

NUMBER ONE

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Opening Eucharist

The 38th Session of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada gathered for the Opening Eucharist at the Cathedral Church of St. John, Winnipeg (Diocese of Rupert's Land) on the evening of June 19, 2007. The Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. John Harvard, was present and later, during the Eucharist, addressed the Synod. The Eucharist was preceded by a Smudging Ceremony on the west bank of the historic Red River. It was led by Elder Linda Blomme.

General Synod Chancellor, the Hon. Ronald Stephenson, announced that 40 bishops, 110 clergy and 135 laity had registered and that there was a quorum. The Primate, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, declared the Synod open.

Greetings were brought from the Premier's office by Mr. Douglas Martindale, MLA and from the City of Winnipeg by Deputy Mayor, Brenda Leipsic..

In his address to the Synod, the Primate, Archbishop Hutchison, reflected on the Synod theme, *Draw the Circle Wide, Draw It Wider Still*, as he highlighted the work of the previous triennium (2004-07) and anticipated some of the matters

which would come before General Synod 2007.

He noted that the intent of "the Lord of the Church to draw all people to himself" has been witnessed in the Anglican 'circle' which has grown ever wider, the Anglican Church now being present in 164 countries throughout the world.

The General Synod of 2004 had developed *Serving God's World, Strengthening the Church* as a framework for mission and ministry and the Primate noted that one task of the Synod would be to give account "of that resolve to one another and to God." As part of that work members of the Synod would be called upon to enter into "the hard work of discernment," of listening to one another through "engaging respectfully in the discussion of motions."

Among the major agenda items would be the primatial election and consideration of *The Windsor Report* and *The St. Michael Report*.

He drew attention to the issue of the blessing of same-gender relationships which, he indicated, was closely related to "how Anglicans receive and understand Scriptures in the light of modern scholarship, and contemporary experience." He recalled that *The St. Michael Report* stated that blessings of

same-gender relations “should not be a communion breaking issue” and that in keeping with Anglican tradition “we make room at the table for those whose views we do not share.”

Among other matters, the Primate made reference to:

PWRDF

There has been a tremendous response to the Partnership for Life for a generation without AIDS program with more than three times the original target of \$1-million having already been raised.

Indigenous Concerns

All dioceses have contributed towards the Settlement Fund. In the revised agreement with the federal government the Church’s share is expected to be reduced from \$25 million to \$17.5 million upon the acceptance of the new agreement with the federal government and former residential school students. He further remarked that the Synod would be celebrating the appointment of the Rt. Reverend Mark MacDonald to a three-year appointment as the Church’s first National Indigenous Anglican Bishop.

The Anglican Foundation

The Foundation is celebrating its 50th Anniversary and now manages \$15-million in capital. New Funds for the Council of the North and the Armed Forces chaplains have been established.

The Pension Committee

The Diocese of Montreal has now joined the General Synod Pension Plan.

Development Office

It is intended to establish a new development office modeled after those in hospitals and universities.

Anglican Book Centre

An agreement has been reached with Augsburg Fortress Canada which has allowed the Anglican Book Centre to continue its ministry following several years of significant deficits.

Communications

Conversations with the Primate on the Anglican Church of Canada website was established as a regular (almost monthly) feature thanks to a grant from the Anglican Foundation and monies raised by two Primate’s Dinners.

Youth Ministry

General Synod has been able to enter into a partnership with Huron College in the *Ask and Imagine* program. As well, a part time national coordinator for youth ministry has been retained.

The Episcopal Church of Cuba

The Canadian Primate has continued to be the chair of the Metropolitan Council which provides that church with its connections with the rest of the Communion.

Anglican Partnerships

While staff in this area has been reduced, Partnerships with churches in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean have been maintained. If ‘Serving God’s World’ is to be the church’s theme, the Primate said, “our global partnerships should remain a high priority . . . despite the politics of the Primates.”

The House of Bishops

In spite of occasional disagreements, members of the House have worked together “respectfully and prayerfully.”

