

Welcome...

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1. News Digest

Department of Philanthropy celebrates productive first year

In the single year since his appointment as executive director of philanthropy, Dr. Holland Hendrix has criss-crossed Canada, met many Anglicans, and laid a solid groundwork for new fundraising initiatives at parish, diocesan, and national levels. Also hard at work are a team of seven staff in the Department of Philanthropy, who are supporting the long-term plan to achieve sustained financial equilibrium for the whole church.

Here are some highlights from this first year of work:

Partnerships with dioceses

The Department of Philanthropy supports the financial health of the whole church—not just the national office. It works closely with parishes and dioceses and helps them set up plans to increase fundraising capacity in their particular contexts.

The department offers dioceses and parishes several kinds of services and support. As Mr. Hendrix explains, “We’re helping them develop their strategic plans, their resource development plans, and in a couple of places we inaugurated annual funds.”

At the outset, the department already had four official, fruitful partnerships with dioceses through the Letting Down the Nets initiative. Over the past year it has forged 13 more.

At the last House of Bishops meeting, several bishops spontaneously gave positive testimonies about the Department of Philanthropy and urged their colleagues to start their own partnerships with the department.

This was very encouraging to Mr. Hendrix, who received handfuls of business cards after this presentation. “What I think we’ve managed to do is really rebuild a spirit of trust and mutual support with the dioceses we’re working with,” he said.

Bequest identification process

One cooperative project between the department and dioceses is a national bequest identification initiative, which will ask people to identify if they are giving to Anglican entities (General Synod, the Anglican Foundation, parishes etc.) in their wills. Over the next two years, most Canadian Anglicans will receive a joint letter from the Primate and their diocesan bishop requesting this information.

The initiative will be useful in anticipating future funds, but it will also encourage the church. “I’m hoping is that this will boost the morale of the

church nation-wide,” said Mr. Hendrix. “I think if people see that there are significant resources committed to the church in the long term then that would help people feel good about what they’re doing and good about the future.”

Canadian Anglicans are already very generous in their bequests. Many name their parishes, dioceses, the national church, or other Anglican entities in their wills.

Within the past year and a half, two major bequests of over \$1 million each have helped General Synod preserve programs during times of declining revenues. Archdeacon John Robertson, national gift planning officer, laid foundations for these bequests through personal visits and education about the creative ways people can give in their wills. In fact, one of these bequests was a result of a gift planning seminar Mr. Robertson gave over 20 years ago.

“Our planned giving program continues to be an extremely successful part of our work,” said Mr. Hendrix, “Even though it’s long term and often very understated, it has a huge impact on the quality of our life and work as a national church.”

Major gifts program

The Department of Philanthropy is pioneering a major gifts program as an important new revenue stream for the church. One of Mr. Hendrix’s first projects once he arrived at General Synod was to form a Council of Advice, a volunteer group of what he calls “arguably the best Canadian Anglican fundraisers alive.” This council has been acting as a national major gifts committee, researching and soliciting major gifts (of over \$50,000) from selected individuals.

The council’s work is already paying off. By the end of this fiscal year they will have made six to eight gift solicitations. Several major gifts have already come in this year, but often the details are not made public because donors wish to remain anonymous.

Working with donors is a long-term relationship-building process. The Department of Philanthropy often helps donors decide how to can support the ministries they’re passionate about, whether it’s overseas partnerships or Indigenous leadership. Often the donor wants to contribute to several areas at once, so discerning these donations can be a cooperative process between the parish priest, the bishop, and a national representative.

The Council of Advice has jump-started the church’s major gift program, but there’s much work to be done. “I don’t want to raise false expectations,” said Mr. Hendrix. “Raising money through major gifts takes time.” Currently Canon Geoff Jackson is the only senior development officer at General Synod, and Mr. Hendrix hopes that eventually this work will fund the creation of another gifts officer position.

