



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

**November 2005, Mississauga, Ont.  
(Queen of Apostles)**

***Thursday, Nov. 17***

*Council convened at 2 p.m.*

The Primate, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, welcomed members of the council.

There were opening prayers. Regrets were received from some members. Two new youth members were welcomed – Catharine Torraville of Central Newfoundland and Louise Cooper of New Westminster. The Primate also welcomed visiting partners. Member of the Anti-Racism Working Group are expected later.

Minutes of the May 2005 meeting were approved.

Helena-Rose Houldcroft of the Planning and Agenda Team reviewed the agenda which was approved. She also reported on behalf of the Planning and Agenda Team. At the next meeting, there will be exposure to the diocese of Toronto.

Allen Box of Ottawa led members through a community-building exercise.

Peter Wall reported on the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Convention** in Winnipeg last July. The gathering is much like General Synod. A resolution providing for the local option for same-sex blessings, which required a two-thirds majority, was defeated. Bishop Ray Schultz was reelected National Bishop on the fourth ballot. The Primate also attended the convention and delivered as address. The next Lutheran convention will be concurrent with the Anglican General Synod in Winnipeg in 2007.

Council received a report and presentation from the **Financial Management and Development Committee**. Council approved the appointment of new investment managers. (Connor, Clark & Lunn

Private Capital Ltd.) There were several items for information. A motion was made that the proposed 2006 budget be approved. General Synod Treasurer Peter Blachford presented the budget and explained the processes that went into its production. This is the first time we look at a three-year budgeting cycle. The figures for 2007 and 2008 are “soft.” The treasurer reviewed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of General Synod’s financial situation. He explained the assumptions that informed the development of the budget. Most revenue sources will be down next year and so the overall budget is down as well (by 3 per cent.) Expenses are projected to be down 4 per cent next year.

Members were invited to consider the budget in the next few days and to consult staff who are present. There are major conversations on the budget scheduled for later in the meeting before the budget is voted on towards the end of the meeting.

*Break*

Council heard a report from the **Pension Committee**. The report contained three resolutions dealing with the Continuing Education Plan, one dealing with long-term disability benefits and one dealing with the merger into the General Synod pension plan of the Diocese of Montreal pension plan. All motions were carried.

(Montreal becomes the final diocese to enter into the General Synod Pension Plan.)

Council heard a report on the actuarial valuation of the Pension Plan. The valuation leads to no recommendations at this time but notes the need for further analysis.

Council heard a report on work of the **Anglican Communion** from Allen Box, Sue Moxley and Suzanne Lawson who attended (but did not participate in) the last meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council pursuant to directions from CoGS. (This is the first of several segments on the Communion scheduled for this meeting.)

This section is a report on work of the Communion that deals with mission, ecumenical affairs and constitutional issues.

Sue Moxley said that attending the Nottingham meeting was difficult. She said the Communion includes several networks that do very important and impressive work and on which Canadians are very active. She also noted that the ACC passed a motion thanking representatives of the Canadian church for their presence at the meeting and for their presentation. There was no motion passed censuring the Canadian church as was widely reported, she said.

Canon Box spoke briefly about several ecumenical resources and conversations that went on at the meeting. He also gave an update on several of the ecumenical dialogues that are on-going.

Suzanne Lawson spoke of matters of governance and the constitution that the council dealt with. One of the resolutions dealt with the future inclusion of Anglican Primates on the ACC. This resolution has wide implications, but it requires assent by the Primates and two-thirds of the member churches in the ACC. Ms Lawson said it is by no means certain that this will eventually be carried. While the Canadian and U.S. churches were not censured, she noted, the Council did vote to affirm the Primates' Communiqué.

Council members watched a video entitled *For Such a Time as This* dealing with the Inter-Women's Network.

