

Report to the Council of General Synod from the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission

March 2011

Greetings:

The Joint Anglican Lutheran met in Niagara Falls, ON from 24-26 February to report to the Council.

An energetic and enthusiastic group, the Joint Commission represents both of our churches and both monitors our full communion relationship and encourages this exciting and dynamic relationship

We missed Bishop Dance, Dale Gillman and Eileen Scully at our meeting, but we were grateful for the presence of our partners: Dr. Gerald Hobbs from the United Church, The Rev. Mark Lewis from the Presbyterian Church and The Rev. Jon Perez from our American counterpart, the *Episcopal-Lutheran Coordinating Committee (LECC)*.

We are very excited about the special services taking place in Fort Erie, ON and in Buffalo, NY on May 1 to mark 10 years of full communion in both the United States and in Canada, and the anniversaries of '*Called to Common Mission*', the agreement between The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Episcopal Church and '*The Waterloo Declaration*', the agreement between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada. We are very pleased that Bishop Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the ELCIC and Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop The Episcopal Church will be leading the service in St. Paul's Fort Erie and that Bishop Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA and Archbishop Hiltz will be leading the service in Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Buffalo. Bishop Bird of Niagara, Bishop Pryse of the Easter Synod, Bishop Jerge of the Upstate New York Synod of the ELCA and a representative of the (by then just consecrated) Bishop Franklin of Western New York (TEC) will be participating, as will representatives of both our Commission and LECC. Several local communities across the country have indicated that they, too, will have services at or near the same time as the celebration in Niagara and Western New York; the outline of the liturgy being used that day has been made available on our various web-sites so that local communities may pray in the same way.

Our meeting was fruitful and uplifting, full of good spirit and grace for the tasks which lie ahead of us.

We highlight our work and our hopes in the following statements:

- We are enlivened by the new energy that seems to be present in our work and are grateful for the new insights and perspectives that have come as our commission has welcomed new members and support staff.
- We are enlivened by the deepened relationship that is developing with the U.S. based Lutheran Episcopal Co-ordinating Committee (LECC) and among our respective church leaders who have encouraged us to work at discerning a way for us to deepen the breadth of our common mission in North America.

- We continue to be excited about the prospects of establishing a joint national office in Ottawa, Ontario but are distressed by the apparent inaction of our judicatories in further exploring this possibility.
- We are excited by the prospect of Lutheran representatives being invited to hold seats designated for Anglican participants in the ongoing Anglican United Church Dialogue.
- We believe that both the Joint Commission and judicatories of our churches need to re-double their efforts toward supporting, encouraging and helping to facilitate the ministries those of our congregations and clerics which are presently, or could be, engaged in Full Communion ministries, one with another.

We look forward to future meetings, particularly to inviting all of the members of LECC to meet with us in 2012.

Respectfully

The Very Rev. Peter Wall

Co-Chair, ACC

Bishop Michael Pryse

Co-Chair, ELCIC