Looking ahead

The Department of Philanthropy has been blessed with many successes this year, and will work to enhance these projects and develop others, including a coordinated national fundraising initiative. Mr. Hendrix says that one of the things that keeps them energized is the “fresh wind” that he sees blowing through the church.

“The National Indigenous Anglican Bishop calls it a spiritual movement that I think is being generated, and stirred up mostly among Indigenous peoples,” he explained. “It’s bringing some changes, and the changes are going to be scary, but I think in the long run, they’re going to be transformative for the Canadian Anglican church and I feel that palpably. The Department of Philanthropy is doing everything it can to facilitate that spirit’s manifestation.”

For more information about the department and their services, email Michelle Frost, executive assistant, Department of Philanthropy, at mfrost@national.anglican.ca

Gathering to tackle national expectations for theological education

If two women—one in Yellowknife, one in Regina—hear the call to be priests in the Anglican Church of Canada, the steps they will take to become ordained are quite different. Although both will wear collars and be “the Rev.” in the end, their assessment and education will depend on their diocese’s unique program, which could range from an informal mentoring relationship to specific course requirements.

A national conference—to be held January 5 to 7, 2010, in Montreal, Que.—will examine this diversity. Representatives from theological colleges and dioceses, students, and pastors will explore differences and discuss what should be core and common in preparing people for presbyteral (priestly) ministry in the Anglican Church of Canada.

People may be surprised to learn that there are minimal national standards for such preparation, said Dr. Eileen Scully, General Synod’s coordinator for ministry and worship, and conference staff support. All that exists is a 1986 document called “Prerequisites for Ordination” from the House of Bishops and the Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination (ACPO), which assesses candidates in discernment weekends, then offers non-binding recommendations to their bishops.

National standards have certainly been tackled before. In 1999 a task force on theological education was set up to develop a core curriculum for all Anglican institutions. Many theological colleges challenged this work, saying that the national church was setting a narrow standard for a variety of contexts. The resulting Bays Report (2001) reflected these concerns and recommended that, in pursuing national norms, the church should be more aware of non-traditional theological institutions, including Aboriginal schools.

In 2006, the topic again came to the fore when the House of Bishops and the Council of General Synod asked the Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee (FWMC) to convene a national gathering on theological education.

Remembering the Bays Report recommendations, FWMC refined the mandate and assembled a lively and diverse team, chaired by Bishop John Chapman. The group prepared a report on the current state of theological education and planned a working meeting on the subject.

Approximately 80 people will come together in January for this intense gathering. All Anglican institutions will be represented—from the Dr. William Winter School of Ministry in northern Ontario, to the Atlantic School of Theol-

ogy in downtown Halifax. Stakeholders from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada will also attend, as will many bishops. (The spring House of Bishops meeting was moved so they could convene immediately after this.)

“By the end of the meeting we hope to have a very honest and clear set of proposals for the church,” said Ms. Scully. FWMC will meet three weeks afterwards and she expects they will refine related resolutions for the next national meeting, General Synod 2010.

Ms. Scully thinks the time is ripe to set up national expectations; but it’s more than just establishing a “cookie-cutter” model. “There’s a sense of wanting to have some assurances that the training has been solid and that someone does not become ordained to the priesthood without being properly formed,” she said. “It’s not just spiritual formation and vocational formation. There also needs to be a deeper formation and intellectual, educational training in Anglicanism, reading scripture, and other subjects.”

Ms. Scully also anticipates that the meeting will draw out creative solutions. The report, to be issued to participants soon, floats a number of best practices and unique ideas for theological education, including a “travelling roadshow” of professors who can travel to more remote institutions, and more education bursaries from the Anglican Foundation.

Furthermore, Ms. Scully is energized by the stories of formation that she’s hearing from across Canada. She notes that the upcoming report reflects a “missional” church, one that is outward-focused and innovative. She also said she is hearing amazing stories of non-traditional Aboriginal schools doing “their own creative unpacking of Anglican Christianity” and making it into “something authentic in their own Indigenous contexts.”

