

## COUNCIL OF GENERAL SYNOD (COGS) – DAILY HIGHLIGHTS



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

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**Thursday, May 11 - 14, 2006,  
Queen of Apostles,  
Mississauga, Ont.**

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***Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13***

*On Friday, May 12, members of CoGS spent the day in the Diocese of Toronto and visited the Anglican Book Centre. They had dinner downtown.*

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*Council reconvened for Bible study with Archbishop Terry Finlay at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 13 and resumed the business part of the meeting at 9:30.*

Council unanimously approved a motion congratulating staff members Eleanor Johnson, Alyson Barnett-Cowan and Esther Wesley on being honored with **honorary degrees** from Montreal Diocesan College, Trinity College and Huron College.

**Residential Schools Agreement:** Council was joined by lawyer John Page, the Hon. Mr. Justice Frank Iacobucci and Archdeacon Jim Boyles.

Justice Iacobucci said that before he took the assignment on residential schools issues, he endeavored to ascertain that there was a firm commitment to resolve the issues from both government and native people. He said he did, at times, fear he might not succeed and feared the consequences of failure. The groups negotiating were disparate, he said. Within each group including the government, there were differences of opinion. Nor was there

unanimity of views among the churches. He said all the participants were central to the process of reaching agreement. The difficulty of the negotiations was compounded, he said, by the fact that there is a lot of anger around the issues and by the fact that many good people have been tainted by residential schools. He said he hopes the preoccupation with the legal process can now end and that we can get on with reconciliation and with finding out the truth of what took place and with telling the stories of people who were involved at residential schools. That truth will be a necessary prerequisite to reconciliation, he said.

Justice Iacobucci paid tribute to the role lawyer John Page played in the negotiations. "But behind him was your church. If I were you, I would celebrate the leadership role of your church," he said. "You have much to celebrate in the role your church played in this whole file."

Archbishop Hutchison noted that while the church has paid for the expertise of John Page, "we have not paid for his heart. This whole church is profoundly grateful for the service you have offered us and I offer our thanks to you," he said.

Mr. Page said there were a number of principles that are good about this agreement. First it is a fair and equitable outcome for all survivors of residential schools. He said it is an honorable outcome. "Anglicans should have their heads high because they lead on this issue; they did not follow." The 2003 agreements served as a model for other churches to follow, he said.

He said there were a number of people who deserve thanks, including members of General Synod Staff, Margaret Shawyer, Sister Margaret Hayward and Dianne Izzard. Michael Peers and Andrew Hutchison were always there for support, he said. Other Protestant churches were important contributors, he said. Jim Boyles and Justice Iacobucci were both role models for him, he said, for the leadership and integrity they displayed. He also commended the roles played by Robert Falby, Archdeacon Boyles and Larry Beardy. He thanked Archbishop Terry Finlay and Ellie Johnson for their support. "Just like Jim led in the early stage, Ellie led in the final stages and she deserves the church's heartfelt thanks.

Larry Beardy paid tribute to the role played by the former Primate, Archbishop Michael Peers.

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Archdeacon Sidney Black, a residential schools survivor and co-chair of ACIP, thanked Justice Iacobucci for his role.

General Secretary Michael Pollesel made a presentation to Mr. Justice Iacobucci, Mr. Page and Archdeacon Boyles.

Council heard a report on the ratification of the **residential schools agreement** from Eleanor Johnson. Esther Wesley presented a report on the **Indigenous Healing Fund**. A total of 267 projects have been approved since the fund was established in 1992.

Archbishop Finlay reported on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

*Council recessed at 10:45 and reconvened at 11.*

Council heard a report and presentation from the **Council of the North**, presented by Archbishop Caleb Lawrence, Archdeacon Rodney Clarke, Archdeacon Larry Beardy and Bishop David Ash-down. Part of the report included a report from an *Increased Awareness Task Force*. Bishop Ash-down gave a short history of the council and of the principles on which it was guided and on the financial support it has traditionally received. “It is a constant struggle to provide sacramental and pastoral ministry in remote parts of the country.”

Archdeacon Clarke spoke about compensation for clergy in Council of the North dioceses, detailing the reduction of resources that have gone in support of the Council since 1993.

Archbishop Lawrence invited consideration in table groups of the question: “*Is the historic commitment of the whole church to provide pastoral and sacramental ministry to isolated and remote areas still a fundamental priority of General Synod?*”

Table groups reported back:

- Most at one table did not wish to commit themselves to stating this as a priority.
- It is important, but we need a long-term strategy on how we do things in light of the deficit. We have to find other ways to do things.

- The short answer is ‘yes’, but we need to think of how we maintain an Anglican presence in these areas.
- A motion will be brought later that an endowment fund be created in support of the Council of the North.
- We might need to rethink the present structure of dioceses and diocesan boundaries.
- What about direct parish relations between south and north?
- Is this a spiritual problem or a financial problem?
- Is the north depopulating? Is the Council of the North a misnomer? Where is the conversation around self-sufficiency gone from 20 years ago?
- How does this relate to a new National Indigenous Anglican Bishop?

Council approved a motion expressing its gratitude to former deputy prolocutor Peter Irish for his years of dedicated service to the Church.

*Council adjourned for lunch at noon and reconvened at 1:30.*

Council discussed **financial matters**.

