

AJCC REPORT TO GS 2016

The Anglican Journal continues to be an instrument of unity for the Anglican Church of Canada. Every identifiable giver is placed on our subscription list, and they are immediately linked with fellow Anglicans across the country. Through the newspaper they are connected to our Primate, our national Indigenous Bishop, all the ministries of General Synod, as well as accounts of the news and ministry that is taking place in and through our church.

Diocesan newspapers are distributed with the Anglican Journal, making for a much more affordable distribution ... as well as the subtle reminder that while we are part of a diocese, we are actually members of a body much larger than just that. Journal staff and the editors of the diocesan newspapers are a mutual support to each other, and meet annually to discuss their shared ministry as well as the greater issues of communication facing the church.

The function of the AJCC is different from other standing committees. Our purpose is to make sure that the Journal is staying true to its mandate to be editorially independent, and that we are operating efficiently and effectively.

The Journal has long been an Editorially Independent newspaper. Editorial Independence does not mean “opposition”, rather that the Anglican Journal is free to address the stories and issues chosen by its editorial staff.

Items to note from this past triennium:

PEOPLE

We mourned the passing of Sam Carriere, a former editor of the Anglican Journal and more recently our Director of Communications. Sam made a tremendous mark on the life of the Journal. We give thanks for his life and for his wisdom, talent, and sense of humour. He is missed.

We bid farewell to our Interim Editor, Archdeacon Paul Feheley. Like most Interim ministries Paul guided us through a period of self-evaluation, while at the same time insuring that a quality newspaper was produced each month. We thank him for the leadership and insight he gave.

We welcomed Tess Sison, the new Editor of The Journal. While Tess is no stranger to our newspaper or our members, this is a new role for her and she has fully embraced it. She brings great passion to this ministry and has already begun to implement some of her vision for The Journal. André Forget was hired to fill Tess’ reporter position, and when Leigh Anne Williams relocated to Ottawa, Tali Folkins was hired to complete our staff. We have a very gifted and cohesive editorially staff, who are supported by an equally talented support staff at all levels of the Journal operation.

INTERNSHIP

Our editor initiated an internship project in 2015. Open to journalism students, it provided an opportunity to practice their skills in a real newspaper setting. It gave us the benefit of having an extra

reporter on staff. The program, while a success, was put on hold after a year – but it is hoped that this will be continued in the future.

MEETINGS

Like other committees, and following the direction of General Synod, we met in person only once (at the beginning of the triennium). Subsequent meetings were held using various types of technology, opting most often for the teleconference – as it presented us with the fewest technology glitches. While we understand the reason behind the decision to reduce meetings, it was noted that attendance at these meetings was much lower than when the committee met in person. When relying on technology formatted meetings, it is much harder for a committee to bond and enter into active, constructive, exchanges.

REVIEWS

In response to the Communications Review from the last triennium, we entered into discussion with the Anglican Editors Association concerning the format and frequency of the Journal and diocesan newspapers. While some dioceses have opted for a different format and varied frequencies, the consensus was to continue publishing in the current format on a monthly basis.

CONNECTING WITH THE CHURCH

Our editor made the deliberate decision to send staff out to the various dioceses to cover specific events, to “connect” with the uniqueness of each diocese, and to strengthen the network of readers/reporters across our church. The Journal has, so far, reported on the ministries, hopes and challenges of the dioceses of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador and Niagara, and the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior. This practice has been well received, and it is hoped we will see more of this in the coming triennium.

CONTENT (online and in newspaper)

The online columns—in particular, those written by the Rev. Rhonda Waters and Michelle Hauser—have also generating comments and feedback, both on the website and social media. The Rev. Jeffrey Metcalfe has been added to the roster of online columnists, to capture the views and experiences of the church’s younger clergy.

The introduction of new sections in the paper (Everyday Saints, The Interview, Focus, Voices) and the shift of having more feature stories across Canada has been received well by readers, who offer us feedback in letters sent by mail and email and on the comments section of the website and Facebook.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The online presence of the Journal — on its website, anglicanjournal.com, and on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) continues to grow. Growth has been exponential on Twitter (from more than 900 followers in 2014 to 7,726 as of April 1, 2016) and Facebook (from more than 2,000 “friends” in 2014 to 4,183 as of April 1, 2016).

AWARDS

Anglican Journal continues to receive awards from the Canadian Church Press (CCP) and the Associated Church Press (ACP) in a variety of categories (news, features, photography, columnists, the list goes on). During these past three years, we have been honoured to receive 69 different awards.

FINANCES

During the last triennium, the Anglican Journal's budget was offset through various forms of income generation (including advertising, a Heritage Canada grant, The Journal Appeal, and the production of the Canadian Church Calendar). These combined income initiatives accounted for approximately three-quarters of the Journal's total budget. As of 2016, the decision was made by General Synod to move the production of the annual Canadian Church Calendar from the Anglican Journal budget to the Communications budget. The income differential (roughly \$80,000) will be made up by General Synod.

ANGLICAN JOURNAL APPEAL

This direct mail appeal continues to be strongly supported by our readers - and we offer them our deepest thanks. Many donations come with personal notes and letters of support, often explaining how the newspaper has touched that particular person. Some have told us that they use the newspaper as a resource for presentations and discussions in their parish, and others say receiving the Journal is "like a letter from home".

In a time when we are hearing that financial resources are declining, it is affirming to see the solid returns in the Journal Appeal. We recently marked the 140th anniversary of the *Anglican Journal* – and our readers strongly supported the newspaper in celebration of this.

As we look towards the next triennium, the Anglican Journal is prepared to continue its tradition of holding up the church to its membership: reporting its journey, celebrating its accomplishments, challenging its faith, and pushing us to truly be the people God calls us to be.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Canon Rob Towler
Chair – Anglican Journal Coordinating Committee

Committee Members

The Very Rev'd Nissa Basbaum (Kootenay)

T.M. Christison (Calgary)

The Most Rev'd Percy Coffin (Western Newfoundland)

The Rev's Canon Neil Elliot (Kootenay)

Tara Munn (Athabasca)

The Rev'd Canon Murray Still (Ruperts Land)

The Rev'd Canon Rob Towler (Huron)