



Daily Report

June 5, 2010

Plenary sessions opened Saturday with Morning Prayer and Bible study on the Gospel story of the loaves and fishes.

Synod elected the incumbent prolocutor Canon Robert Falby, of the Diocese of Toronto, to a second term. It took two ballots to select Canon Falby from the five candidates. The other nominees were Ms. Cynthia Haines-Turner of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland, Canon Terry Leer of Athabasca Diocese, Rev. Dr. Alan Perry of Montreal Diocese, and Canon John A. Steele of British Columbia Diocese.

During the election, a concern was raised about delegates having no paper copies of the candidates' biographies on which to base their voting decisions.

Nominations for deputy prolocutor close Monday at 9 a.m.

Synod's second community-building exercises used balls, elastic bands, and other props to demonstrate the skills necessary to reach individual and corporate goals at the same time. Participants noted that - because of their focus, teamwork, awareness, cooperation, community, and consensus - they didn't drop the ball.

Bishop Suheil Dawani, of the Anglican Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, told Synod about the church's challenges in the "Land of the Holy One." The diocese extends over Lebanon, Syria,

Jordan, Palestine and Israel, and includes 27 parishes. Bishop Dawani said that extremism among Muslims, Jews and Christians had grown out of their frustration, and that many young Christians had left the area to find a better future somewhere else. Less than two per cent of the region's current population is Christian, down from almost 30 per cent in 1947.

"A people of hope" live in Jerusalem, "the city of Resurrection... where death has been defeated," he said, going on to describe the church's work in its many hospitals and schools. When Christian values of tolerance and respect are taught to children, they can stamp out extremism, he added.

The bishop's wife, Shafeeqa Dawani, described her work helping women in the diocese find ways to pray together, assume public volunteer roles, and reach out to other faiths.

The Dawanis' visit to Canada follows the Primate's tour of the Holy Land last year. Synod will consider a resolution later regarding a closer relationship with the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Following an overview of the Vision 2010 task force report, led by Peter Elliott, Synod members considered the report in table groups and then gave their feedback in an informal session. As well as commending the report, they raised concerns about evangelism, peace and reconciliation, the Canadian church's place in the Anglican Communion, vision versus reality, communicating the document to Anglicans, sexual orientation, leadership, finances, ecumenism, synchronizing the visioning

process among dioceses and ecclesiastical provinces, clarity, the division of labour among governing levels, roles of youth, and the uneven availability of clergy across Canada.

Vision 2010 will be studied again Sunday morning in Ports of Call, and a resolution will be presented Wednesday.

Treasurer Michele George and chairwoman Monica Patten of the Financial Management and Development Committee introduced General Synod's consolidated statement, showing \$13.2 million in net assets for the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2009. The operations statement shows \$12.7 in revenue, mostly from diocesan giving; and \$13.6 million in expenses. The shortfall was covered by using part of an undesignated \$3.4 million legacy, with another \$500,000 of the legacy set aside for the future. The remainder of the legacy was placed in trust. Ms. George noted that the church can not depend on legacies for revenue.

The 2010 budget projects \$9.7 million in revenue, with \$10 million budgeted for expenses. The Philanthropy department hopes to increase revenue, with measures planned for 2011 and 2012 to eliminate deficit budgeting.

A video presentation on philanthropy described fund-raising as a form of ministry, with the remark that one doesn't have to die to be generous.

Philanthropy will be discussed further during a Ports of Call workshop Sunday. Synod passed resolutions to approve the audited report and to appoint 2010 auditors.

Resolutions were passed to separate the Philanthropy sub-committee from the Financial Management and Development Committee to create a new standing

committee, and to update corresponding documents.

Monica Patten and Rob Dickson were congratulated on each receiving the Anglican Award of Merit.

A presentation by the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund described the agency's work in 25 countries including Canada. PWRDF's 50th anniversary ends here at General Synod, after raising more than \$94 million since it was founded in response to the 1958 Springhill mine disaster. Presenters included Suzanne Rumsey, who will embark from Halifax on Wednesday on a 1300-kilometre "Tour de PWRDF" cycling adventure.

Recommendations from a youth ministry task force established at the 2007 General Synod include ensuring funding consistency, and ending the practice of segregating youth, said national youth initiatives coordinator Judy Steers. Events like Ask & Imagine, Justice Camps, and national Anglican youth forums continue, and new initiatives are under way in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and other denominations.

Of particular interest was a video clip of a petrified Primate aloft on a tightrope, being encouraged by a younger participant in Ask & Imagine.

Unwanted paper materials may be left on the residence desks at the close of Synod, to be collected for re-use or recycling.

Delegates can have their blue passports stamped by visiting the display booths on the upper level of plenary. Once full, the books may be turned over to the display coordinator to make the holder eligible for a gift.