



Contact

A Newsletter for the Council of the North

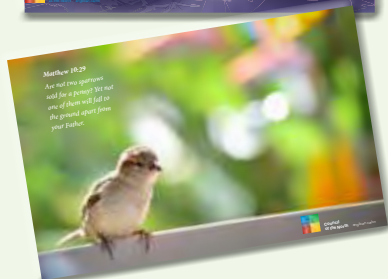
Fall 2018

Responding to God's Call to mission and ministry in the northern regions of Canada

RESOURCES

Placemats from Council of the North

See p. 4 on how to order



Contact is produced by the Council of the North

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Stories by General Synod

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The Anglican Church of Canada



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Leading clergy from the Diocese of the Arctic attend the graduation of students from the Arthur Turner Training School (ATTS). Front row, L-R: Bishop David Parsons, Esau Tatatopik, Annie Keenainak, Martha Kunuk, Manasee Ulayuk, Bishop Darren McCartney. Second row, L-R: Rev. Joey Royal (Director of ATTS) Rev. Jared Osborn, (Curate at St. Jude's) Rev. Aidan Smith (Manager Of Extension Partnerships, Trinity School of Ministry). Last row Rev. Methusalah Kunuk (Rector of St. Jude's Cathedral)

Inuit cohort graduates from Arthur Turner Training School

THE FIRST graduating class of the renewed Arthur Turner Training School (ATTS) is ready to begin its ministry.

Since the Iqaluit based school—in the Diocese of the Arctic—reopened its doors in 2016, this class of ministers has been highly anticipated by the diocese and their communities. This is because each of the new graduates is Inuit, and is bilingual in Inuktitut and English. Bilingualism in both of these languages is highly needed for the graduates as they will be ministering throughout the north.

"It's a big deal, [for] a couple reasons," says ATTS director, the Rev. Joseph Royal. "First of all, we just don't have enough ministers in the diocese. There are parishes all over the north that want a minister and can't get one."

"But also, all the graduates are Inuit. They're bilingual. So they're going to

go to a community in the north, and unlike someone coming from the south, they don't have to learn a new culture or language. They have that already."

"Not only do we have new ministers," he adds. "We have really good ones who are trained well, but who also know the culture. It's their culture and language."

The new graduates are: the Rev. Sarassie Arragutainag, from the community of Sanikiluaq; the Rev. Annie Keenainak, from Pangnirtung; the Rev. Martha Kunuk, from Iqaluit; the Rev. Esau Tatatopik, from Arctic Bay; and the Rev. Manasee Ulayuk, from Hall Beach.

At ATTS, the students learned through a combination of classroom study and practical parish ministry. All practical parish ministry was conducted in St. Jude Cathedral, or at a small community

See Learning on p. 4

New Indigenous bishop position created for northern Manitoba and Ontario

THE Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land has voted to create two new suffragan bishop positions, one for northern Manitoba and one for northern Ontario. The appointment of the two new bishops will bring the total number of active Indigenous Anglican bishops to eight.

Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson, Metropolitan of Rupert's Land, says that the recent push to create the two positions reflects wider changes in the church regarding attitudes towards Indigenous self-determination.

"I think in this case, the right factors came into play, the right people in the right context, and ... heightened awareness amongst the broader province of the importance and significance of Indigenous self-determination in the life of the church, and the ability to have a self-determining church within the Anglican Church of Canada," the archbishop said.

Both suffragan bishops will be considered part of the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweseh. However, the bishop for northern Manitoba will also be responsible for the northern part of the Diocese of Brandon—particularly the Deanery of The Pas—and likely parts of the Diocese of Saskatchewan.

Benefits for Indigenous communities

National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald called the creation of the new bishop positions "a huge shot in the arm in multiple ways" for Indigenous ministry within the church and self-determination. He further notes that it will provide Indigenous bishops with a higher profile in the national House of Bishops, as well as a stronger voice in numerous councils of the church.

"I think it shows a lot of faith in our ministry, in that it's about self-determination, and that we are capable of providing leadership to take care of our own folks in our diocese and to build a ministry that God is calling us to do," says Ginny Doctor, Coordinator of Indigenous Ministries. "And I think people are finally beginning to realize that we can take it on, so that's significant."

One of its most noteworthy impacts will be the ability of the Indigenous bishops to communicate in the local language of their communities. Bishop MacDonald said that the bishop for



PHOTO: ANGLICAN VIDEO

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—Ginny Doctor,
Coordinator of Indigenous
Ministries

northern Manitoba will undoubtedly speak one of the region's three main dialects of Cree, while the bishop for northern Ontario will be able to speak Oji-Cree.