She is hopeful that, after several years of work on this subject, the January 2010 meeting will harness the energy into tangible results.

“I’m excited about this conversation and getting people in the same room together,” she said. “The orientation is all towards discerning the best way to be equipping, forming, and assessing candidates for the future of ordained ministries in the Anglican Church of Canada.”

For more information on the gathering, email Dr. Eileen Scully, coordinator for ministry and worship, at escully@national.anglican.ca.

Top Canadian ecumenist heads to Anglican Communion

Just five months ago, the Rev. Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan, General Synod’s director of Faith, Worship, and Ministry was considering a major life and ministry change. “I was taking a sabbatical, thinking, ‘maybe it’s time to leave and take a quiet parish. Or maybe take an early retirement, and put my feet up,’” she said in a recent interview.

But while travelling in New Zealand, the renowned ecumenist learned that she had been appointed director for Unity, Faith, and Order for the Anglican Communion. She will begin the London-based job on November 9.

“I’m thinking about it as an adventure,” she said with a smile. “It does feel like this is rooted in vocation.”

This “adventure” will take her to London for one of the Anglican Communion’s top jobs. Canon Barnett-Cowan will oversee ecumenical relations between the Communion and other global bodies. She will staff specific dialogues and help translate their recommendations back into Communion policy. As well, Canon Barnett-Cowan will oversee the process for the Anglican Covenant, which, if accepted, will describe relations between provinces of the Communion.

Canon Barnett-Cowan is up for the challenge. After all, she’s been building community amidst difference for a long time.

An ecumenist early on

Canon Barnett-Cowan first caught the ecumenism bug as a student in the sixties. “There was all kinds of ecumenical ferment going on after Vatican II and when I was at University of Toronto, the [interdenominational] Toronto School of Theology (TST) was being built,” she said. “There was a lot of interest in going to each other’s places [of worship] because the doors were open and we’d discovered so many interesting things about each other.”

The daughter of an Old Testament professor, Canon Barnett-Cowan went to seminary to study theology—not to become a priest. Women’s ordination was hotly debated at the time, and she found herself defending it on theological grounds. Eventually she discerned her own calling and was ordained a deacon in 1975.

It was one of her own professors—Canon Eugene Fairweather, an Anglican observer at the Vatican Council—who decided to appoint the young Barnett-Cowan to an Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue in 1977. Although she said the experience initially was “terrifying,” it also whet her appetite for this kind of theological engagement.

For several years, however, ecumenical work was put on the backburner. Canon Barnett-Cowan got married, had children, and having been ordained a priest in 1978, ministered in several northern communities. She served the Naskapi people in Quebec, then shared the leadership of a Cree theological college (the Henry Budd College for Ministry) in the Pas, Man.

In 1987, Canon Barnett-Cowan got a call from General Synod’s ecumenical officer, the Rev. Canon Brian Prideaux, asking if she would assist in an Anglican-Lutheran consultation. Although her bishop did not seem enthusiastic about the offer, she felt it was “a really exciting opportunity.” This work led to another opportunity—to take over Prideaux’s position in 1990—which she happily accepted.

A career of conversations

Once at General Synod in Toronto, Canon Barnett-Cowan established herself as a knowledgeable and articulate leader. In 1995, she became director of Faith, Worship, and Ministry, where she oversaw work on Canadian liturgy, ethics, and interfaith relations.

She also immersed herself in ecumenical conversations, helping churches discuss their differences and find common ground. Canon Barnett-Cowan staffed several Canadian dialogues (with the Roman Catholic Church, United Church, and others) and was summoned to several international ones, including membership on the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith,

and Order (IASCUFO), and as a consultant to the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission. Involvement in these international bodies has exposed her to Christian life in the Seychelles, Japan, South Africa, and beyond.

