

# COGS Highlights



Council of General Synod

Nov. 15 and 16, 2012

## Thursday, November 15

On the evening of Nov. 15, the council gathered at its usual location: the Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, Ont.

At 6:45 p.m., members sat facing each other in a sacred circle and began their fall meeting with worship. The Ven. Sid Black and the Rev. Norm Casey, co-chairs of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, led a Gospel-Based Discipleship meditation on Luke 12:16-21.

Archbishop Fred Hiltz welcomed COGS members and introduced staff and guests. The Very Rev. Peter Elliott, chair of the Planning and Agenda Team, gave a brief overview of the agenda, and noted that the first part of the meeting—until Friday night—will continue last meeting's conversation about church structures.

The Ven. P.J. Hobbs, chair of the Vision 2019 Implementation Team, gave a presentation about the major moments in national church life since General Synod 2010. These highlights were presented as stepping stones, with the goal of reaching a balanced budget by 2014.

Archdeacon Hobbs acknowledged that recent news about General Synod's deficit has been a wake-up call for the church. He said that now, at the end of the third quarter, the national church is running a deficit of \$680,000. The full-year forecast is for a deficit of \$288,000. At this meeting, COGS members will consider a budget with a deficit of \$513,000. This is framed as a transitional budget and General Synod is aiming to establish a stable budget by 2014.

The budget conversation continued as the prolocutor, Canon Robert Falby, chaired a panel on finances with Rob Dickson (chair of Financial Management Committee), Hanna Goschy (interim treasurer), and Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate.

Questions included, "How did we get to this place of deficit?" (Answer: "We've been on this road for a long time and the root cause is declining diocesan apportionment.")

The Primate answered the question of how the church should now move forward. He reflected on the centrality of God's mission, noting that following God's mission is what distinguishes the church from other organizations. The Primate also said that the church needs to seize this transitional time as an opportunity provided by God.

A lively discussion followed. Some members wondered whether the current problem should be addressed by national level restructuring or parish congregational development. Other members noted that it was possible to feel both anxiety and hope during this time.

## Friday, November 16

Council members gathered at 8:45 a.m. for Bible study and turned to business at 9:15 a.m.

### Budgeting principles

The prolocutor, Canon Robert Falby, and the chancellor, David Phillip Jones, introduced the following budgeting principles, created by the General Synod officers:

1. The budget for 2013 be viewed as a transitional budget in order to permit the church to address the issues discussed below.
2. That the budget be a deficit for 2013 with the deficit funded by drawing down on undesignated reserves.
3. That during the period of 2012-2013 the whole church be asked to address the role of the General Synod, how it is structured and how it is funded, and,
4. Request that the issues identified in the previous paragraph be addressed in the National Consultation in January 2013, with the dioceses, the House of Bishops, and COGS.

Members discussed whether it was a good idea for General Synod to draw from undesignated reserves. Some members raised concerns about using funds that might not be replenished. Others expressed support for this action, noting that reserves were designed to be



financial cushions for times such as these. Another member asked what other budgeting principles were considered.

At the Primate's suggestion, members decided to postpone a decision on these principles until later in the day.

### **The Rev. Dr. Christopher Duraisingh**

After a brief coffee break, members met in the chapel to hear the Rev. Dr. Christopher Duraisingh, professor at Episcopal Divinity School, speak about mission. Mr. Duraisingh will be the speaker at the 2013 Anglican-Lutheran joint assembly in Ottawa next July.

Some highlights of Mr. Duraisingh's presentation included

-“Mission is not a function of the church. To believe this is a theological error. Church is a function of the ongoing mission of God.”

-“The singular purpose of the body of Christ is to be broken for the life of the world....the Marks of Mission are examples of how this body is broken for the life of the world.”

-“Being apostolic means to be with and to be sent out. Without these two sides, the identity of the church is at stake....‘Sentness’ is our chief hallmark.”

-Matthew 28:19 (the Great Commission) used to be the way we thought about mission. Sometimes we turn this mission into a god. Acts 1:8 is a better way to consider mission: when the Spirit comes upon you, you cannot help but go.

-We should understand the church as people in movement, following the Spirit. COGS must be like a midwife as this movement is born. How do we facilitate the birthing of God's people in mission?

-Measuring success in terms of quantity of programs and functions is a sign of ecclesiastical decadence.