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

The evening session began with **reflections from the Primate**, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison:

- Use this time for reflections and as a report to you. Have visited about a dozen dioceses since we last met; very much on the move, perhaps too much so. Lost his voice after the Nottingham meeting and remained silent for a month afterwards. Hope that his schedule "will remain a bit more human" in 2006. Have seen tremendous support in visits to dioceses and very thankful for that.
- Some things have happened since the Nottingham experience: the Third International Afro Anglican Conference in Toronto. Was amazed at the presence of some dioceses that are publicly opposed to us. A lot of good will out there.
- There is evidence of a lot of encouragement and a lot of hope for the future of the Communion.
- Attended a major event in Washington – a gathering of Christian leaders from all over the world – on global justice and the Millennium Goals; met with officials of the UN including the Deputy Secretary General. We presented a communiqué to her entitled *A call to partnership*. This created a vision of Christians from all over the world working together in common cause.
- Attended the U.S. House of Bishops in Puerto Rico "at the Ritz Carleton Hotel – five star"; then left from there to come back to Toronto and go to Split Lake MB for a meeting of the Council of the North. Will

continue our partnership with the U.S. bishops. Noted that a great many U.S. bishops did not attend the meeting because they disagreed with their colleagues. Commented on that when he addressed the House.

- Attended the Sacred Circle in Pinawa; "I went there dreading it because I thought I'd be in for eight days of grieving and anger. ... That isn't what happened this time; it was quite a different tone. Out of that came the proposal for a national indigenous bishop, which is on our agenda.
- Continue to be very concerned about the indigenous population. "What is the problem here that we have not been more effective in bringing the good news of Christ to those communities and to those people?"
- Will hear more about governance in the church at this meeting; it's a tremendously important area. The possibility of a national indigenous bishop also touches issues of governance.
- Coming back to Toronto after 20 years has been a strange experience. A friend offered to put up a dinner for me. 400 people attended a dinner, paying \$250 a plate, with all our bishops also in attendance. Have given \$10,000 to the Anglican Foundation out of the proceeds of that and have secured funding for the continuation of the webcast. More important, 400 people came together and had a wonderful evening. "The value was to get some marginal people to step up again and be part of a wonderful event and walk away feeling good about being Anglican again." It was also a good exercise in donor cultivation. It has been suggested this might be a repeatable event and brought to other communities.
- Will be nominating a deputy chancellor for an email vote at some point in the future.
- We are in a bit of a quandary about the future of this primacy and leadership. The question is whether there will be a primatial election at the next General Synod or not. Any comments you might have in the next years or so will be helpful.

Members of the Council discussed the Primate's reflections in their table groups. The Primate responded to questions and comments:

- Attempts to bring people "into the conversation" seem to be going well. There have been difficult times but "nothing unbearable. In terms of my own conversation with the church it's going fairly well."

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

- We need to do everything we can to maintain and strengthen the partnerships we have. There is evidence that individual dioceses in many parts of the world want to continue their partnerships with us, despite what we hear.
- Remarks about the length of primacy have put us in a dilemma. Is this anything that might be resolved in a single session of General Synod 2007? Could the canon be changed to allow the Primate to continue beyond the age of 70? (The Chancellor responded that the relevant canon can be changed in a single session of General Synod.)
- There is appreciation of the Primate’s “ministry of presence.”
- The present canons do not allow for the election of a “coadjutor primate.”

The council heard a report from the **Acting General Secretary, Dr. Ellie Johnson**.

It has been a privilege to serve as Acting General Secretary. Ellie elaborated on some of the staff issues described in her written report. There have been a number of changes that have been very difficult. There have been a number of resignations. It has been interesting time in Church House.

Dr. Johnson reviewed the situation around residential schools (as contained in her written report.)

The deadline pressures in the work done by Justice Iacobucci have increased because of the likelihood of a vote of non-confidence in the government later this month.

She reviewed the implications of recent court decisions. *Council unanimously approved a motion calling the church to prayer for the success of negotiations by Justice Iacobucci.*

Council heard a report from the **Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee**. The report and an accompanying tasks list was presented by Dean Peter Wall. The report contained items for information.

Council began to consider the report from the **Eco-Justice Committee** which contained items for information and items for action.

Council moved in camera to consider the **appointment of a General Secretary**.

Council moved back into open session and the Primate announced the appointment of Archdeacon Michael Pollesel, Executive Officer for the Diocese of Ontario, as General Secretary. The appointment will be effective in February.

The Primate thanked Dr. Ellie Johnson for her service as Acting General Secretary, a role that will

continue until Archdeacon Pollesel begins officially.

*Council adjourned at 9 p.m.*