The Structures of the Communion

The framework of the Lambeth Quadrilateral (the Old and New Testaments, the historic creeds, the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist and the historic episcopate) continue as the framework for our work within and beyond the Anglican Communion.

Conclusion and thanks

Archbishop Hutchison expressed appreciation to God for the privilege of serving as Primate, to those who upheld him in their prayers, to the staff of Church House and to his wife, Lois.

He reminded Synod members that drawing the circle wide, the middle way, is “the great legacy we have received as Anglicans” and our gift to the wider church is “our ability to hold together in one family such a remarkable range of diversity.”

Following the Eucharist members of Synod attended a reception at Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral.

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Wednesday, a.m., June 20

Members of Synod met for bible study in 34 home groups. Groups used the principles of the Aboriginal Sacred Circle.

Following Morning Prayer the Orders of the Day were presented by Barbara Burrows, chair of the Agenda Committee.

Martin Hendy, chair of the Resolutions Committee introduced the 35 resolutions which the Committee had put on the No Debate List. He reviewed the principles upon which resolutions are placed on the No Debate List. The Orders of the Day were adopted.

The Primate introduced those at the head table: Patricia Henshaw, Secretary; Michael Pollesel, General Secretary; Peter Elliott, Prolocutor, Ronald Stevenson, Chancellor; Susan Winn, Deputy Prolocutor. Also introduced were the chairs of the Sessional Committees.

Greetings were brought from the Roman and Eastern Catholic churches by Emilius Goulet, Archbishop of St. Boniface. He assured the Synod of the commitment of the Roman Catholic Church to maintain dialogue with the Anglican Church of Canada and the Anglican Communion as decisions are made with respect to the blessings of same gender relationships. He concluded his greeting by wishing the General Synod “good luck”.

Overseas Partners and Visitors were welcomed by the Primate.

George Campbell, chair of the Rupert’s Land Aboriginal Council and Bishop Don Phillips extended welcome and greeting to members of General Synods.

Courtesies were extended to Archbishop John Sentamu, Archbishop of York and Primate of England; Canon Kenneth Kearon, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion; Canon Philip Groves, Facilitator for the Listening Process for the Anglican Communion; Mr. George Campbell, Chair of the

Rupert's Land Aboriginal Council; The Rev. Kevin Arndt, past-chair of the Ecojustice Committee; Mr. Deo Mareno, member of the anti-racism group of General Synod; Dr. Patricia Bays, Chair of the Windsor Report Response Committee, Ms. Monica Patten, chair of the Financial Management and Development Committee, the Rev. Paul Johnson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; and the Directors of the Departments of General Synod.

The Minutes of the 37th Session of General Synod (2004) and Draft Agenda 9 were adopted. The reports in the Convening Circular were received. Various other procedural motions were adopted.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolution A060: amendment to the Rules of Order respecting motions to close debate.

Resolution A080: Amendments to Canon VIII – Long Term Disability Plan

Resolution A081: Amendments to Canon XII – The Continuing Education Plan in regard to income tax status.

Resolution A260: Amendments to the regulations of Canon VIII – the General Synod Pension Plan

Resolution A261: Amendments to the Regulations of Canon IX – Lay Retirement Plan

Resolution A262: Amendments to the Regulations of Canon XII – The Continuing Education Plan

Resolution A082: Amendments to Canon XVII – The Licensing of Clergy

Resolution A180: The merger of the Ecojustice Committee and the Partners in Mission Committee to form a new committee, the Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Committee.

Resolution A043: Amendment to section 39 of the Constitution of General Synod to give effect to Resolution A180

Resolution A182: Membership of the newly created Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Committee.

Resolution A044: Amendment to section 39 (f) of the Constitution of General Synod to reduce the number of members of the Communication and Information Resources Committee.

Resolution A042: Amendment to section 30 g) of the Constitution of General Synod to allow representatives of churches other than the Anglican Church of Canada which are in full communion with the Anglican Church of Canada.