-Jesus's baptism was not baptism for forgiveness of sins, but an identity marker as being enlisted in the kingdom of God's movement. We've turned baptism into sin-management rite. We need to put our baptism in line with Jesus's baptism.

Members returned to their table groups to discuss questions provided after Mr. Duraisingh's presentation, They then began to brainstorm their own questions for discussion later in the day.

From 12:00 to 1:00, members enjoyed a lunch break, conversations, and walks on a sunny fall afternoon.

### **Workshops**

Divided into small groups, members rotated through three workshops—on the budget, Church House ministries and structures, and missiology and mission—from 1:00 to 4:00.

At 4:00, members met again in plenary to prioritize the questions they had generated earlier in the day. They walked around the room and placed dots beside the questions that they considered most important. Popular questions included “How do local Anglicans understand the programs of General Synod that only General Synod can do and without which there would be a gap?” These questions will be used by several groups in the future, including the Primate's consultation on structures, to be held in January 2013.

### **Budgeting principles adopted**

Members returned to consider the motion on budget principles. They agreed unanimously to pass the principles, as presented earlier in the day:

#### **Resolution**

In order to allow the General Synod to determine a way to carry out its ministries in service to God's mission within the resources available to it and in light of the principles and practices of Vision 2019 and the Marks of Mission, this Council of General Synod endorses the following principles:

1. The budget for 2013 be viewed as a transitional budget in order to permit the church to address the issues discussed below.
2. That the budget be a deficit for 2013 with the deficit funded by drawing down on undesignated reserves.
3. That during the period of 2012-2013 the whole Church be asked to address the role of General Synod, how it is structured and how it is funded, and
4. Request that the issues identified in the previous paragraph be addressed in the National Consultation in January 2013, with the dioceses, the House of Bishops, and COGS.

Before the council adjourned for dinner, General

Secretary the Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson, announced that he needed an extra stud for his clerical collar. Bishop James Cowan offered to lend one, but not before a mischievous member chimed in, "Wait, why is the General Secretary looking for a stud?"

At 5:00, council adjourned for hospitality hour and dinner. Members returned to business at 7:00 p.m.

### Opening business

#### Resolution

COGS approved the minutes from the spring 2012 meeting.

### Report from Anglican Consultative Council 15

The Very Rev. Peter Elliott and Suzanne Lawson gave a whirlwind PowerPoint tour of their time as delegates at the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council. ACC-15 met in Auckland, New Zealand, from Oct. 27 to Nov. 7. Bishop Sue Moxley was also a delegate but is not at this COGS meeting.

Mr. Elliott and Ms. Lawson spoke about the richness of the three traditions woven into the Anglican church in New Zealand: Maori, Pacific Islanders, and descendants of European settlers.

Canadian delegates listed many highlights, including seeing the active life of Anglican Communion networks and watching youth ask tough and touching questions in a public session with Anglican leaders.

ACC-15 also approved a revised fourth Mark of Mission—a change championed by the Anglican Church of Canada: "To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation." COGS members applauded this news.

Archdeacon Paul Fehleley, Principal Secretary to the Primate, also spoke about his time seconded to the communications staff of ACC-15. He highlighted the re-launch of the Anglican World, magazine, designed by General Synod Saskia Fielder, General Synod's coordinator of graphics and print production. Mr. Fehleley has been to three ACC meetings and found this one very encouraging. "I have great hope for the Anglican Communion," he said.

After a brief time of questions, the Primate reflected on the positive presence of Canadian leaders around the Anglican Communion. "I want to say how proud I

personally am...of people from this church who have served as delegates to ACC," he said. He noted that Canadian delegates have served through difficult ACC meetings, including the 2005 Nottingham gathering where they were relegated to observer status because of the Canadian church's position on same-sex blessings.

COGS members gave a standing ovation to thank ACC-15 delegates for their service.

At 9:00, members closed with Holden Evening Prayer, a contemporary setting of vespers by American composer Marty Haugen.



# COGS Highlights



Council of General Synod

Nov. 17, 2012

Council gathered from 8:45 to 9:15 a.m. for Bible study in the Gospel-Based Discipleship format, often practiced in Indigenous communities. Members used A Disciple's Prayer Book and read the gospel of the day (Luke 18:1-8) through three times for deeper reflection.