Another advantage of the suffragan bishops will be their ability to provide direct pastoral care to remote communities and to preside over ceremonies such as baptisms, confirmations, and weddings—providing valuable support to area clergy, many of whom are currently non-stipendiary.

Sustainability

A key concern going forward will be making sure that the new positions for the bishops are financially sustainable.

The Diocese of Brandon has committed \$56,000 over the next four years to help Mishamikoweseh finance the new bishop position.

"Mishamikoweseh and Brandon share northern Manitoba, but those boundaries are really colonial holdovers," says Bishop William Cliff of the Diocese of Brandon. "They're diocesan boundaries from old days, and [for] the folks in the

north of Manitoba, especially the Cree folks, those boundaries don't mean a lot."

Though a budget has been set for the next four years, funding will require an increase in contributions from local congregations. Bishop MacDonald, however, said that "there is quite a bit of confidence that [congregations] will respond generously to the increasing pastoral care that this position will allow."

Despite all the challenges, Archbishop Kerr-Wilson—who with Bishop MacDonald will be overseeing the election and consecration of the bishops—expressed excitement over the progress being made, and for those who have long championed the cause of appointing area bishops in the north.

"I'm very pleased that after all these years they've been able to get to this place," says Archbishop Kerr. "And I would ask for the church broadly to be praying for the support and the strength of the Spirit as they move forward in this new ministry."

A tentative date has been set in early September for the election and consecration of the new bishops. ☩



THE COUNCIL OF THE NORTH is a grouping of financially assisted dioceses, supported through grants by General Synod, that serve sparsely populated areas in the Arctic, Yukon, Northern and Central Interior British Columbia, Alberta, northern Saskatchewan, Manitoba; and northern Ontario. Specifically:

• Diocese of the Arctic • Diocese of Athabasca • Diocese of Brandon • Diocese of Caledonia • Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweseh • Diocese of Moosonee • Diocese of Saskatchewan • Territory of the People • Diocese of Yukon •



PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

Jeffery Stanley, left, will handle the church's suicide prevention work in British Columbia, Yukon and Western Arctic; Yolanda Bird, right, will cover Alberta and Saskatchewan, and, if necessary, also Manitoba and northern Ontario.

Anglican Church hires suicide prevention workers for northern communities

THE Anglican Church of Canada has added two new suicide prevention workers to its staff working in Indigenous ministry.

Jeffery Stanley, a master of divinity student at the Vancouver School of Theology, and Yolanda Bird, a former member of Council of General Synod (CoGS) - with extensive experience working with children and youth - have been hired to help their Indigenous communities work through the historical traumas of colonialism.

The new hires will be working full-time, and will provide much needed support to the church's current part-time Indigenous suicide prevention worker, the Rev. Norm Casey.

Stanley, who will be based in Gingolx, a Nisga'a community on the Pacific coast of British Columbia, northeast of Prince Rupert, will cover British Columbia, Yukon and Western Arctic. Bird will be based in Montreal Lake First Nation, about 100 km north of Prince Albert, Sask., and will cover Alberta, Saskatchewan, and if necessary, also Manitoba and northern Ontario.

The work will combine Anglican and Indigenous traditional spiritual teachings to restore a sense of purpose and identity, especially to young Indigenous people.

Both Stanley and Bird have been personally affected by suicide; Stanley's twin brother took his life in 2003, and Bird's best friend committed suicide in 2016.

According to the Centre for Suicide

Prevention, a branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, suicide and self-inflicted harm are the most common causes of death for First Nations youth and adults aged up to 44 years. Canada's Inuit youth have among the highest suicide rates in the world, and are 11 times the national average.

Stanley's background includes schooling in suicide prevention and youth ministry, and his past work, he says, included significant work with children and youth—including teaching the Nisga'a language to children from kindergarten to Grade 7. He finds suicide prevention work to be both a blessing and a challenge. This is because of the impact that suicide has personally had on him.

Similarly, Bird has been working with children and youth for many years.

Bird says that she "pretty much grew up around the church." She is the daughter of Adam Halkett, Anglican Indigenous bishop of Mississippi. She served on CoGS from 2001-2004, and was involved with the Anglican Indigenous Network, which brings together Indigenous people from across the worldwide Anglican Communion, for about nine years.

