

COUNCIL OF GENERAL SYNOD (COGS) – DAILY HIGHLIGHTS



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

**Thursday, May 11, 2006,
Mississauga, Ont.
(Queen of Apostles)**

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Council convened at 9.am. after Eucharist and breakfast.

Opening Formalities: Archbishop Andrew Hutchison expressed regrets on behalf of some members and said a few others would be arriving late. He welcomed a new member – Dr. Stephen Andrews of Algoma replacing Susan De Gruchy who has moved to another diocese. He also introduced Archdeacon Michael Pollesel, attending his first meeting of CoGS as General Secretary. He welcomed Archbishop David Crawley attending on behalf of the Governance Working Group, and the co-chairs of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Council reviewed and approved the Orders of the Day.

Archbishop Terry Finlay, chaplain of CoGS, led the council in worship and Bible study.

Council broke at 10:30 and resumed at 10:45.

Council heard a report from Dean Peter Wall on behalf of the **General Synod Planning Committee** and received a sample of the General Synod 2007 letterhead. Dean Wall acknowledged the resignation of Peter Irish as Deputy Prolocutor. He also described a meeting with General Synod staff. He said the election and installation of a new Primate is now being accommodated into the GS agenda. There will be a meeting with local ar-

rangements people in Winnipeg in June and the planning group will tour the site at that time. He noted that there has been some concern expressed about costs, and said that the increase in costs is not related to the fact that General Synod will be in a hotel.

Council heard a report of the **Governance Working Group**, presented by the chair, Archbishop David Crawley. Archbishop Crawley reviewed key principles under which the Anglican Church of Canada is governed.

Dean Peter Elliott, Prolocutor of General Synod went through the substance of the report. He also explained the process by which this meeting of CoGS will discuss the report and through which CoGS can, if it wishes, formulate resolutions. Among the principles he outlined is that the church is over-governed and that available funds are no longer adequate to pay for the work it attempts to do. Significant changes to our structures cannot be accomplished quickly. (They would likely require two General Synod.)

CoGs members asked question and then considered assigned parts of the report in table groups.

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Council recessed for lunch at noon and reconvened at 1 p.m.

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Council approved a motion confirming an email ballot approving the renegotiated **Residential Schools Agreement**.

Canon Robert Falby presented a report from the **Audit Committee**. A number of housekeeping motions arising from the report were approved. Some motions were put over to Saturday.

General Synod Treasurer Peter Blachford presented the Consolidated Financial Statements for 2005. The 2005 results as compared to the budget reflect a \$1.1 million deficit for 2005. Mr. Blachford explained that this results from losses at the Anglican Book Center, unrealized anticipation of legacies and a shortfall in the Anglican Appeal. The deficit was split about evenly between a shortfall in revenues and unexpected expenses. Mr. Blachford noted this is the third consecutive year in which General Synod experiences a deficit. The 2005 deficit was covered from reserves, but these are now almost exhausted. He said that CoGS needs to

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consider the fact that General Synod can no longer afford to do all the work it does. CoGS will return to this Saturday.

CoGS considered a number of motions contained in the report of the **Financial Management and Development Committee**. CoGS approved a motion authorizing negotiation of a \$2 million collateral mortgage on the building at 80 Hayden St. A motion was approved instructing the Expenditures Committee to assess the implications of motions that require funding.

Mr. Blachford introduced a number of motions that will be before CoGS on Saturday.

Canon Allen Box raised three questions for CoGS members to think about between now and Saturday.

- What *must* we do?
- What would we *like* to do?
- What *can* we do?

CoGS members watched an Anglican Video production on last year's **Sacred Circle** in Pinawa, Man.

Council heard a report from the **Anglican Council of Indigenous People (ACIP)** presented by co-chairs Gloria Moses and Archdeacon Syd Black. The report contained a number of items for information as well as a progress report on the appointment of a National Indigenous Bishop. Archdeacon Black spoke about some of the concerns he has heard expressed around the appointment of a National Indigenous Bishop, including concerns about transparency, financing and the level of approval in indigenous communities. Archdeacon Black asked members to consider a response to the proposal for a National Indigenous Bishop in their table groups. Table groups reported back with questions and concerns.