## General Secretary's Report

General Secretary the Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson reflected on his first year in this ministry. He said he found the language of "ecological change" to be helpful in describing the state of the church. He referred to a trail he hikes near Lake Superior where a piece of land burnt by forest fire has become fertile terrain for blueberry bushes. He wondered if the church needed to adapt similarly—from harvesting big trees to appreciating fresh, new gifts, surprising as blueberries.

Mr. Thompson spoke positively about his recent visit to the Diocese of Athabasca, where he was welcomed by Bishop Fraser Lawton and encountered many ministries that he said were "putting resources together in an imaginative way." One example was an octogenarian couple that runs a popular after-school program for children in Berwyn, Alta. Another example was the growing ecumenical shared ministry in Slave Lake, Alta.

The General Secretary said he's noticed that many Anglicans feel a sense of shame or failure because they feel they have fallen short in their task as church.

"We don't have trees anymore so God doesn't expect us to be in the lumber business," he said. "We have to be patient and kind with ourselves in the meantime, in this time of transition and transformation."

Mr. Thompson closed by thanking staff and COGS for their support in the past year. He also acknowledged the sadness many felt about the closing of the Anglican Book Centre.

## Primate's Report

Archbishop Fred Hiltz began by noting that most of his time is spent away from the office. He described several trips he's taken since the last meeting: to the Diocese of the Arctic where he celebrated the opening of a new

cathedral and the first Inuktitut translation of the Bible, the Truth and Reconciliation gathering in Saskatoon, and the Sacred Circle Indigenous Anglican gathering in Pinawa, Man.

Archbishop Hiltz highlighted the church's ties to the Diocese of Jerusalem. He reminded COGS that at General Synod 2010 the Canadian church made several resolutions to strengthen ties with that region. Currently Major the Rev. John Organ, a retired Canadian military chaplain, is serving as chaplain to the bishop of Jerusalem. The Primate encouraged all bishops, dioceses, and individuals express their commitment to this region by joining the Canadian Companions of the Diocese of Jerusalem.

The Primate then described his October visit to Japan where he joined centenary celebrations for the Diocese of Chubu. Canadian Anglican missionaries were crucial in evangelizing this region and the Primate was touched by how much these missionaries are still appreciated in Japan.

One important stop on Archbishop Hiltz's tour was the region of Sendai, hit hard by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. The Primate saw and heard about the devastation but also rejoiced in local Anglican response. He was especially touched by the Let Us Walk Together project, which focuses on housing, counseling, and fellowship for victims.

Archbishop Hiltz said he heard from local Anglicans that the disaster has given the church in Japan a new sense of vocation and witness.

COGS members took a brief coffee break from 10:30 to 10:45.

## Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Henriette Thompson, public witness coordinator for social justice, reviewed what she had presented to COGS about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission since the beginning of the triennium in 2010. She said that TRC commissioners often refer to three journeys



people make in engaging with this work: head to heart, heart to lips, and lips to hands.

Ms. Thompson asked members to consider one new insight about healing and reconciliation they had gained in the past triennium. Members discussed this with partners in table groups. Next, Ms. Thompson asked members to consider and share where they found themselves in their own journey of healing and reconciliation and to then commit to advance this work in their own lives and ministries.

### **Council of the North**

Council heard a joint report from outgoing Council of the North chair Archbishop David Ashdown and Bishop Michael Hawkins, who is taking over as co-chair, alongside Bishop Lydia Mamakwa. Bishop Hawkins was sporting a conspicuous Movember moustache—a trend spotted on at least two other council faces during this meeting.

Bishop Ashdown reflected on his time as council chair over the past six years. He said the General Synod 2007 decision to keep Council of the North grants stable was a great affirmation its ministry. However, the Council of the North's 2011 request to reduce the level of their grant by 5% per year each year was an example of how that council works to support the life of the wider church.

Bishop Ashdown noted that communications, accountability, and transparency are key values of the council.

Bishop Hawkins outlined exciting areas of new ministry in the council: more self-determining Indigenous ministries, urban Indigenous ministries in Thunder Bay and Montreal, and new funding models that also encourage council ministries to keep reliable statistics.

"We are moving from self-interest to mutual support," he said.

COGS adjourned and reconvened as the board of the Anglican Church of Canada's sister organization, the Missionary Society of The Anglican Church of Canada, a legal entity that is not active, but still holds funds.

From 12:00 to 1:00 council members took a lunch break.