Resolution A181: Mandate of the new Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Committee with inclusion by 'friendly amendment' of the word "evangelism" in sections b) and j).

Anti-Racism Update

An audio presentation was presented in which various persons recounted their experiences with racist behavior and comments. Presentations were made by Jim Njegovan, Bishop of Rupert's Land and Deo Mareno. An anti-racism educational module has been developed for use in the Church and A Charter for Racial Justice has been adopted by the Council of General Synod. Mel Malton and Esther Wesley presented an anti-racism 'skit'. Members joined in a Litany of Commitment to anti-racism.

Nominations Committee

Bishop Sue Moxley, Suffragan Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island called for nominations for Prolocutor of General Synod and outlined nomination procedures and

elections. She also called for nominations to the Standing Committees

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolution A160: audited financial statements

Resolution A161: approval of Ernst and Young as auditors

Greetings

Archbishop of York Dr. John Sentamu

The Archbishop emphasized the importance of graciousness, gracious magnanimity and moderation – ‘meet the person half-way’. All are redeemed members of Christ. God is graciously magnanimous with us which is beyond the law. There is a need to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Canon Kenneth Kearon

Canon Kearon brought greetings from the Communion. Among his purposes for being here is to learn something of the nature of the Anglican Church of Canada. He does this at various times throughout the Communion. He will be interested in learning of our Church’s response to the Windsor Report. With respect to the Anglican Communion the question is, “How do I act responsibly with my fellow Christians in the Body of Christ?” He urged members to celebrate the wonderful diversity of the Communion rather than focusing on the stresses and strains in the Communion.

National Aboriginal Day of Prayer

Sidney Black, co-chair of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples alerted members to events which will take place on National Aboriginal Day, June 21. Ethel Ahenakew of the Diocese of

Saskatoon spoke of her growth as an Anglican. She also affirmed the place of Aboriginal People in Canada and further reminded members that “Canada is a treaty nation.”

Wednesday p.m., June 20

Council of the North

The Synod was gathered for the afternoon session by an Aboriginal drumming and singing Diocese of Keewatin,

The presentation was introduced by the Rt. Reverend Tony Burton, chair of the Council of the North and Dean Sewap, Diocese of Saskatchewan. Members were given information on *real persons doing real ministry thanks to the Council of the North* moderated by the Rev. Bruce Myers, Diocese of Quebec. **What is the Council of the North? The History** of the ministry and ministry in areas encompassed by the Council of the North. **The people** of the Council of the North and the ministry undertaken there. **Challenges** of theological education. **Testimonials** by Canadian Anglicans from both southern and northern Canada. Something of the culture of the north was presented by two throat-singers from Rankin Inlet.

The Synod was given information regarding financial support for the Council dioceses which is used in a variety of ways. Currently, the funding of the Council of the North is at the same level as 20 years ago and does not reflect the costs of ministry in Council dioceses. Ministry and funding objectives and strategies were presented which include seeking funding from outside General Synod funding.

The following resolutions arising from the Presentation were adopted:

Resolution A200: Council of the North Grants to remain at no less than the current level for the years 2007 to 2011.

Resolution A201: Council of the North allowed to seek funding supplementary to Council of the North support grants.

Synod members then re-convened in 'Conversation' groups at 3:30 pm: the two groups of conversations were on the Blessing of Same Sex Unions; the Windsor Report; Governance **and** Blessing of Same Sex Unions; Windsor Report; Financial Management and Development at 7 pm.

Synod received a report from the Nominations Committee on nominations for the office of Prolocutor. The following people have been nominated: The Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews of Algoma, The Venerable Bruce Bryant-Scott of British Columbia, The Very Rev. Terry A. Dance of Huron, Ms. Heather Dixon of Rupert's Land Chancellor Canon (Lay) Robert L. Falby, Q.C. of Toronto, Suzanne L. Lawson of Toronto, The Rev. Dr. Richard Geoffrey Leggett of New Westminster, The Very Rev. James Merrett of Qu'Appelle and The Rev. Rob Towler of Huron.