

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POSTULANTS FOR ORDINATION
ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF CANADA

Report of the ACPO Conference 2005 for Provincial Council

The Province of Canada 2005 ACPO Conferences were held at the Diocesan Centre in Halifax, in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, May 12 - 15 and the Lavrock Camp and Conference Centre, Salmonier Line, in the diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, May 26- 29.

Halifax Conference

The Halifax Conference was facilitated by the Rev'd Marion Conrad, a priest resident in the diocese. From correspondence received dated May 18, 2005 she indicated that the reports were completed by the Assessors with a great deal of thought, prayer, consideration and mutual dialogue.

Assessors

Assessor preparation was conducted by Kay Bradbrook and The Rt. Rev'd Sue Moxley.

Candidates

Fifteen candidates were assessed at this ACPO Conference. All of the dioceses sponsored at least one candidate, except for Quebec.

Diocese	Candidates	Recommended	Not Recommended	Assessors
Montreal	2	2	0	1
Quebec	0	0	0	1
Fredericton	3	1	2	1
N. S. & P.E.I.	3	1	2	9
Western NL.	2	2	0	1
Central NL.	2	1	1	1
Eastern NL.	3	3	0	1
Total	15	10	5	15

Feedback

As ACPO Secretary and after conversations with the Metropolitan I am obliged to note that there was some negative feedback from candidates and assessors regarding the setup and meals at the Halifax Conference.

The members of the Conference were staying at a university residence while the interviews took place in the Diocesan Centre. This commute was an issue for some people who would have preferred to have all the conference on one site.

Many felt the meals were insufficient, including a meal at a local soup kitchen, leaving several candidates embarrassed for a variety of reasons. I understand it was explained to the candidates that finances and limited budget forced the facilitator to serve several “brown bag” lunches and a supper meal in this fashion.

While the assessors conducted themselves in an exemplary fashion, there was little notice given to the local assessors as some were not confirmed until the Monday before the Conference actually began. This short notice meant they arrived at the Conference with little information on the assessor teams, the candidates being interviewed, or the process. The candidates did not receive any information prior to arrival either. Once the conference was underway the information was provided to the candidates and the assessors.

As ACPO Secretary I am prepared to accept a degree of responsibility for the above; however, it is limited because of the remoteness of myself from Halifax. Perhaps in the future the ACPO Secretary might facilitate both ACPO Conferences if there are two taking place in one year. This is a decision for the new Provincial Co-ordinating Committee (the host bishop, the ACPO secretary and one lay person).

Financial Statement

The agreement between the facilitator and me was that I would receive a full report including the financial information before the end of June. After the Conference Rev'd Conrad was awaiting one travel form from an assessor. At the time of this preparation, September 18, 05, I have not received any financial report or excess funds from the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, which I understand will amount to approximately \$1,000.00. This money will be forwarded to the treasurer of the Provincial Synod when it does arrive.

Lavrock Conference

The Chair, The Rt. Rev'd Cyrus Pitman, offered a presentation to the assessors on Thursday evening as well as presided and preached at the Friday afternoon Eucharist. His comments on this his first visit to ACPO were certainly greatly appreciated.

Assessors

There were fifteen assessors from across the province, eight from the host diocese and at least one from each of the others. The new ACPO Secretary, The Rev'd Randy Lockyer, Central Diocese, acted as an assessor to allow him the opportunity to be exposed to the process, an experience I found helpful myself four years ago. All assessors who attended both conferences were 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 a morning of training on Friday 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 Linda Budden, 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

The Lavrock Camp and Conference Centre is certainly adequate for fifteen candidates and I have suggested to the new secretary to use this number for his first ACPO in 2006.

Candidates

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

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Montreal	2	2	0	1
Quebec	1	1	0	1
Fredericton	3	2	1	1
N. S. & P.E.I.	3	3	0	1
Western NL.	2	1	1	1
Central NL.	2	1	1	2
Eastern NL& Lab.	2	2	0	8
Total	15	13	3	15

Finances

The attached Financial Statement shows an increased income as a result of the Provincial Council offering \$8,000.00 and a registration fee of one hundred dollars per candidate totaling \$3,000.00.

Travel Pool

I expect to have this completed after I receive the final information from the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Thank you to the diocese for forwarding this information to me.

Recommendation

At this point I have only one recommendation, that is, that careful attention be given to the cost of assessor travel. This might mean that the next diocese to host the ACPO Conferences for the next three years give consideration to the cost of flying to/from Gander or Deer Lake. I do know at this point that the Lavrock Centre is available for three weekends in 2006. Perhaps consideration might be given to flying into St. John's International airport.

I understand in the past the ACPO Conference was held in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador although the host diocese was Central Newfoundland.

Courtesies

I would like to thank the Provincial bishops and their staff for the careful screening of ACPO Candidates before they attended the conferences. I would like to thank Mr. David Morgan 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. A special thank you to the Rev'd Marion Conrad for facilitating the conference in Halifax, no small undertaking considering she lived in Mulgrave and to Bishop Moxley for offering her support as well. Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank Bishop Pitman for his advice and support.

It would be an understatement to say that the past three years have been a learning curve for me in this arena of discernment, yet it has been a blessing beyond measure.

Every good wish and peace in Christ and Francis,

Josiah W. Noel, TSSF
ACPO Secretary