As the board of the MSCC, COGS passed several resolutions:

#### **Resolution**

Resolved that Hanna Goschy be appointed as

an additional officer of the MSCC while she is acting treasurer of General Synod.

#### **Resolution**

Resolved that MSCC board of directors authorize the transfer to General Synod from its undesignated reserves, sufficient funds to cover the operating deficit of General Synod for 2012 and 2013 [a total of approximately \$800,000 of \$1.3 million in this reserve]

#### **Resolution**

Resolved that because the financial statements of General Synod for 2012 will incorporate the operations of the MSCC and will be audited by the auditors of General Synod, the requirement for a separate audit of the MSCC is waived for 2012.

COGS considered a motion to lease mineral rights on land the MSCC owns in Alberta (a site of a former residential school). The chancellor, David Phillip Jones, explained that the officers consulted widely about this issue, including with the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, local Indigenous peoples, and a University of Calgary geologist who has advised the Diocese of Calgary on similar matters. The officers had agreed that any future royalties would be given to Indigenous Ministries.

Bishop Dennis Drainville asked if fracking (hydraulic fracturing of shale rock) would be used on this site and the chancellor said yes, at depths that are common elsewhere in Alberta. The bishop said he would oppose this motion based on environmental concerns. While acknowledging this concern, the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, expressed the value of aligning with the sovereign intent of the local Indigenous band, who are partners in the venture and who have given their approval to this project.

#### **Resolution**

COGS consented to leasing mineral rights on NW ¼-Tsp 30-R 7W4 in the province of Alberta, subject to final approval of the terms by the chancellor, and that any proceeds from the lease of the mineral rights shall be transferred to General Synod to be devoted to Indigenous Ministries.

COGS adjourned as board of MSCC and reconvened as the governing body of the Anglican Church of Canada.

## Financial Management Committee

COGS considered and passed several resolutions from the Financial Management Committee:

### Resolution

Resolved that the internal restriction on the reserve for Sacred Circle be removed and these funds be made available to relieve the anticipated deficit for 2012.

### Resolution

Resolved that notwithstanding this council's commitment to a sustainable and balanced budget, and given the extenuating circumstances in 2012 and 2013, that the unrestricted net assets of the MSCC be accepted and used to cover the deficit anticipated in the budget 2013 as bridging toward sustainable and balanced budgeting for 2014 and forward.

### Resolution

Resolved that the anticipated deficit of 2012 be made up with unrestricted funds from the MSCC.

### Resolution

Resolved that the budget for 2013 presented by the FMC be adopted.

### Resolution

Resolved that COGS ratify the grants approved by the Ministry Investment Fund Committee totaling \$103,000 for 2013.

## Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples

The Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor, Indigenous Ministries coordinator, gave an overview of the seventh national Sacred Circle, which gathered more than 200 people last August in Pinawa, Man. A brief video presentation showed the unanimous adoption of Canon 22, which solidified the position of the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop and moved the Indigenous church along the path of self-determination. Ms. Doctor also highlighted the work of the young people, who created a video of their time at Sacred Circle. This video is being edited and will be distributed throughout the church.

Ms. Doctor shared questions that table groups worked through, including "What makes an effective church?" The top answer to this question was "Do not be afraid!"

The Ven. Sid Black, co-chair of ACIP, shared what it has

been like for him to participate in Indigenous Ministries at the national level—a role he said he never expected to have. "It's been a real blessing for me to have done this work," he said, "just to walk with folks who are in deep pain and reaffirm their humanity, that they are beloved of God."

National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald also reflected on Sacred Circle, noting that all bishops who attended said it was a spiritually inspiring, life-changing event. He reminded members that ACIP's powerful and positive vision is to restore all society and move all people—victims and practitioners—away from racism.

"Indigenous people becoming who God wants us to be isn't a taking away from the rest of the church," he said. "Keep an eye on that vision of a powerful church together."

The presentation closed with a reflection from Peter Kitchekeesik, who shared what it was like for him to go to residential school and learn about Christianity. He said it took a while for the message to sink in, but eventually he followed the teachings. He said to COGS members, "We certainly love you."

After these moving questions, the Primate led members in a hymn and a prayer. Council then adjourned for a brief break.