Canon Barnett-Cowan names the Canadian Anglican-Lutheran dialogue as one of the ecumenical highlights of her life and career. The joint conversation first budded in the 1990s and then blossomed in 2001 with a declaration of Full Communion between the Anglican Church in Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). This new relationship means that baptisms are mutually recognized and clergy permitted to officiate in churches of the other denomination.

“When you actually find a common point and celebrate it together, it’s just wonderful,” said Canon Barnett-Cowan. “I hope there will be more of that.” It is fitting that her last Canadian assignment will be at a joint meeting with Anglican and Lutheran bishops from Nov. 2 to 5.

Between these mountaintop moments, she finds satisfaction in building community.

“When you’re in a dialogue, there’s something wonderful that happens,” she said. “You get people who are very different from one another but who begin to catch a sense of what a common goal might be. Of course there’s a lot of sitting in meetings, but there’s a lot of prayer, and eating, and going out on outings and just common life that builds friendships.”

“That’s what I hope will happen in the Anglican Communion as well,” she added. “When people meet and pray with each other that they find that there’s something greater than their differences.”

Differences in the Communion are daunting at present, and Canon Barnett-Cowan may face challenges as an ordained woman from the Anglican Church of Canada, a province which has faced Communion criticism for its recent actions around same-sex blessings.

“I’m hoping there’s going to be some gifts of the spirit to get me through the tough times,” she says with another grin.

Canon Barnett-Cowan is married to the Rev. Bruce Barnett-Cowan, a priest in the Diocese of Toronto. Together they have three grown children—Michael, Catherine, and Francesca—and one granddaughter, Quinn.

Would you like to share a memory or a word of congratulations? Post your comments at bit.ly/gs091002

2. Calendar

Nov. 2-5 The House of Bishops meets in Niagara Falls, Ont.

November 5-7 The General Synod Worship Committee meets in Halifax, N.S.

Nov. 13-15 The Council of General Synod meets in Mississauga, Ont.

Nov. 25 The Ecumenical Working Group on Residential Schools meets in Toronto, Ont.

Nov. 27-29 The Healing Response Committee meets in Saskatoon, Sask.

Upcoming: Jan. 5-7 National Gathering on Theological Education for Presbyterian Ministry, Montreal, Que.

3. News from Church House

Communications and Information Resources

***MinistryMatters*: new writing and new opportunities**

Each week fresh columns are posted on www.ministrymatters.ca, the online magazine for Canadian Anglican leaders. New pieces include:

- A profile of a radical AIDS ministry by Dr. Stephen Martin
- A rapping minister's manifesto by the Rev. Kyle Wagner
- A thank you letter to small churches by the Rev. Canon Megan Collings-Moore

MinistryMatters is also on the lookout for aspiring videographers. Each issue features a short video profile of a Canadian Anglican ministry, from creative choir groups to "messy church" programs. If you're interested in making a video of your church life, send an email to ministrymatters@national.anglican.ca. There's even a portable, powerful camera that can be lent to you. So get in touch!

Partnerships

Climate Day has come and gone but the challenge of climate change continues

As children of God we are called to care for the creation of which we are a part. The world prepares to negotiate a new climate change treaty in Copenhagen this December. How can you stay involved? Sign the KyotoPlus petition and the Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change. Get involved in what the church is doing to be caretakers of creation.

For resources, visit www.kairoscanada.org, www.350.org, or contact sstratton@kairoscanada.org

Sign the KyotoPlus petition:

www.kairoscanada.org/en/get-involved/campaign/kyotoplus-petition

Sign the International Declaration on Climate Action:

www.interfaithdeclaration.org

Coming soon: Equipping Ambassadors of Reconciliation conference

This ecumenical event, to be held November 19-21 at Geneva Park, Orillia, aims to equip local leaders to engage their churches and communities in a positive response to the legacy of Indian Residential Schools. Its goals are to provide training and resources to diocesan educators/trainers.

