



## Ecumenical and Interfaith Advisory Committee

Established by, and Advisory to, the Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee  
of the General Synod, The Anglican Church of Canada

Terms of Reference  
May 2025

### 1. Background

Faith, Worship, and Ministry (FWM) was created in 1995 with the amalgamation of three previous national committees: The Committee on Inter-Church, Inter-Faith Relations, the Committee on Ministry, and the Doctrine and Worship Committee. Different models of committee oversight and program coordination have been in place since then. The area of Youth Ministry has also been incorporated into FWM.

The current mandate of the FWM Coordinating Committee is very broad, and the committee membership relatively small. As such, it is often difficult for the FWM Committee to provide the full personnel resources required for full discernment, priority setting, direction, and content decisions for the work required in Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Anglican Church of Canada. The current staffing level available to support these two distinct areas of engagement, which also intersect in various ways with the portfolio of animating elements of the Full Communion partnerships, is at 0.6 FTE, working remotely. More leaders are needed in this work to help increase capacity.

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Advisory Committee will assist the FWM Committee and General Synod staff to support this work more fully and deeply.

### 2. Name and mandate

Name: Ecumenical and Interfaith Advisory Committee

Mandate: The Ecumenical and Interfaith Advisory Committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the FWM Committee. This Committee is intended to work with General Synod staff to develop the overarching frameworks for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, discern priorities, recommend particular projects and task forces to the FWM committee, and coordinate and oversee the task specific work of these working groups.

### 3. Responsibilities

Working with the Director of Faith, Worship, and Ministry, the Ecumenical and Interfaith Advisory Committee will:

- Consult with the House of Bishops, Diocesan Executive Officers, Cathedral Deans, Local Ecumenical and Interfaith Officers, and other leadership bodies regarding contemporary Ecumenical and Interfaith realities, needs, and initiatives across the church.
- Make recommendations for priority work at the national level in the areas of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations to be undertaken by the FWM Committee in a given triennium.
- Review and/or develop Terms of Reference to support the ongoing efforts of specific national Dialogues, Working Groups, and Task Forces engaged in the work of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, including mandates and membership; provide feedback to these bodies and to the FWM Committee.
- Serve as a consultative body for the General Synod's Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations.
- Provide regular reports to the FWM Committee.

### 4. Meetings

The Advisory Committee will normally meet three times a year via video conference – once in winter (Jan-Feb), once in spring (May-June), and once in fall (Sept-Oct). Other supplemental correspondence and meetings between members in relation to specific areas of work may occur between committee meetings.

### 5. Reporting

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Advisory Committee will normally report to Faith, Worship, and Ministry through regular written updates from the General Synod Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, and may on occasion engage with it directly. The FWM Committee in turn reports to the Council of the General Synod and informs the House of Bishops in areas of particular relevance and concern.

## 6. Membership

The Advisory Committee shall have no fewer than 4 members and no more than 8.

Membership shall reflect the necessary skills, wisdom, and diversity of cultures, vocations, social locations and leadership roles in the church needed for the work. Care will be taken to reflect gender, racial, cultural, and social diversities.

FWM appoints the members in consultation with the Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations and the FWM Director. Potential candidates for membership may be discerned through both formal and informal processes of consultation with diocesan leadership, theological colleges, Council of the General Synod, Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, and others. A public call for nominations or applications may be issued through General Synod communications channels.

The FWM Committee shall appoint a Chair from among the membership.

The Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations shall normally be the principal program staff person to the Advisory Group.

The term of membership on the Advisory Committee is six years, with the possibility of renewal for an additional term. Both continuity and change are desirable in the membership over the long term.

## 7. Budget and Finances

The Advisory Committee should not normally require a budget. Should the need for occasional financial expenditures arise, these funds must come from the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations program expenses budget of FWM.

## 8. Office Support

Some office support may be provided through the Faith, Worship, and Ministry department of the General Synod.

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