## New diocese in Province of Rupert's Land

David Ashdown gave a detailed history of the Northern Ontario region in the Diocese of Keewatin. He noted that this region has, over several decades, taken firm steps towards self-determination. In 1975, Keewatin was separated into three regions—including Northern Ontario, primarily composed of Indigenous communities. In 2006, regions took on responsibility for their own funding, and in 2010, Bishop Lydia Mamakwa was elected as bishop of this region through traditional Indigenous methods.

The Northern Ontario region has now requested to become its own diocese and the diocesan council of Keewatin and the province of Rupert's Land have approved this request. If this is approved at General Synod, the Diocese of Keewatin will cease to exist (except as a legal entity) and parishes from the remaining two regions will need to join with other dioceses for continuing sacramental and pastoral care—a move that is under discussion.



Bishop Ashdown emphasized that this new diocese will be able to support itself financially; it is already on its way to doing so. He also noted that the Northern Manitoba region of the diocese, also primarily Indigenous, is also exploring ways of becoming self-determining.

### **Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee**

The Rev. Canon Dr. Todd Townshend, committee member, gave an overview of the work that the committee has put into creating the Competencies for the Ordination to the Priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Work on this topic traces back decades, but this particular task force has been at work since 2010 and built on the work of the D'Youville Report. To write the competencies, they consulted widely, including with the Primate, the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, each provincial synod, and other parties. Mr. Townshend said the response has overall been very positive.

The Rev. Canon Eric Beresford, another committee member, presented the competencies, which cover these principles:

1. The candidate must have a personal faith and spiritual life adequate to leading others.
2. The candidate needs to understand who we are as people of God and what it means to be Anglican within the wider family.
3. The candidate can translate their ministry into the context of the community.
4. The candidate should have the capacity to provide effective leadership in communities.
5. The candidate should have capacities for both teaching and learning.

Mr. Beresford noted that the competencies were aspirational and provided a framework—not a checklist—for ministry. They were developed to enhance transferability between dioceses and at the encouragement of full communion partners, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, which already has produced a similar, though longer, set of requirements.

#### **Resolution**

COGS received the Competencies for

Ordination to the Priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada document for information and discussion.

Dr. Lela Zimmer, committee member, spoke about the broad mandate of the committee and explained how their many pieces of work—from developing a hymnal supplement to participating in ecumenical dialogues—align with the priorities of Vision 2019.

Ms. Zimmer presented two questions for later discussion at COGS:

-How important to the mission and identity of the Anglican Church of Canada is the work of the FWMC?

-If FWMC were to be reconceived or restructured, what might replace it? What would it look like?

At 5:00, council adjourned for hospitality hour and a dinner to honour outgoing Treasurer Michèle George. Ms. George requested that instead of a gift, members donate to the Girl Power/Wolf Spirit Indigenous PWRDF youth program from the shared national gift guide. Council members donated more than \$800. The dinner featured songs in Ms. George's honour, sundry accountant jokes, and warm speeches celebrating her faithful service.

### **Planning for Joint Assembly**

The Very Rev. Peter Wall updated COGS on plans for the Anglican-Lutheran Joint Assembly next July. J. P. Copeland, a representative from Data on the Spot did a demo of new clicker technologies that will be used for electronic voting on the floor of Joint Assembly. The celebratory mood continued as members clicked their way through several silly but informative test polls.

COGS heard that Data on the Spot has worked with clients including the Liberal Biennial Convention and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Mr. Copeland said the advantages of electronic voting were its speed, the option of anonymity, the opportunity for ranked questions, and different data outputs (Excel, pie charts, etc.)

Mr. Wall clarified that only Anglicans would be using this technology at Joint Assembly and it would help speed the voting process during a national meeting that is four days instead of the usual nine.

Other Joint Assembly updates included a soft launch of the website, [www.jointassembly.ca](http://www.jointassembly.ca), and progress in creative joint worship planning.

The Ven. Harry Huskins introduced a resolution that would empower the officers of General Synod to ensure that the General Synod had adequate time to address significant structural and strategic challenges. He said some members felt anxiety that there would not be enough time to make necessary national decisions.

Members discussed various ways of addressing this need for assurance, noting this was a crucial time in the life of General Synod—especially in terms of finances—so members should take the time needed.

