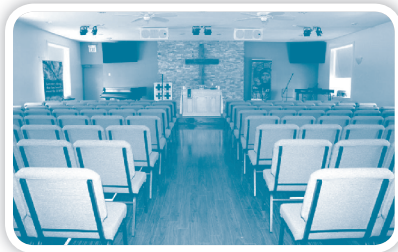
In September 2012, after a year of prayer and planning, a core group of eight middle-aged, reformed, evangelical Anglicans launched Resurrection Anglican Church. Eighteen months later, they stand in humble amazement at God's work in their midst. Resurrection Anglican has 75 committed parishioners, with the majority under 40 years old. God has blessed the church with young singles, couples and families and a busy children's ministry. Most amazing to them, is the full and growing pew of university students. Of the 48 people attending their first Saturday night "outreach" Evensong, a large majority were in their early 20s!



In April 2014, Resurrection's two deacons were ordained priests, a third parishioner is on the ordination track, and a retired evangelical pastor is seeking ordination as an Anglican priest. Most importantly, the people of Resurrection rejoice that the presence of the Living God is being experienced by those entering into worship with them. Recently a university student commented that she had never attended an Anglican Church before but she is now a regular because "the people at this church really love each other."



NEW SONG ANGLICAN CHURCH (PORT PERRY, ON): **A painful and marvel-filled journey**



New Song's (www.newsongportperry.ca) journey of leaving an established denomination and planting a new ANiC congregation has been, in the words of the rector's wife, "painful and marvel-filled". It has grown from a small group of faithful travellers and risk-takers – meeting in a sun-lit living room and ostracized by those with whom they once shared a pew – to a growing congregation. In 2013, they acquired, renovated and moved into a former Odd Fellows Hall in a part of town where there is no other church. In the near future, New Song will open a Christian art gallery in its facilities.

A young adult who lives in a distant city and is struggling spiritually, writes, "Each time I come to New Song, I feel like I'm truly watching God's work. Often times, the world feels like a cold and indifferent place... New Song, to me, is solace from that. It is a place of acceptance, a place to lay my burdens down with utter confidence. It is a place of love and light."



HOLY TRINITY (MARLBOROUGH, MA): **Breathes new life into old structures**

In April 2014, Holy Trinity finalized the purchase of a church building which had been vacant since 2004. The congregation had been renting space in a Methodist church, but two years ago opened a second ministry location in a chapel just across the street from the church building it has now acquired.

The local newspaper reported that, "In addition to the 72,000 square foot church building, Holy Trinity is buying the two-floor Community Outreach Center next door, along with an administration building and a huge parking lot."

The report continued, "Members of the parish envision offering free and low cost meals to people in need, creating a place for youth activities, offering emergency shelter for battered women and children, and offering the building in other ways to serve the city."

While the congregation is excited about the new ministry possibilities, they are taking a leap of faith financially. In addition to the mortgage, the cost of bringing the buildings up to full operational potential is estimated at \$200,000 to \$300,000. Thank God, volunteers from the church and the community are coming forward to assist with the renovations.

MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES

The Anglican Network in Canada is deeply committed to mission and ministry at home and overseas. A few of these ministries are...

ANGLICAN RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND CANADA (ARDFC)



The Anglican Relief and Development Fund Canada (www.ardfc.ca) is ANiC's global aid agency and the Canadian relief and development arm of our province, the Anglican Church in North America. ARDFC is focused on "restoring health, hope and dignity in Jesus' name". It undertakes fundraising for well researched development projects selected and approved by a council of Global South Primates and implemented through Global South Anglican dioceses. ARDFC's 2014 project is to raise funds to build a new pediatric ward for a clinic in Yei, South Sudan. In a country where infant mortality is well above 10%, this new medical facility will allow the well-trained staff to save thousands of young lives.

PARTNERING WITH CUBAN ANGLICAN CHURCH PLANTS

A growing number of ANiC churches are forming partnerships with Anglican congregations in Cuba planted by Bishop Charles and Claudia Dorrington of the Reformed Episcopal Church. The ANiC partner commits to support the Cuban pastor and, eventually, help the fledgling church become self-sufficient.

ANGLICANS FOR LIFE CANADA

An ANiC priest recently launched the Canadian branch of Anglicans for Life. Anglicans for Life Canada organizes conferences, encourages Anglicans to participate in the annual March for Life, builds awareness and promotes action in the face of the growing culture of death that grips our nation.



ASIAN AND MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES IN CANADA (AMMiC)



The Asian & Multicultural Ministries in Canada is a ministry to new immigrants and visible minorities, evangelizing, planting churches and offering friendship and support. AMMiC seeks to ground and nurture the multicultural and Asian-Canadian Christian communities in the Biblical faith as they face the challenges posed by western secularism and post-modernism and wrestle with the meaning and significance of their cultural heritage.

By early 2014, AMMiC included Cantonese congregations in Calgary, Richmond and Vancouver; South Asian congregations in Calgary and Toronto; a Filipino congregation in Edmonton; a Japanese church in Vancouver; a Sudanese congregation in Surrey, BC; a Mandarin ministry in Vancouver; and a multicultural ministry primarily to university students, in the heart of Toronto. More congregations are forming.

GLOBAL AND LOCAL MISSIONS

Most ANiC churches have deeply established commitments to various mission projects. A few examples will convey the depth and diversity of these commitments.

GOOD SAMARITAN (ST JOHN'S, NL)

This parish is passionate about supporting the work of Arms of Jesus Children's Ministry in Parramos, Guatemala – which includes an elementary school, a trade school and a medical clinic. Members of the congregation have sponsored scores of children and made several visits, each time bringing hundreds of pounds of supplies, tackling work projects to better the facilities, and lavishing love on the children.



ST JOHN'S (VANCOUVER, BC)

St John's has a well-established, fruitful partnership with the Diocese of Upper Shire, Malawi. A number of exchange visits and mission trips have furthered this partnership over the past decade. A more recent relationship is with Helping Point which ministers to Dalit children in India and plants churches. 35 ministries – both individuals and organizations – are supported by St John's annual missions budget. St John's has also planted a number of Vancouver-area churches, but perhaps its greatest impact has resulted from its commitment to training young men and women for full-time ministry by providing hands-on experience and mentorship.

GOOD SHEPHERD (VANCOUVER, BC)

Located in the shadow of Vancouver's city hall, Good Shepherd is deeply missions-minded, sending mission teams to assist in an orphanage for abandoned disabled children in China and to encourage Anglican ministries among Karen refugees housed in United Nations camps located in the border region of Thailand. The congregation has also been a powerhouse of church planting activity in North America. It formed [Asian and Multicultural Ministries in Canada \(AMMiC\)](#) to oversee these forming congregations which now spread from Toronto to Vancouver.

One particularly unique ministry is the [Taste of Life Fellowship](#), an outreach to Cantonese-speaking restaurant workers in Richmond, BC. To accommodate their shift schedules, the fellowship meets at 10pm and often goes past midnight. To date ten people have been baptized and 12 confirmed – and lives have been transformed. Eric, a top chef, had been known for his quick temper. At his baptism, in front of a crowd of 70, Eric apologized to his wife and son for his angry outbursts. A Chinese father humbling himself to ask his son's forgiveness is almost unheard of in the Chinese culture – but is evidence of the profound transforming work of the Gospel.

