

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POSTULANTS FOR ORDINATION
ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF CANADA

Report of the ACPO Conference 2004 for Provincial Council

The Province of Canada 2004 ACPO Conference was held at the Lavrock Camp and Conference Centre, Salmonier Line, in the diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, May 6- 8. The Chair, The Rt. Rev'd Donald Harvey, offered a presentation to the assessors on Friday morning, as well as presided and preached at the Friday afternoon Eucharist. We are grateful for his input into the preparation and opening day of the weekend.

Assessors

There were twenty-one assessors from across the province, fifteen from the host diocese and one from each of the others, except for the diocese of Central Newfoundland, who had their annual diocesan conference on the same weekend. Those who did attend were all recommended by their diocesan bishop.

Once again the assessors took time to prepare themselves with the details of the ACPO process and the information on the candidates as well. Their commitment to the process is admirable.

Team Training

As in the previous year we were fortunate to have an evening of training on Thursday with the assessors led by the Rev'd Dr. Alex Faseruk, M.U.N.L. School of Business. Dr. Faseruk, himself a deacon, chairs the Diaconal Discernment Committee in the diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. His reflections on the ACPO process, the concept of discernment in terms of call, character and charisms, as well as tips for interviewing and report writing were very helpful. His insights and familiarity with discernment helped reinforce an understanding of the process.

Chaplain

Our chaplain, the Rev'd Betty Harbin, a parish priest in our diocese, coordinated the worship with the candidates and provided pastoral care to all in need throughout the weekend. She presided and preached at the closing Eucharist on Sunday morning. We are grateful for her pastoral gifts.

Facility

In preparation for ACPO 2005 we have booked the Lavrock Camp and Conference Centre for May 26-29. While the facility was adequate for twenty-one I am preparing to host fifteen candidates next year at Lavrock. This is the number recommended by the National Committee and I feel that unless the model and process is changed fifteen candidates will be the maximum.

Candidates

Twenty-one candidates were assessed at this ACPO Conference. All of the dioceses sponsored at least one candidate.

Diocese	Candidates	Recommended	Not Recommended	Assessors
Montreal	2	2	0	1
Quebec	2	2	0	1
Fredericton	2	2	0	1
N. S. & P.E.I.	7	6	1	2
Western NL.	3	3	0	1
Central NL.	3	3	0	0
Eastern NL.	2	1	1	15
Total	21	19	2	21

Finances

The attached Financial Statement shows an increased income as a result of the Provincial Council offering an extra \$2,500.00 and a registration fee of one hundred dollars per candidate totaling \$2,100.00. The Conference in 2004 had twelve more people than the previous year yet the cost was less. There are several explanations. First of all, I provided the food for the Snacks/Nutrition Breaks rather than buy them from the Lavrock Centre. The savings here was significant. Secondly, the extra Assessors were local with very low travel costs and there was no assessor from Labrador. At St. John's International Airport we have 2/3 more airlines offering stops so the assessors could get very low rates compared to last year.

Travel Pool

Because of the tardy response from two dioceses I am unable to complete the Travel Pool for the candidates at this time. I expect it will be completed before the National Secretaries' Meeting in Ontario on November 16-17, 2004.

Recommendation

Given the large geographical size of the province, and the high cost of travel to and from Newfoundland I recommend that the Provincial Council prepare to fund a second ACPO Conference in 2005. I have been notified that Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island has ten candidates for next year. I would suggest that they attend the second conference in Halifax along with any extra requests we are unable to accommodate at the Lavrock Centre once our limit of fifteen has been reached. This recommendation comes with the expectation that assessors from across the Province be present at each ACPO conference because candidates need to be assessed by people from outside their own diocese. The Province of Ontario has been hosting two ACPO Conferences for a number of years to process a large number of candidates. The Secretary there facilitates one conference and a Guest Facilitator the second one. I recommend a Guest Facilitator from the Diocese of Nova Scotia be invited to facilitate the second conference. Naturally, as Secretary for ACPO, I would attend the National Secretaries' Meeting in November. I am also prepared to offer my excess funds - \$4,329.04 (\$500.00 is my float which I am expected to pass along to the next Provincial Secretary), to the Guest facilitator to be seed money to begin the process of booking a site, etc. If the second conference were to have a budget of \$13,000.00 the Provincial Council would be looking at budgeting an extra \$7,500.00 for ACPO in 2005.

Courtesies

I would like to thank the Provincial bishops and their staff for the careful screening of ACPO Candidates before they attend the conference. I would like to thank Mr. Richard Donnan for arranging the local transportation from St. John's International Airport to the Centre (which is located 54 km from St. John's). A special thank you to my wife, Pauline for baking all the fruitcakes, cookies and buns, and arranging the food for the snacks. I would be remiss not to include my parish secretary, Ms. Marilyn Warford, who typed the recommendations at the conference. Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank Bishop Harvey for his advice and support and I look forward to working with our new bishop as I prepare my third and final ACPO Conference for 2005.

Every good wish and peace in Christ and Francis,

Josiah W. Noel, TSSF
ACPO Secretary