

ANTI RACISM WORKING GROUP

Report to General Synod 2007-2010 Triennium

Mandate and Name

The Anti-Racism Working Group was re-mandated by General Synod in 2007 to carry out two major tasks:

- a) To provide anti-racism training to the Council of General Synod, its committees, boards and councils, the Council of the North, and the House of Bishops;
- b) To develop and begin to implement a regional train-the-trainers program.

At the time we were re-named “the Anti-Racism Implementation Group” though we continue to be known as the Anti-Racism Working Group.

Membership

In the 2007-2010 triennium, those who served on the Working Group were Ms. Elizabeth Beardy (Keewatin), the Rev. Richard Bruyere (Keewatin), Archdeacon Peter Fenty (Toronto), the Rev. Dale Gillman (Qu’Appelle), the Rev. Yves-Eugene Joseph (Montreal, Military Ordinariate), Ms. Mel Malton (Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island), Mr. Deo Moreno (Toronto), Bishop Jim Njegovan (Brandon), Mr. Clarence Randell (Newfoundland).

During the triennium Mr. Deo Moreno, Ms. Mel Malton, and Mr. Clarence Randell withdrew due to changes in their lives. A dinner was held at the October 2008 meeting to celebrate their contributions as well as the leadership of Ellie Johnson, retired director of Partnerships. We welcomed the Ven. Peter Fenty (Toronto) and the Rev. Dale Gillman (Qu’Appelle) as new members.

The Working Group was staffed by Maylanne Maybee, Esther Wesley, and Lydia Laku with strategic support from Ms. Henriette Thompson, director of Partnerships.

Meetings

The Working Group met in Toronto five times

- Nov 9-10, 2007
- Feb 22-23, 2008

- Oct 20-21, 2008
- Feb 20-21, 2009
- October 23-24, 2009

Achievements and Developments

The reduced number of meetings for COGS and related committees, councils, and boards necessitated a re-thinking of our priorities for the triennium. We made a commitment to complete training for the leadership level of General Synod — Council of the North, ACIP, COGS, and the House of Bishops — and to shift the delivery of anti-racism training to regional workshops.

Day long anti-racism training events were provided for Partners in Mission and Ecojustice, Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, and the Council of the North, and for the clergy and staff of the diocese of Rupert's Land. Efforts to provide training for the Council of General Synod and the House of Bishops were not successful because of overloaded agenda and changes in meeting schedules.

In addition, two to three-hour Anti-Racism Awareness workshops were offered at the invitation of Rupert's Land Provincial Synod and the parish St. Christopher's, Burlington.

A third priority was to consult with The Episcopal Church and the Canadian Ecumenical Training Network to discover how best to deliver anti-racism training regionally and ecumenically. In June 2009, Esther Wesley and Maylanne Maybee participated in an anti-racism training program of The Episcopal Church followed by a training of trainers. Dr. Ellie Johnson, retired Director of Partnerships, participated in the program as a potential resource person for adapting the training design for Canadian usage.

In October 2009 the Rev. Jayne Oasin, program consultant for anti-racism with TEC, met with the Anti Racism Working Group to share information and learning about the approach used in the USA. The Anti Racism Working Group also met with the Canadian Ecumenical Anti Racism Network to explore opportunities for ecumenical collaboration.

Throughout the triennium, the Anti Racism Working Group demonstrated a strong and unwavering commitment to its work. Members felt strongly that anti-racism training should be a requirement for persons serving on General Synod Committees, just as members of General Synod committees are expected to sign onto the Sexual Misconduct Policy.

Looking Ahead

At the October 2009, the Working Group identified these desired outcomes for the 2010-2013 triennium:

- Increased awareness of structural patterns of privilege in General Synod and increased commitment to dismantle racism.
- Increased capacity at the provincial and diocesan level to deliver anti-racism training to clergy and lay leaders.