

Wednesday, June 9

Archbishop Mancini of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax participated in opening prayer and Bible study Wednesday, and then addressed General Synod.

He thanked the Anglican church for its encouragement and support for the Roman Catholic church. His church has made continued dialogue a priority, he said. Decisions made at Synod can impact relationships with other faith communities and ecumenical dialogue, he said.

Following the Archbishop's presentation, Synod passed a resolution to recognize the 40th anniversary in 2011 of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission.

Dr. Allison Trites of the Canadian Bible Society presented Archbishop Fred with a Bible in recognition of almost 200 years of support by the Anglican Church of Canada for the Society's mission of translation, publication and distribution of the Scriptures. He also presented Bishop Mark MacDonald with a newly-published Plains Cree translation of the Gospel according to Mark, representing the Society's work in making the Bible available in the "heart language" of indigenous people.

Archbishop Fred noted that the First Mark of Mission is to proclaim the Good News, and that Synod had earlier resolved to observe the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible.

General Synod passed a resolution to officially receive the report of the Vision

2019 Task Force, and to direct officers and the Council of General Synod to be guided

by the document's priorities and practices in planning, program, and any organizational restructuring over the next three triennia.

Synod briefly moved into a meeting of the Missionary Society to pass a resolution allowing the directors to apply for its continuation as a non-profit corporation under federal legislation.

United Church Moderator Mardi Tindal thanked Anglicans for their prayers during her church's 85th anniversary year. In her address she talked about how churches' financial challenges tempt Christians to be fearful. She also touched on the report on Anglican-United relationship, and offered her hope that the two denominations would continue to collaborate and share ministry. Quoting Archbishop Desmond Tutu, she said "God needs us. The world needs us."

Synod passed a resolution to renew dialogue with the United Church of Canada after a period of abstinence.

Synod also resolved to press the Government of Canada to take steps to reduce greenhouse gases; and for the Anglican Church to set an example by greening its spaces.

Synod members stood to applaud the passage of Resolution A051, which recognized the national indigenous ministry in the new Canon 22. The canon incorporates roles of the National Indigenous Bishop, Anglican Council of Indigenous People, and the Sacred Circle, as unique expressions of faith within the Anglican Church of Canada. Archdeacon Sidney Black, Calgary Diocese, hailed the resolution's passage as an historic and "sacred moment."

Synod then carried a resolution to place the National Aboriginal Day of Prayer in the church's liturgical calendar, complete with readings and collect. It will be marked on June 21, or the nearest Sunday.

Synod members unanimously passed a resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery, which held that occupying nations could dispossess indigenous nations by virtue of "discovering" them. The resolution calls for the elimination of policies based on the doctrine; and for the General Secretary to write Queen Elizabeth II as governor of the Church of England, requesting that she disavow and publicly repudiate the claimed validity of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery.

A resolution endorsing the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also passed unanimously.

In a presentation by the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP), led by National Anglican Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald, leaders described their hopes for the future following the passage of Resolution A051 and other measures. Representatives from the regions of Northern Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan spoke of long-held dreams coming true, their commitment to the Anglican Church of Canada, and their sense of a spiritual movement among indigenous people that would help shape the church's future.

A new bishop will be elected at a Sacred Circle in The Pas, Manitoba, in the fall.

ACIP presented gifts to the people who had helped them reach that moment in history.

Marion Saunders, national president of Anglican Church Women (ACW), spoke about the organization's 125 years of mission in the Anglican Church of Canada. ACW represents women in various ministries, and has ties with similar organizations in other denominations. Bookmarks and more information are available at the ACW display. Also see www.acwcanada.com.

A presentation by PWRDF described its partnerships with the Organization for Eelam Refugees and Rehabilitation, Canadian Food Grains Bank, and KAIROS. Information is available at the PWRDF display, along with copies of a video about the tar sands project and a special worship service; and a petition supporting KAIROS.

It was also noted that cyclist Suzanne Rumsey left Wednesday morning for her 1300-km Tour-de-PWRDF awareness and fund-raising cycling trip to St Anne de Bellevue. The tour can be followed online. Her departure marked the close of the agency's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Synod voted in favour of the Nominating Committee's final report, which elected nominees from a slate of 109 candidates to Council of General Synod and to 39 positions in six standing committees. The names of candidates who were not selected will be forwarded to the Primate for appointment to committees. Selections were made with consideration of representation from dioceses, indigenous peoples, gender, age, clergy and laity, as well as considering experience and expertise.

Synod passed a resolution committing the church to pursuing peace and justice for all in Palestine and Israel.

A resolution passed to express deep concern to the Prime Minister and federal government regarding the loss of life in an incident involving Israel's defence forces and relief ships in international waters. Synod resolved to ask for a full international inquiry.

After two amendments, Synod passed a resolution to consider the best way to incorporate a new baptismal vow about being stewards of creation, which addresses the fifth Mark of Mission.

A resolution addressing budget cutting procedures for 2011 was defeated.

Synod resolved to mark the 50th anniversary in 2012 of the publication of the 1962 version of the Book of Common Prayer, which is also the 350th anniversary of the publication of the 1662 version.

Synod agreed to review the system of apportioning funds from the dioceses to the national church.

Synod agreed to mark this year, 2010, as the United Nations Year of the Seafarer, with special liturgies and/or support for the Missions to Seafarers.

Plenary broke into sexuality discernment discussion groups in the morning and reported in the evening. A printed statement was handed out at the end of plenary. It summarized the discussions, and stated, among other points, that members were not ready for a legislative decision. Further discussions are scheduled for Thursday morning.

Departure information is posted in the Loyola foyer and at the Local Arrangements Committee office.

The display lounge passport giveaway takes place Thursday evening. Get yours stamped and turn it in to the display coordinator's desk by 6 pm.

The offering from Synod's opening service at the cathedral was almost \$3,000, to be used in outreach projects in Halifax.