Treasurer Peter Blachford noted that there are some positive things about finances. We are tracking on budget to the end of March. The April ABC figures are good – showing a profit as of the end of April.

General Synod has had three years of deficit. Is this a significant problem for the church? There was a unanimous feeling it is and that the problem must be addressed. Mr. Blachford noted that FMD has a **motion** that a working group be created to work at a prioritized operations plan and suggested that the motion now be dealt with.

Council members asked a number of questions about the purpose and goals of this working group. Questions were asked about the way General Synod revenue is generated and contributed by dioceses and discussed other ways in which money can be raised. Are there models that might work better than setting a target of 26% of diocesan revenue as a proportional giving goal? We need to look not only at how money is spent but at how it is generated.

There was an **amendment** that the working group include a member of each of General Synod’s

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standing committees. The motion was referred to the Expenditures Committee.

Council considered an FMD **motion** that an endowment fund be established in support of the Council of the North, to be administered by the Anglican Foundation. The motion **carried**.

In small groups, members discussed the three questions around budget raised earlier by Canon Box:

- What *must* we do?
- What *should* we do?
- What *can* we do?

Judy Steers, coordinator of youth initiatives, made a short presentation on [generation.anglican.ca](http://generation.anglican.ca), the Canadian Anglican youth web site that will be launched soon.

Council dealt with a report from the **Pension Committee**. The report included a number of motions which were approved and a number of items for information.

Council dealt with a report from the **Partners in Mission Committee**. There were two items for action and a number of items for discussion.

Council returned to the report-back from table groups discussing ACIP's report on the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop.

Council considered two **resolutions**: That CoGS support the Primate in the appointment of a National Indigenous Anglican Bishop upon nomination of a suitable person by the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples and upon the satisfaction of the Expenditure Committee that enough money is available to support this position.

A second resolution directed the Planning and Agenda Team to bring to the November meeting of CoGS a resolution embodying the position of National Indigenous Anglican Bishop within the constitution of General Synod.

The two motions were referred to the Resolutions Committee.

Council returned to the report from the **Governance Working Group**. Peter Elliott outlined some of the issues that have arisen around governance since the introduction of the report two days ago. He then asked the question: *What can or should this council do at this meeting to take the next steps on these issues and on the Governance report?* Members discussed this question in table groups.

Table groups reported back:

- Conversations were held on how to review the membership of General Synod and on how that could be changed. General Synod might be smaller and could meet every two years.
- There is a feeling the national church is irrelevant at the local level. Committees need to be merged or cut down in size. We need to minimize and simplify processes and procedures. It may be time for a major study on structure and process.
- Perhaps this should go to dioceses and provinces now; or perhaps the report is not focused enough for local discussion. How can canons be simplified? Are there models in other parts of the communion that can help us?
- There is still a lot of work to be done on the proposal for a national indigenous Anglican bishop.
- Our procedures slow down the work that we do.
- We would like to know more about the New Zealand model – not just how it works, but if it works?
- Does Canada need 30 dioceses? Could the number of dioceses be reduced without reducing the number of bishops?
- We need the Governance Working Group to continue because it is not really possible for these issues to be addressed in a body this size.
- The separately incorporated bodies should be brought back into the church.
- Provincial synods will be meeting between now and the fall meeting of CoGS. There should be a way to invite them into the conversation around governance and structures.

Council considered some **members' concerns**. Bishop Caleb Lawrence raised a request by Anglican Church Woman seeking a seat with voice and vote at General Synod.

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

Council heard a report on **Letting Down the Nets** and the **Somers Report** from Canon Geoff Jackson. Canon Jackson said that Letting Down the Nets has so far resulted in contact with 19 dioceses. He said he finds people at the local and diocesan

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levels enthusiastic about stewardship and stewardship education.

He summarized the Somers report, an examination of gift planning and annual appeal initiatives by General Synod, the Anglican Journal, PWRDF and the Anglican Foundation. As a result of the Somers report, Church House staff have started to look at areas where they can work together.

Work has also been done on gathering information on proportional gifts to General Synod. He and General Synod staff are working on an operations plan.

*Letting Down the Nets* has not seen the kind of funding that had been hoped for. Help with funding is needed from dioceses.

Council heard a report from **Communications and Information Resources Committee**. The report contained a number of items for information.

Council heard a report from the **Anglican Journal Board of Directors**. The report contained a number of items for information. It also requested approval of an open *meeting policy* which has been revised in light of CoGS's request for feedback from General Synod standing committees. CoGS voted to refer the motion back to the movers for further refinement.

Council heard a report from Bishop Michael Ingham of New Westminster on CoGS's **partnership with the ECUSA executive council**. Council approved a motion of thanks and appreciation to ECUSA partner Stephen Lane for his participation in the council's work.

Council heard a report from Dean Peter Walls on CoGS's partnership with the national council of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**.

Council heard a report for information from the **House of Bishops** presented by Michael Ingham. Council considered a motion that 20 per cent of the cost of Council of the North dioceses attending General Synod 2007 be included in the budget. The motion carried. A motion was approved that General Synod convene a gathering on theological education in Canada.

CoGS approved a motion strongly endorsing a House of Bishops motion expressing grave con-

cerns about legislation in **Nigeria** that restricts the rights of gay people.

Council heard a presentation from the **Primate's World Relief and Development Fund** on its initiatives against HIV/AIDS – Partnerships for Life.

*Council adjourned at 9:30 p.m.*