The Primate suggested that the motion should allow for flexibility in the sessions during Joint Assembly, but not the length of the meeting itself. Members agreed and adopted the resolution with this wording:

**Resolution**

COGS directs the officers to ensure that there is the time needed on the agenda of the upcoming General Synod session for the synod members

- a) to do the business required of them as a corporation
- b) to deal properly with the legislative matters (constitutional and canonical motions) coming before them; and
- c) to discuss among themselves the future of our Canadian church and changes that may be needed to the way it functions to better carry out mission.

This COGS directs the officers to make any modifications to the agenda or the length of sessions in synod that they consider is needed to ensure proper consideration of the matters coming before the synod session and delegates to the officers the power needed to do this.

At 9:00 p.m. Council closed the day with night prayers. The prayers of the assembly for the life of the world were patient, holy and profound.





# COGS Highlights



Council of General Synod

Nov. 18, 2012

Council began the last day of its fall meetings with Eucharist at 9:00 a.m. The Primate presided and preached about how our baptism should be a reminder of our new life in Christ.

## Pensions Committee

A representative from the Pensions Committee introduced several resolutions, which COGS passed:

**Resolution** (about General Synod Pension Plan regulations)

COGS approved the Pension Committee's recommendation that the Regulations of Canon VIII be restated, effective Jan. 1, 2013.

**Resolution** (about General Synod Pension Plan regulations)

COGS approved the Pension Committee's recommendation that the 0.4% contribution to the long-term disability plan pre-2005 be continued until Dec. 31, 2012: effective Jan. 1, 2013, the employees' contribution to the General Synod Pension Plan be increased by 0.4% and approve amendments to Regulation 3.2 (Contributions) of Canon VIII effective Jan. 1, 2013 to implement this change.

## Resolution

The Pension Contributions required from the Member in Active Service shall be 4.8% of salary [from 4.4%]

## Resolution

COGS approved the Pension Committee's recommendation that the General Synod Pension Plan provide the legally required minimum death benefit to the surviving partner of beneficiary of the plan member, which is the commuted value of benefits accrued after 2012 and approve amendments to Regulation 7 to implement this change.

## Resolution

COGS approved amendments to sections A.25, B.6, and C.4.3 of the Long-Term Disability Plan, effective September 26, 2012

Judy Robinson, Director of the Pension Office Corporation gave a brief presentation about the office's work and services. She said that the staff of ten in Toronto works on plan administration, accounting, and governance.

Ms. Robinson reminded COGS that her office offers retirement planning seminars, communications to plan members, and various liaising services with actuaries, asset managers, and investment consultants.

The Pension Office continues to work with The Episcopal Church to establish and administer pensions for Cuban Episcopal clergy.

## Governance Working Group

David Phillip Jones of the Governance Working Group outlined major areas of work, including

-Preparing a draft amendment of Canon 22 for National Indigenous Ministry, according to input from the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples and Sacred Circle.

-Preparing a draft canon on elections of Bishops Ordinary of the Canadian Forces.

-Working on a memo for bishops about the need to clarify that revocation of licence terminates any office or employment held by a member of the clergy.

-Working with the General Secretary and Resources for Mission staff to improve statistical information from parishes. This is essential because General Synod 2010 voted to revise the formula for representation to General Synod. Representation now depends on average attendance, which GWG is proposing be measured over two years on the Sundays of Easter, Pentecost, the second Sunday of September, and



Christmas. This proposal will come to the COGS March, 2013, meeting.

-Revising the current consecutive two-term limit for COGS members. Mr. Jones noted that this limit is unconstitutional and should be removed from the Handbook. In a straw poll, members agreed it was a good direction to remove this limit (which applies to consecutive terms, and does not apply to committees).

### **Structures consultation**

Janet Marshall, the consultant who will facilitate the Primate's January consultation on restructuring, reminded COGS about questions they formulated and selected earlier in the meeting. Ms. Marshall had clustered the questions together and asked members to gather according to which clusters interested them.

For 20 minutes, members discussed how to articulate what their questions are, who to direct the question to, and to predict what must go well for these questions to be addressed. Council members who will be at the consultation are now charged with carrying these insights forward to January.

Emerging comments included the following: "We need to know specifically what kind of work is getting funded at Church House." "We need to develop an elevator speech to summarize the work of General Synod." "We need to look at our work with new eyes and challenge what we've done in the past."

After a hymn and a prayer, members took a lunch break from 12:00 to 1:00.

### **Reflection from Episcopal partner**

Martha Gardner, partner from The Episcopal Church, said she was thrilled to be re-elected as TEC's partner on COGS. She reviewed the structures of TEC's governing bodies and made some corresponding suggestions for the Canadian church.

