

**ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF CANADA
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING
September 23-26, 2010
Cavendish, Prince Edward Island**

DAILY DIGEST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

MORNING PRAYER – The day’s proceedings began with morning prayer led by representatives of the Diocese of Quebec.

MISSION DISCUSSION – Guest speaker Dr. Ellie Johnson continued her reflections on mission. The gathering divided into diocesan groups to discuss the following questions: What is God doing in your community? What makes you think these things are of God? To what extent are Anglicans engaged in those things? How could they become more engaged? Each of the diocesan groups briefly reported back to the wider gathering.

DIOCESAN REPORTS – Bishop Percy Coffin presented a brief update on the life and work of the [Diocese of Western Newfoundland](#). Archbishop Claude Miller presented a similar report on the [Diocese of Fredericton](#). All of the diocesan reports were duly received by the Provincial Council.

INTERFAITH CONCERNS – The Rev. Edmund Laldin, the ecclesiastical province’s interfaith resource person, provided an update on interfaith issues in the province. He particularly identified the need for appropriate pastoral care to be provided to the increasing number of families which include Christians as well as adherents of other religions, especially around birth and death rituals. He also outlined four of the main approaches to Christian interfaith dialogue: exclusivism, inclusivism, pluralism, and parallelism.

The Rev. Jasmine Chandra of the Diocese of Fredericton spoke from her experience of religious plurality as an Anglican chaplain serving a culturally diverse private school in Rothesay, New Brunswick.

Fr. Laldin read a paper written by Major Derrick Marshall, a Baptist chaplain from Nova Scotia serving in the Canadian Armed Forces, reflecting on the blessings and challenges of ministering in the multi-faith environment of the military.

There followed small group discussions on pastoral situations involving adherents of other religions.

Fr. Laldin concluded by indicating that he will be visiting Jerusalem this autumn for an encounter with the multi-faith context of the Holy Land. He also hopes to organize an educational event at which representatives from various faiths would participate.

MISSION DISCUSSION (continued) – Following midday prayers led by the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, and a break for lunch, Ellie Johnson resumed the discussion on mission, inviting the members of council to sit in small groups according to orders so as to discuss their understandings of the respective roles of the laity, clergy, and bishops in mission.

After each of the small groups reported back, they were invited to continue their discussion on mission around the following questions: Is there a role for the ecclesiastical province in God’s mission in the world? If so, what is it?

Among the feedback received:

- The ecclesiastical province’s constitution already articulates a mission for itself in the realm of public advocacy and government relations;
- The province could find a role in gathering youth and young adults from across the province around issues with which they identify;
- The province could stress lay leadership development of skills so as to equip them to be effective faith leaders in the world;
- The province’s mission is to gather in fellowship and share stories, and such information needs to flow among dioceses and into the parishes;
- The province could set goals for the dioceses and work on them together because some things can be done better regionally rather than locally;
- The province could dedicate at least some of its budget to holding regional events (e.g. youth gathering, retreat) rather than Provincial Council each year between Provincial Synods;
- The province could organize and sponsor some “high-calibre” event around mission and evangelism;
- Could the ecclesiastical province offer outreach to churches or communities which find themselves in distress (e.g. flood victims in Newfoundland)?

MOTIONS – After a discussion in a committee of the whole, the three motions for which notice had been given were combined into two.

The following motion was moved by Bishop Sue Moxley, seconded by Bishop Dennis Drainville, and passed unanimously:

That this Provincial Council ask the Governance Working Group to examine possible changes to the constitution and canons of the Ecclesiastical Province regarding the membership and structure of Provincial Synod and Provincial Council, including reducing the number of members of Provincial Council and Provincial Synod, and the frequency of gatherings.

The following motion was moved by Bishop Sue Moxley, seconded by Bishop Ron Cutler, and passed unanimously:

That Provincial Council not meet in 2001; that a provincial “event” that will further God’s mission be funded to a maximum of \$40,000 from the Province of Canada’s 2010-11 budget.

FINANCES & BUDGET – Treasurer Eric Dryden presented the [financial statement](#) for the Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada for September 1, 2007-August 31, 2010. It was unanimously accepted. The 2010-12 budget for the province was unanimously approved as presented. The provincial assessment requested of the dioceses was also unanimously approved as presented.

PROVINCIAL “EVENT” – A discussion ensued as to what might be the nature and timing of the mission-related provincial “event” referred to in the second motion. Suggestions included an event for youth and/or young clergy, an education event on rural ministry, an evangelism event, and a training event on Safe Churches policy.

Following dinner, a consensus developed around the holding of an event in 2011 geared toward youth and “young clergy,” the latter being defined as those under 40. An organizing committee consisting of one representative of each diocese will be established and overseen by the provincial executive. Deputy Prolocutor Bruce Myers will serve as the liaison between the organizing committee and the executive.

MISSION DISCUSSION (continued) – Ellie Johnson offered her concluding reflections on the theme of mission. She stressed the need for communities to look outward and to “move out and beyond” themselves, in service of others.

SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO NEWFOUNDLAND – It was unanimously agreed that the following pastoral letter be sent on behalf of the Provincial Council to the flood-ravaged people of the Diocese of Central Newfoundland and the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. It was also unanimously agreed that the province make a contribution of \$500 to the discretionary funds of each of those two diocesan bishops.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I bring you greetings in the name of the One whom we serve together.

It is with my deepest care and concern that I write to you as you struggle with the aftermath of Hurricane Igor. I am attending Provincial Council meetings in P.E.I. this week and have been seeing pictures of and hearing from your representatives about the devastation that has afflicted you. I cannot imagine the turmoil you are experiencing.

Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. It is my hope that the faith we share will bring you some comfort as you face the challenges that lie ahead. These words are not simply lip service. God is indeed with you. It is in the days, weeks and months to come that you will be reminded of this as you rebuild your homes, communities and bring order back into your lives. God will be present through the help, support and encouragement of family, friends and strangers alike. It is also in the days, weeks and months to come that the rest of your Church family has the opportunity to minister to you as we uphold you in our prayers.

In addition to our prayers, the Provincial Council has made a contribution to the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund in both the diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador and Central Newfoundland to aid in the Church’s work in this crisis.

The Lord bless and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and grant you peace.

Yours in Service,

+Claude

The Most Reverend Claude Miller

Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada

VOTE OF THANKS – The Courtesies Committee extended formal thanks to the many individuals and groups who facilitated the meeting of Provincial Council. Archbishop Miller added his own thanks on this his first meeting of the council as metropolitan.

COMPLINE & “SILENT NIGHT” – After adjournment, Western Newfoundland led a brief service of compline, which concluded with the singing of “Silent Night” and the taking up of a collection in support of the Anglican Military Ordinariate (AMO). Through the AMO, Canadian Anglicans support chaplains and their families who minister to the Canadian Forces.

“BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY” – On Sunday, members of Provincial Council will be hosted by various parish churches on Prince Edward Island.