"We're looking forward to working with them and developing a strategy that will hopefully alleviate suicides in our communities," says Ginny Doctor, Indigenous ministries coordinator. "It's a start. It's not going to end everything really quick, but we've got to start somewhere." Ω



PHOTO: SHAWN TALBOT/SHUTTERSTOCK

Fire rages on a mountainside in British Columbia, where at least 560 wildfires were reported to tear through Northern B.C.

PWRDF, Sacred Circle provide support to wildfire-ravaged Telegraph Creek, B.C.

IT'S BEEN more than a month since the Alkali Lake wildfire blazed through Telegraph Creek in British Columbia, and it could take weeks more before its residents can return.

Officials say that the Alkali Lake wildfire was the largest that they have ever seen in history. By August 23rd, more than 560 fires had been recorded.

The entire community of Telegraph Creek is reported to have evacuated the area. Fifty six structures were lost to the fires, including the Roman Catholic Church of St. Theresa and its rectory. Twenty seven of these buildings were residential homes.

For a community that is already facing a housing crisis, these fires have been especially devastating.

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), the Anglican Church of Canada's global aid agency, has donated \$5,000 to the Diocese of Yukon to support rebuilding efforts.

PWRDF executive director Will Postma gave the relief funds to Larry Robertson, Bishop of Yukon Diocese, to support the mostly Indigenous community. In an email to the *Anglican Journal*, Robertson said the diocese would work with the local band to help those impacted by the wildfires.

In addition to the PWRDF grant, Robertson said that the diocese is grateful for the support that they have received from other ministries—including almost \$1,300 donated by members of Sacred Circle. Ω



PHOTO: DAVID PICKETT

Three Cantors lift spirits in Churchill, Manitoba

The vocal trio of Anglican clergy known as the Three Cantors returned to stage on Sunday, June 10th, after a two year hiatus, performing a special concert to bring some good cheer to the residents of Churchill, Manitoba. The Cantors sang to an estimated crowd of 70 people at the Churchill Community Centre. Pictured above, L-R: Dean Peter Wall, Bishop William Cliff, and pianist Angus Sinclair disembark from their plane en route to perform at the Three Cantors concert in Churchill, Manitoba. Ω

Resources from the Council of the North

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1. Advent
2. Lent/Easter
3. Every Occasion

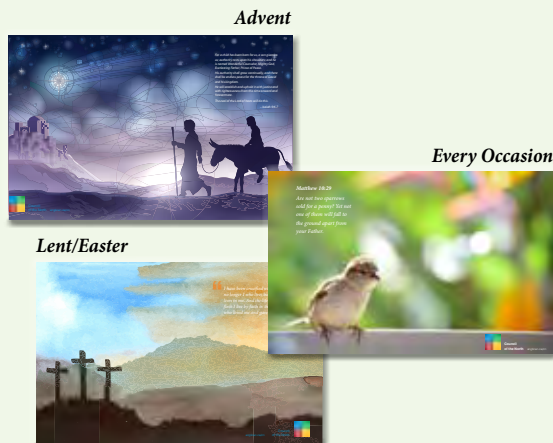


PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

ATTS students and faculty hold up the Nunavut flag during a trip to Israel-Palestine in May and June 2018.

Learning through study and practise

Continued from p.1

church. Most of the ministry was conducted in Inuktitut.

In spite of the learning curve, Ulayuk describes his time at the Arthur Turner Training School to be generally positive and rewarding.

"I believe it was my call to come into this college and learn the biblical, to be part of the ministry," Ulayuk says.

The bulk of the core curriculum was taught by the Rev. Joseph Royal, ATTS Director. However, students also received tutelage from some visiting instructors.

Some of these instructors were National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald, retired Arctic bishop Andrew Atagotaaluk, and current Arctic Bishop David Parsons; Prof. Wanda Malcolm of Wycliffe College, who taught a course on self-care and pastoral psychology; Associate Prof. Ian Henderson, who teaches New Testament Studies at McGill University; and the Rev. David Luckman, Ireland team leader for the international mission agency Crosslinks.

"I enjoy so much that I made a good relationship with the people coming from the south and also from the north to teach us," Ulayuk said. "It was really helpful."

Supplements to the core curriculum focused on community outreach, ministry to youth and children, pastoral psychology, counselling, and navigating various crises and emotional problems that may occur within communities.

"The demands of the north for ministry are unique," Royal says. "Communities are isolated, and compared to the south, they're smaller. [...] The northern context was always the focus in our curriculum."

Classes for the next cohort are expected to begin in January. Ω