Among other comments, Ms. Gardner noted there might be strength in more intentional membership overlap between COGS and standing committees, and that regular reports from General Synod staff might be useful and welcome.

Ms. Gardner applauded the work of COGS's Planning and Agenda Team and the progress towards the Joint Anglican-Lutheran assembly.

Finally, Ms. Gardner wished COGS well as it undertakes restructuring work. She noted that TEC has been through similar challenges and said she would hold

COGS in her prayers.

### **Reflection from ELCIC partner**

The Rev. Doug Reble, partner from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, also noted that his church has gone through major restructuring work. He noted that the proposed synod-level changes for structural renewal were rejected at all ELCIC synods and will now only include changes to the national church bodies.

Mr. Reble noted that because of this process the ELCIC will now include a new category of church membership: "synodically recognized ministries," which could mean very new missions or historic congregations that now meet without a building.

Indigenous Ministries greatly influenced Mr. Reble's time at COGS. He appreciated the Gospel-Based Discipleship Bible studies and the reflections from the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor, Archdeacon Sid Black, and Peter Kitchekeesik. "The Anglican Church of Canada is a healing place," he said.

Finally, Mr. Reble also wished COGS well in its work of restructuring, which he said was a time to discern what to "stop, start, and continue."

### **Reflection from PWRDF**

The Rev. David Pritchard, representative from the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, first spoke about his 20-year friendship with the Rev. Ellinah Ntombi Wamukova, the first female bishop in Africa.

Mr. Pritchard encouraged COGS to include more opportunities for small group discussions. He also encouraged COGS to be prophetic, quoting words from the movie *To Kill a Mockingbird*: "Sometimes a brave man has to do something that other men are not prepared to do."

"I'm intensely proud of all of you," Mr. Pritchard said in conclusion. "Our church is blessed to have this group of people in leadership roles at this time in the life of the church."

### **Faith, Worship, and Ministry conversation**

Members returned to consider questions that Dr. Lela Zimmer introduced Saturday on behalf of the Faith, Worship, and Ministry. Members spent ten minutes discussing these questions:

-How important to the mission and identity of the Anglican Church of Canada is the work of the FWMC?

-If FWMC were to be reconceived or restructured, what might replace it? What would it look like?

Members reported back from their table groups, bringing comments including: "The committee is important to our mission and identity." "The committee could be more representative racially, theologically, and geographically." "Because FWMC has such a large mandate, its work should be prioritized and perhaps not arise spontaneously from the floor of synod."

COGS members turned to address the meeting's remaining resolutions:

### **FWM resolutions**

#### **Resolution**

COGS received the FWM committee report on the Theological and Ecclesiological Implications of the Adoption or non-Adoption of the Anglican Communion Covenant.

#### **Resolution**

COGS resolved to express its support of the Primate's letter to Minister Toews, and express its deep concern over the removal of part-time chaplaincies from prison services, recognizing that this move will have a disproportionately negative effect on the provision of much-needed chaplaincy services to non-Christian inmates.

### **Resources for Mission resolution**

#### **Resolution**

That the first item under terms of reference for the Resources for Mission Committee be changed to read "Develop and continue to update a theology of stewardship for the church." [It previously read "theology of philanthropy."]

### **Members' concerns**

Council members raised and discussed assorted concerns. Some had problems using facility wifi accessing COGS materials on The Community, the church's online conversation space. Dean Peter Elliott, Planning and Agenda Team chair, said that organizers were aware of the problem and will work to address it.

Another member raised concerns with the Truth and

Reconciliation process for document collection. The TRC had a mandate to review material in Anglican national and diocesan archives, but this work has stalled for budget reasons. General Secretary the Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson noted that General Synod is carrying this work and it will be addressed at an upcoming meeting of parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

### **Key messages**

In table groups, members brainstormed two headlines from the meeting, one positive and one negative thought, and their plans for reporting back.

Headlines included the following:

- COGS tackles essential questions on structures in order to reduce deficit
- Plunge of solidarity: COGS challenged to rethink ministry of whole church
- COGS rejoices at accomplishments of Sacred Circle
- COGS caught with its spirits up and cash down
- Missiologist brings inspirational messages

At 3:00, COGS finished its meeting by reciting the doxology from the Book of Alternative Services.