Council heard a presentation on the *St. Michael Report* from the **Faith Worship and Ministry Committee**.

Ron Stevenson, the **Chancellor**, reported on a number of questions he was asked to address at the last meeting. He also provided some context in terms of what has happened civilly in Canada and with the implications of whatever decision General Synod makes on our relationships in the Anglican Communion. He suggested that the only action required at this meeting would be a motion to include the *St. Michael Report* in the Convening Circular.

A report by Patricia Bays on responses to the *St. Michael Report* was presented.

Members commented on the report from the Chancellor and asked a number of questions about possible procedures at General Synod.

Members were presented with six possible scenarios in response to the St. Michael Report at General Synod and were then invited to discuss a number of questions in table groups. However members preferred to continue the discussion in plenary.

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Council adjourned for dinner at 5 and reconvened at 7.

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Primate's Reflections

Archbishop Andrew Hutchison told the Council of his plans to retire in time to allow for a primatial election at General Synod 2007. He said that was his intention at the time of his election and that despite some pressures to remain, he had decided to abide by his original statement. He said he will be 69 next year and that his life since his election has been "perpetual travel." "When I get home there is nothing left." His retirement, he said, is for personal and family reasons. He said that is not altogether a bad thing for the church, since it prevents about two years with an interim primate. Having a new Primate in place before Lambeth will also be good for the church, he said. "These have been wonderful years; it's purely personal and family reasons that have brought me to this decision and in the long run it will be good for the church as well." He said he will preside at General Synod and that his resignation would be effective at the end of synod.

Archbishop Hutchison said he wanted to comment on the McKerracher affair. Mr. McKerracher was a primatial appointment to the communications committee who became very interested in church membership figures. Mr. McKerracher made a presentation to the House of Bishops, but there was no report and there was no "commission" leading to his report. His "report" was all very unofficial. To say that the attrition in the church is something that points to a major failure on the part of the church is simplistic and wrong. There are many elements involved in the secularization of society. Society is much more secular today than when most

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of us grew up. However we live in a time in which people are as deeply spiritual as the have been in eight or nine centuries. But commitment to churches is simply not what it used to be. The church does have a lot of things to work on but there has not been a massive failure on the part of the church.

There have been a couple of appointments – John vanNostrand Wright, dean emeritus of British Columbia, will be the new executive director of the Anglican Foundation, and he begins on the first of June. Judy Steers of Ask and Imagine is working on youth ministry under the direction of Faith, Worship and Ministry.

Last October, there was a first in that a special primate's dinner was organized with about 400 people attending. This allowed a number of things to happen: it funded a meeting of the Primate's Theological Commission; \$10,000 went to the Anglican Foundation; we bought a new car for the diocese of Cuba and the web casts have resumed. Youth Ministry was funded and a new youth website. Several bishops lacking discretionary funds have been assisted. The international AIDS conference will benefit from this.

Archbishop Hutchison visited Cuba this winter with the new General Secretary. He visited most PWRDF projects on the island.

One of the highlights of the year was a visit to Labrador to attend a clergy conference. It was a tremendously encouraging group.

The change in government was difficult because we had done a lot of hard work with the previous government which we must now begin again.

You are going to hear some difficult financial news this meeting. The Framework for Ministry was approved without the support of Management Team. The Framework has been a difficult thing to work with in light of very limited resources. The challenge you will be presented with is to take ownership of the program of this church. CoGS will have to make difficult decisions. We have to be in a mode of realistic assessment of the abundance that we have. We must take ownership of the programs that we admire. We are going through a massive period of transformation in all kinds of ways. The advent of a national indigenous bishop is a large change, as is the governance report. The issue of where we are in terms of relationships is a huge one nationally and internationally. We have large questions before us in terms of who we are as

a church. This is an important time and it is a huge privilege to be people called upon to exercise leadership in a difficult time.

Archbishop Hutchison answered some questions.

Council heard a report on the **9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches** in Porto Alegre, Brazil, from several of the Canadian Anglicans who attended. Council members commented and asked questions.

Council adjourned at 8:45 p.m.