

2008 A.C.P.O. REPORT
ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF CANADA
Grand Falls - Windsor
Diocese of Central Newfoundland
May 15th - 18th
Submitted by: The Rev. Randy Lockyer (Secretary)
To: The Provincial Synod & The National Church

Again, this year, it is a pleasure for me, as the ACPO Secretary, for the Province of Canada, to submit my report to you on the 2008 ACPO Conference. This was my third year as the Secretary, and, as always, I enjoyed the experience tremendously. I was very fortunate in being able to welcome back a great many of the Assessors that were part of the process of discernment last year, and benefitted greatly from their professionalism, experience and the spirit of prayer in which they entered into the weekend. I'm sure that the candidates also benefitted from the work done by the Assessors. Feedback from both Assessors and Candidates was really positive, and all felt we were sharing together in a very spiritual weekend.

Fortunately, this year St. Catherine's Renewal Centre was available to us, therefore, it was a great advantage to have candidates and assessors sharing together in community throughout the weekend. This location is perfect, it has the meeting space needed, sleeping accommodations, dining hall, chapel, office, etc. It is conducive to the type of atmosphere needed to prayerfully and spiritually share together in the work of discernment.

Assessors

As mentioned above, the assessors came from almost all of the seven dioceses in the Province of Canada, and we can be proud of the work they did on behalf of the whole church, they were an excellent group that worked well together and showed great sensitivity and care to the candidates they were given the task of interviewing. With so many of them returning from the previous two years they had already bonded as a group, and those new this year quickly felt part of it as well. I am extremely pleased with the work they did. The Rev. Marian Conrad, priest in the diocese of Nova Scotia - P.E.I., was also present for the weekend, this was wonderful, as she will be the new ACPO Secretary for 2009.

Assessor Preparation

The preparation, again this year, was done by the Rev. Dr. Dana Mellis, professor at Queen's College, St. John's. Like last year, all the assessors rated her work as excellent, both in substance and delivery. The preparation was done by Dana on Thursday evening and Friday morning. I am most thankful that we were able to get someone with Dana's qualifications and understanding of the process, having been with us the previous two years, and having served as an ACPO assessor prior to that.

Candidates

Again this year, we were blessed to have the dioceses of our Ecclesiastical Province put forth 9 candidates to be assessed. There were candidates from six of the seven dioceses, there were no candidates from the diocese of Montreal. Again this year there was not a need for a second conference in Halifax, all candidates were part of the Grand Falls - Windsor conference. The following is a breakdown of the candidates from each diocese:

<u>Diocese</u>	<u>Candidates</u>	<u>Recommended</u>	<u>Not Recommended</u>
Eastern NL	1	1	0
Central NL	1	1	0
Western NL	1	1	0
N.S. & PEI	3	3	0
Fredericton	1	1	0
Montreal	0	0	0
Quebec	2	2	0

The number of female and male candidates were nearly equal, five females and four males. We were quite impressed with the end result , after a thorough interview process by all assessors, teams of assessors, and entire group of assessors, all nine candidates were recommended for postulancy at this time. As I have said each year, I believe this speaks greatly of the diocesan postulancy committees we have in the Province of Canada, and the tremendous work they do.

Feedback

After reading all the forms submitted by both candidates and assessors, they were very pleased with the way the weekend went. The food and accommodations were excellent; they were pleased with the information provided to them in advance of the weekend, as well as the personal communication I made with each of them by way of telephone and email. They felt that they were well taken care of throughout the weekend.

Bishop

Like the past two years, it was good to have our diocesan bishop, David Torrville, present for part of the conference. His welcome to the candidates and assessors was much appreciated, as well as his reflection on ministry and vocations. He did a super job of representing all the bishops of our Province of Canada.

Chaplain

The Rev. Daphne Parsons, our chaplain from 2006, fortunately, was able to be the chaplain again this year. She served us very well, and was much appreciated by the candidates. Daphne is a wonderful priest and exceptionally pastoral. The candidates were quite comfortable with her and shared how she helped to alleviate a lot of the stress of the weekend.

Transportation

This year, because of flight changes and delays, coupled with the difficulty of getting from Halifax because of fog, etc. transportation was a little confusing. For a little while it appeared that one of the candidates would not make it at all, he flew from Toronto to Halifax, only to wait on the tarmac and then return to Toronto again. Fortunately, he did make it, albeit a day later. We had instances of sending rides to one airport only to find that the individual was arriving at another airport. We managed it ok and a big thank you for the patience and understanding of those who drove to Gander, came back empty and then drove to Deer Lake, etc. Most importantly, everyone arrived safe and sound and returned home the same.

Technology

Again this year, we were able to make use of the technology of the College of The North Atlantic, as they provided our secretary on Saturday with Power - Point equipment. I am most appreciative to Betty Mercer who took on the task of doing all the typing , etc for us again for the third year. She did a super job!

Financial Report

Thank you to the National Church and the Provincial Synod for funding the 2008 ACPO Conference. The monies allotted indicates the great importance we place on the discernment process. This year, in addition to forwarding on \$1500.00 to the new ACPO Secretary, so that she may begin her work for 2009, I also forwarded back to the Provincial Synod and the National Church the balance of monies remaining proportionately to that received from each, one third to the Provincial Synod and two thirds to the National Church.

following is a breakdown of our expenses for the 2008 ACPO Conference:

Income

Balance from the 2007 ACPO Conference \$ 1523.09

Received from Dioceses for candidate Registration

900.00

Received from the National Church for ACPO 2008	8,000.00
Received from The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada	4,000.00
Total Amount of money on hand and received	\$ 14,423.09

Expenditures

Conference Accommodations , Meals & Snacks	\$ 4,467.19
(Also includes rental of chapel & meeting rooms)	
Social Hour (Thursday, Friday & Saturday)	310.09
Assessor travel by air and/or car & meals en route	3,534.99
*Also includes travel costs for the chaplain	
Travel to and from Deer Lake airport and Gander airport	868.61
Honoraria paid to the Secretary	1,300.00
Photo Copying	107.44
(Copy of materials to be mailed to assessors, etc)	
Office supplies (envelopes, paper, computer cartridge, etc).....	103.77
Telephone (call assessors, diocesan offices, candidates, etc)	73.00
Postage (mailing packets to assessors, letters, materials to diocesan and National Office, etc)	167.23
Typist (spent 7 hours with us on Saturday).....	100.00
Hotel for assessors enroute	<u>256.21</u>
Total Expenses For ACPO 2008	\$ 11,288.53
Balance Remaining	3134.56

Amount Forwarded to Rev. Marian Conrad \$ 1500.00
(Working amount to start planning 2009 ACPO)

Amount Returned to Provincial Synod 555.75
(This is 1/3 of remaining funds)

Amount Returned to National Church 1078.81
(This is 2/3 of remaining funds)

Total Amount \$ 3134.56

As I prepare to pass along responsibility to the new Secretary, I wish to express my gratitude to all the bishops of the Province of Canada, and also to their office staff, for being so helpful to me in the past three years. I am sure the bishops of the Province already know how marvelous their office staff are, they were tremendously helpful to me. It has truly been a labor of love for me, as I got to meet the various assessors and candidates from throughout the Province, and to share in their lives in a special way. The past three years have gone quickly, I have learned greatly from being involved with the ACPO process, and it has been a positive experience in my ministry, and one that I have learned much from. I wish the Rev. Marian Conrad every blessing as she now prepares to take over as Secretary, and I offer to her any help that I am able to give to her. Again, thank you for entrusting this vital ministry to me for these last three years. God Bless each of you!

The Rev. Randy Lockyer
Secretary