Anglican participation is being recruited from dioceses in Ontario and Quebec (with the exception of Keewatin, to be included in a later conference in Winnipeg). The United and Presbyterian churches are also recruiting participants in Ontario and Quebec. Some spaces are being reserved for participants from other denominations.

For more information email Esther Wesley, coordinator of the Anglican Fund for Healing and Reconciliation at ewesley@national.anglican.ca, or the Rev. Canon Maylanne Maybee, ecojustice coordinator, at mmaybee@national.anglican.ca.

Faith, Worship, and Ministry

Interim director appointed

Dr. Eileen Scully has been appointed interim director of Faith, Worship, and Ministry following the appointment of the Rev. Canon Alyson Barnett Cowan as director of Unity, Faith, and Order for the Anglican Communion.

Ms. Scully serves as General Synod's coordinator for ministry and worship and is a member of the Anglican Communion's Covenant Design Group, which is working on a document that will define relationships between the communion's provinces.

Indigenous Ministries

Donna Bomberry elected secretary general of Anglican Indigenous Network

In October, General Synod's Indigenous ministries coordinator, Donna Bomberry, was elected secretary general of the Anglican Communion's Anglican Indigenous Network (AIN).

Ms. Bomberry, a member of the Cayuga Nation of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy, has served at General Synod in various capacities since 1994. She will continue as Indigenous Ministries coordinator

4. Continuing Education

Recommended Continuing Education Opportunities

Network of Biblical Storytellers International (Canada), in Thornhill, Ont. has published information on the 2010 Festival Gathering. This is a joint event with the Network of Biblical Storytellers International (USA) and will be held in Asheville, North Carolina from August 11 to 14, 2010. For more information, visit www.nobs.org

Natural Church Development Canada in Port Hope, Ont. offers seminars and training programs on church growth. To review its continuing education opportunities, visit www.ncdcanada.com

Regent College, in Vancouver, B.C., has published its 2010 summer program. To read about the various courses planned, visit www.regent-college.edu

Loyola House Retreat and Spirituality Centre, Guelph, Ont., offers many opportunities for retreats and training as a spiritual director. To review the 2009/2010 programs, visit www.loyolahouse.ca

CEP Online (cep.anglican.ca) is the Continuing Education Plan website to assist clergy and laity of the Anglican Church of Canada with continuing education for effective ministry. The website includes information on over 500 websites in Canada, the USA and overseas, and a variety of courses and other educational opportunities.

5. Travel

Oct. 26-Nov. 2 National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald attends the Maori Anglican synod near Auckland, N.Z.

Nov. 1 The Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Church of the Transfiguration in St. Catharines, Ont.

Nov. 2-5 The Primate, Bishop MacDonald, and other staff attend the House of Bishops meeting in Niagara Falls, Ont.

Nov. 7-10 The Primate attends the bishop's dinner and celebrates the 100th anniversary of Christ Church Cathedral in Edmonton, Alta.

Nov. 15-20 Indigenous Ministries Coordinator Donna Bomberly travels to New York, N.Y. for the World Council of Churches' UN Advocacy Week

Nov. 16-22 Bishop MacDonald attends the Diocese of Calgary clergy retreat

Nov. 17 The Primate and his wife, Lynne Samways Hiltz, visit the Sisters of Saint John the Divine in North York, Ont.

Nov. 18-20 The Primate attends the Anglican-Roman Catholic Bishops' Dialogue in Vancouver, B.C.

Nov. 24 Ecojustice Coordinator the Rev. Canon Maylanne Maybee and Anglican Fund for Healing and Reconciliation Coordinator Esther Wesley deliver an anti-racism training at the Rupert's Land synod in Winnipeg, Man.

Nov. 27-29 The Primate attends St. Peter's parish conference in Cobourg, Ont.

Nov. 30-Dec. 4 The Primate goes on retreat in Cambridge, Mass.

