

## Daily Report

June 7, 2010

Monday's plenary session recognized the presence of Bishop Mark MacDonald, for the first time as a full member of General Synod.

Canon Nick Brotherhood of the Diocese of Montreal presented Fresh Expressions, a program of innovative approaches to worship and evangelism in response to change. Changing cultures, relationships, and Sunday practices means the church has to find new ways of doing her job. He talked about religion versus spirituality, engaging people who know nothing about faith, and the increasing numbers of spiritual seekers. Fresh Expressions can include taking the church to pubs or other non-church buildings, and holding "messy church" for children and families. A cross-Canada program will begin in September in several centres, connected by video- or tele-conferencing. Information and a free downloadable video are available at [www.freshexpressions.ca](http://www.freshexpressions.ca). Fresh Expressions is also represented at the Trinity-Wycliffe booth in the display area.

Rev Canon Kenneth Kearon, the secretary-general of the Anglican Communion, visited General Synod to listen to what the Anglican Church of Canada is doing. One of the issues on his agenda as general secretary is the establishment of the Anglican Relief and Development

Alliance to help coordinate the work of Anglican agencies like the PWRDF and its counterparts in other countries, in order to maximize their efforts. He is also involved in the Communion's Evangelism and Church Growth Initiative; and in The Bible

in the Life of the Church project, a study which will lead to educational resources and insights, Canon Kearon said.

Another project aims to develop networks on issues such as environment, women, family, justice and peace, and micro health insurance options in impoverished nations. Canon Kearon acknowledged the tensions within the Anglican Communion and cautioned that disagreement among Christians damages the church's mission. He stated that he would not interfere with the Canadian church's process.

Bishops Linda Nicholls of Toronto Diocese and Michael Ingham of New Westminster put forward a resolution to change the Primate's role from one of administration and management to one of ministry. It was carried.

"No debate" resolutions were passed to amend constitutional wording to reflect earlier resolutions, and to permit the transmission of information without having to print it. Synod resolved to add one Lutheran and two indigenous representatives to Council of General Synod; study a suggestion to halt Anglican clergy from solemnizing matrimony; and study liturgical revision principles. Another resolution made General Synod members of the Missionary Society; and allowed general Synod to adapt to upcoming federal legislation regarding not for profit corporations. Chancellor Ron Stevenson was thanked for his involvement in amending the legislative proposals so General Synod probably won't have to meet every year.

Other resolutions formed a commission on ordained ministry formation; acknowledged the work of the dioceses meeting with African churches on sexuality issues; revised the mandate for Partners in Mission and Eco-justice; called on the Canadian government to address housing and poverty; asked the country to support nuclear disarmament; and established a Youth Secretariat.

Two debatable resolutions also passed. One called for developing closer ties with the Diocese of Jerusalem; and the other reduced the size of the Partners in Mission and Eco-

justice committee to 11: six elected and five appointed by the Primate. One will be a youth and the other an indigenous person.

PWRDF gave a presentation on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, calling for parishes to sponsor refugees to arrive at the commitment of 50; and outlining youth opportunities through the agency's leadership initiatives. See [www.JustGenerations.ca](http://www.JustGenerations.ca)

An informal lunch meeting with Bishop Dawani and his wife Shafeeqa was well-attended.

Discussions on human sexuality discernment took place at 15 sites during the afternoon, followed by Ports of Call, and diocesan caucuses.

After much discussion and a few lost amendments, Synod passed the first reading of a resolution to change how the numbers of diocesan representatives are calculated, to base it on Easter services attendance instead of on the number of licensed clergy. The method would guarantee a minimum of six representatives per diocese. The resolution will be discussed and statistics collected over the next three years, with the second reading at general Synod in 2013. A different version of the resolution was defeated Friday, when Synod agreed to revisit it Monday.

Five more resolutions passed, all dealing with pension and related issues, to make regulations comply with legislation. More information is available at the pension plan display.

Suzanne Rumsey will leave the Tower at 8:30 a.m Wednesday for her Tour de PWRDF. Donations and cheering are welcome and encouraged.

The prayer chapel is in Loyola seminar room 159, off the corridor opposite Tim's.

The Silent Night project, similar to the successful 2008 Amazing Grace project, was launched. Videos should be sent to Church

House by Dec. 14, and participants are asked to contribute \$2 toward a fund to support the position of Bishop Ordinary to the armed forces. More info at [www.anglican.ca/silentnight](http://www.anglican.ca/silentnight) .

Transportation information for members leaving Synod is posted in Loyola foyer and with the Local Arrangements Committee.

A juggling competition is scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday in the display area. T-shirts commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BAS are sold in the display area.

Monday's session closed with the Service of Light.