



Daily Report

June 3, 2010

Canon Barbara Burrows of Edmonton Diocese led the Thursday afternoon orientation session, held in the plenary room at the Tower of St Mary's University. The Primate, acting general secretary Sam Carriere, and committee leaders assisted in describing who is involved in 39th General Synod and introducing leaders; and giving an overview of the work before delegates over the next nine days, the worship opportunities, and the chance to meet Anglican and others from across Canada and beyond.

Members of Synod, partners from other denominations and from First Nations, staff and volunteers, presenters, guests, observers, and companions number about 400 people.

Housekeeping notes included a reminder that meal cards could be swiped only once per meal – and hot breakfasts don't start until 7:30 a.m.

The chaplain's office is across the hall from Tim Horton's in Loyola. The chaplain's cell phone number is 902-495-6940.

The opening service for Synod was held at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, with the Most Reverend Fred Hiltz celebrating. The procession, by ecclesiastical province, was led by bright sail-shaped flags, to conform with

Synod's nautical theme: Feeling the Winds of God – Charting a New Course. In his sermon, the Right Reverend Miguel Tamayo, Bishop of the Dioceses of Uruguay and of Cuba, spoke about the relationship between the Anglican Church of Canada and the church in Cuba that helped maintain the church after the revolution. He compared the Canadian church's outreach to Cuba as an example of the church acting as the branches of the vine, related to John 15: 1-11. Bishop Tamayo continued with the Gospel metaphor of vine-growing, by describing the process of pruning vines for a better yield.

June 4, 2010

The first plenary session began Friday morning with the hymn I Feel the Winds of God and brief prayer. The nautical theme continued with the announcements of the Orders of the Day – the marine terms for the daily agenda. Formalities included the declaration of a quorum, the adoption of minutes from General Synod 2007, and approving procedural resolutions.

Then, for 90 minutes, Synod members took part in several noisy and exuberant exercises designed to help delegates get to know each other. Participants cheered each other's hobbies and foibles, pretended to be pterodactyls or moose, swapped name tags, danced on tables, invented secret handshakes, and shared

personal stories. When Synod members hear the command “Back to back!” in the future, they will probably search for a stranger with whom to play games.

Archbishop Fred Hiltz’s presidential address, posted on the website www.anglican.ca, touched on the wind theme as he described the Holy Spirit moving through Synod deliberations, and identified Vision 2019 as a means to realizing concerns raised at previous general synods. He urged a sense of inclusiveness, generosity, and reconciliation in the approach to issues of indigenous ministries, past wrongs towards First Nations peoples, and the Canadian church’s relationship with the wider Anglican Communion and with other faith traditions. He also spoke of the need for General Synod to work within its budget, and recent unprecedented change in the church that drives the focus to “charting a new course” over the next three years.

The Noon Watch pause for prayer – and then lunch -was heralded with eight bells, as on a ship.

The afternoon session involved the consideration of a number of resolutions including passage of an historically significant constitutional amendment to afford full Synod membership to the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop. Synod also passed resolutions to elect, rather than appoint, armed forces and indigenous bishops; to ensure resolutions are financially feasible; and to clarify some voting procedures.

Synod defeated a motion to base its clergy and lay membership on average diocesan church attendance instead of calculating representation by the number

of licensed clergy. Concerns were raised about the inconsistency of reporting attendance, and the potential for reducing representation from smaller dioceses. Because the vote was close, Synod agreed to revisit the matter on Monday.

A team presentation of Vision 2019 and the Marks of Mission will be followed by other discussion opportunities on Saturday and Sunday; followed by a resolution on Wednesday.

A resolution to discuss reducing the size of the Council of General Synod (CoGS) from 42 members to 28 was discussed informally before voting. Members raised concerns about losing diocesan input, the council’s unwieldy size, and the cost of meeting before voting in favour of the resolution. Synod also agreed to allow the Council to meet by video- or tele-conferencing.

Portions of General Synod are streamed by live video over the Internet, with feedback from watchers across the world.

Delegates are reminded to collect their Tuesday night banquet tickets from the Local Arrangements Committee table by noon on Saturday.

The first day’s plenary sessions ended with Compline.