

Daily Report

June 10, 2010

General Synod passed a resolution affirming a statement arising from members' discernment discussion regarding human sexuality. The resolution involved an overview of the document, the one produced Wednesday evening and commended to members' overnight consideration. The overview was followed by silent prayer and then formal discussion of the motion.

The resolution calls for the statement to be sent to the dioceses for distribution. Synod members said the document reflected compromise and honest dialogue across dioceses, age groups, cultures, and gender: "a supremely Anglican position." Delegates also commended the air of listening and respect that characterized the discussions. A few were concerned that their voices were not reflected in the document, and worried that the statement might be difficult to translate. It was noted that the statement expresses the experience of this Synod, but not that of all Anglicans, so clarification is necessary.

The proponents of a series of resolutions dealing with sexuality met briefly during plenary, and decided two would be withdrawn.

Synod subsequently passed a resolution calling for a scriptural and theological study of human sexuality over the next three years, in conversation with the gay and lesbian community and in consultation with the Canadian church's full range of theological opinion.

Later in the day, Synod unanimously carried a fourth resolution in the series. It called for the church to deplore persecution of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, and to ask partners in jurisdictions with such legislation to do the same. The motion also called on the Anglican Church to "embrace the outcast and stand against the abuse and

torment" of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons."

PWRDF's final Synod presentation included a video and speeches by Synod members Cynthia Haines-Turner and Bishop Philip Poole speaking about the role of PWRDF. Then Sinnathamby Sooryakamari of Sri Lanka told of displaced persons who had finished school and developed community infrastructure while living in refugee camps, thanks to PWRDF. She also told of a woman who received seed money to start a farm after returning to her homeland after conflict.

"Without PWRDF, all this would not have been possible," she said.

Bishop Barry Clarke described PWRDF's strong response to Haiti's ongoing need. Synod then sang Happy Birthday to PWRDF.

The cast of *Roots Among the Rocks* were commissioned during Noon Watch for their upcoming performing tour, and Synod was commissioned to support them and uphold them in prayer.

Synod said farewell to Canon Kenneth Kearon of the Anglican Communion, who spoke to Synod on Wednesday.

Synod heard a presentation on the proposed covenant for the Anglican Communion.

Then a resolution was passed to receive the document's final draft, provide for its study at national, diocesan and parish levels, and direct Council of General Synod to bring a recommendation to General Synod 2013 regarding the Covenant's adoption.

A resolution proposing a closer relationship with the Anglican Communion, and adopting the covenant following the Church of England's example, was ruled out of order.

Hellen Wangusa, the Anglican observer at the United Nations, talked about the Millennium Development Goals. She lamented that poverty had not been reduced, despite the wealth in some parts of the world. She cautioned that poverty couldn't be addressed without tackling the root

causes. She complimented Synod on grappling with difficult issues, and for Anglicans' reputation for doing good work around the world. Ms Wangusa urged Anglicans to invest in education, clean water, studying climate change, and the fight against "everything that causes suffering."

Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, described the commonalities between her church and the Anglican Church of Canada. Churches had drifted towards "Christianity lite," but there was hope despite challenges and concerns about the future, she said. Bishop Johnson led in a Lutheran-style rendition of the Doxology.

Peter Wall described the work of the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission arising from the 2001 Waterloo Declaration, and outlined points from the document. He also spoke of the ways in which the two churches share ministry.

That includes exploring the possibility that Anglicans, based in Toronto, and Lutherans, based in Winnipeg, might share a head office in Ottawa.

The Lutheran and Anglican churches hope to share when they hold their National Conference and General Synod, respectively, in 2013 in Ottawa. The two churches plan to meet together except for topics that need to be addressed by individual constitutions.

Synod enjoyed a humorous slide show presented by photojournalist Art Babych.

The primate presented gifts of appreciation to Synod's retiring coordinator Margaret Shawyer; acting general secretary Sam Carriere; Chancellor Ron Stevenson; and planning chairwoman Barbara Burrows.

Plenary closed with Celtic evening prayer, with music by Ardith and Jennifer.

Results of the Juggling Contest:

Most complex – Rev Neil Elliott; Longest – Sarah Jane Larocque; Most creative – Rev.

Randy Townsend; Best try – Rev Michael Hawkins.

Tour-de-PWRDF cyclist Suzanne Rumsey reached Springhill Thursday night.

Meal tickets must be returned to the Loyola registration desk or the cafeteria before departure.

June 11 checkout times are 1 p.m. for Vanier and Loyola 13, and anytime for other residences. June 12 checkout times are 11 am in Vanier and Loyola. Luggage may be stored in the private dining room for delegates whose departure is not immediately following checkout.

Take-out breakfasts are available for delegates leaving at 4:30 am Saturday.

Unwanted paper may be left on residence room desks for recycling.

In the passport contest, George Elliott won the X-Box; Rev Hannah Dicks won the Sorrento course; Brian Evans won the Great Nova Scotia Cook Book; and Canon Roberta Woodman won the Acadian print.

Quotable quotes:

'They are rebuilding their lives from ashes.' - Sinnathamby Sooryakamari

'Any ship is safe in a harbour, but that's not what ships are for.' – Bishop Percy Coffin.

'A new vision of what the church can be has emerged among my people.' - Rev. Larry Beardy

'We are a motley crew.' – Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori

'It's not that God's church has a mission, but that God's mission has a church.' – Canon Nick Brotherwood.

'You don't have to die to be generous.' - Canon John Robertson.

'The next war will be about water, whether we like it or not.' – Hellen Wangusa.