



***We envision a church growing in membership, faith and service in God's world***

**Fall, 2004, Mississauga, Ont.  
(Queen of Apostles)**

***Saturday, November 27***

*Council reconvened at 9 a.m. for worship and Bible study.*

Council reviewed the day's agenda. Council heard a report from the Nominating Committee.

Council heard a report from the **Financial Management and Development Committee**, with committee members Judy Darling and Betty Livingston and Treasurer Peter Blachford reporting.

Peter Blachford presented the budget for 2005. He reviewed and summarized how the church's finances have been for the past few years and explained some of the factors involved in allocating the church's resources. He outlined some of the circumstances that affect contributions to the church.

He said we would finish 2004 with a balanced budget.

He reviewed anticipated revenues and expenditures for 2005. 2005 will be a tough year and the budget is hold-the-line. One of the challenges of 2005 will be allocating priorities between the work we have done in the past and the new work described in the

*Framework*. The budget presented for 2005 is a balanced budget.

Mr. Blachford answered questions on the budget.

Council heard a report from the **Anglican Journal Board** presented by board president Rob Towler.

Mr. Towler reported on the last meeting of the board, which was by teleconference as a cost-saving measure.

A motion dispensing with an audit for 2003 and 2004 carried.

Council approved a motion referring a draft policy on open meetings to all committees for discussion and report back.

Geoff Jackson gave a presentation on ***Letting Down the Nets***, the financial component of the *Framework*. (General Synod approved the plan.) His PowerPoint presentation was made available to members. Implementation of new work described in the *Framework* is contingent on new resources becoming available. *LDTN* is a four-track plan to raise those resources. Mr. Jackson reviewed each of those tracks, outlining costs and benefits.

Council members commented on the presentation and on *LDTN*.

Council members were asked to discuss the following questions in table groups:

- \* What are your reactions to the Framework and Letting Down the Nets?
- \* What do you think are the next steps for this council?

Table groups reported back: Some concerns about the title; let's stop talking about this and get on with it; concerns that parishes may be too inward looking for the plan to work; the reality is that we don't have many choices – we have to do something. The Framework may give a vision but the challenge is to communicate the vision and then raising money; acknowledge the importance

of cultivating donors; communications is key to the success of the plan; Council must own this plan; positive response to holistic stewardship; follow-up strategies are vital and we need to get better at this; it has taken some time, but we are warming up to this idea; are Christians too self-centered for a program like this? The first of the next steps is to embrace enthusiastically the Framework; the plans must be promoted at the parish level. Important that the program is geared to parishes; concern (mixed feelings) about the metaphor contained in the title. Partnership is important rather than presenting this as something “coming down” from General Synod. The plans must be promoted at the parish level; we need to sell the program and that is our responsibility as members of CoGS; we must be clear that the plan reaches out for new money; having a vision is critical – the vision must come first and it must trickle down to the parishes; the plan is both ambitious and scary; diocesan support is essential; we are all in this together; we must have a clear and easy-to-grasp proposal while keeping the vision of the Framework up front.

*Council adjourned for lunch at 12 p.m. and reconvened at 1:45 p.m.*

Council received a report from the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund.

The report was presented by Denise Hambridge. There were no items for action.

Council viewed a presentation by Judy Steers on *Ask and Imagine*. *Ask and Imagine* is a Huron University College project funded by the Lilly Foundation to engage some teens from across Canada in theological reflection, leadership, spiritual development visioning about the church, and exploring gifts for ministry. Ms Steers explained how *Ask and Imagine* can contribute to cer-

tain aspects of the *Framework* as it pertains to youth development. CoGS member

Meghan Nicholls described her involvement with the program.

Council received a report from the **Pension Committee** presented by Linda Barry-Hollowell. Council considered resolutions dealing with aspects of the definition of “continuous service;” an amendment to the plan dealing with the definition of “partner” to comply with federal and provincial legislation; and two amendments dealing with the Long-Term Disability Plan.

Pensions director Judy Robinson explained the long-term disability proposals and then answered some questions.

The four resolutions carried.

*Break*

Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan, director of Faith, Worship and Ministry, presented the **Windsor Report of the Lambeth Commission** as a member of the commission. She described the process that went into the production of the report and the key recommendations. She spoke on what the report is not and on what it is. She noted that the report is not an authoritative report. It has no binding power. It is not a unanimous document, although the recommendations are. It is not a blueprint for a centralized Anglican *curia*.

The report is a sign of hope. It is an invitation to all Anglicans to pull back from fear and know that there are a lot of things they must do together. It is an opportunity to commit ourselves to the family that is the Anglican Communion. It is an invitation to engage in real conversation. Much of the discussion thus far has involved people talking at each other rather than with each other. It is a request for time and patience. The report requests people to sit back and let the dust settle. It is a call to all Anglicans to al-

low due place in the church to all Christians of good will.

She explained the process that the Canadian church has created to gather responses to the report for the Primate to take to Belfast.

She invited members to talk in table groups about advice they would give the Primate in responding to the report when he meets with other primates.

Table groups reported back. There was a consensus that the report is a useful discussion tool and invites a discussion that must be held; the primate should represent the position of the Canadian church as formulated by General Synod; the Canadian church is deeply committed to a process where people listen to each other; uncomfortable with the idea of a covenant since the autonomy of provinces is very much part of who we are.

Sonja Free of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada** who is attending as a partner reflected.

She noted that this group surrounds itself with worship, beginning and ending the day with prayer. It is also a relational body. The *Framework* and *Letting Down the Nets* can work with the full support of the council.

Council member Peter Wall, partner to the ELCIC council reported on a September meeting. The council, he said is much like this one, although smaller, and deals with many similar issues.

*Council adjourned for dinner at 5 p.m. and reconvened at 7 p.m.*

Peter Irish presented the final report of the **Nominating Committee**. Council approved the report.

Gloria Moses and Larry Beardy presented the report of the **Anglican Council of In-**

**igenous Peoples**. There were no action items.

Sue Moxley presented the report of the **Eco-Justice Committee**. The committee has begun discussion with *Ask and Imagine* on the concept of Justice Camps for youth.

Caleb Lawrence presented the report of the **Council of the North**.

Peter Irish presented a report of the **General Synod Planning Committee**. He reported on evaluations of the 2004 General Synod; a majority of members of General Synod felt that the experience had been good.

*Council adjourned at 8:15.*