

ACPO Report 2024
Ecclesiastical Province of Canada

Archbishop Edwards, and all members of Provincial Synod,

When I last reported to Provincial Synod, we had just completed 2 online ACPO Conferences because of the restrictions imposed on us by COVID-19. Since then, we have returned to residential conferences and held them annually, with the next one scheduled for the weekend of June 6-9, 2024.

Statistically, the chart below gives us numbers for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024*. In selecting the team of assessors, it should be noted I always try to balance gender, age, and area of residence. I also try to tip the balance of assessors on the laity side and I avoid matching up an assessor and candidate from the same diocese.

| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Total number of candidates | 7 | 10 | 5 |
| - representing dioceses | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| - recommended for ordination** | 7 | 9 | - |
| | | | |
| Assessors | 7 | 10 | 6 |
| - representing diocese | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| - clergy assessors | 2 | 4 | 2 |

* Please note the 2024 numbers are pre-Conference at the time of writing this report.

** 'Recommended for ordination' means at the time of the assessment, it was recommended the candidate continue on the path of ordination. The final decision always rests with the Diocesan Bishop.

On the financial side, the costs of the Conference can range from \$11,000 to \$18,000. There are many variables to the costs. The facility costs are dependent on the number of participants as rooms and meals are based on a per participant rate. Travel costs are also dependent on where the assessors come from. The administrative costs usually are the same each conference. The revenues come from a National Church grant, a Provincial Church grant, and candidates' fees. It should be noted the candidates' travel is covered by their respective dioceses. Yearly financial reports are sent to the National Church and are available for review at any time.

Outside of the ACPO Conferences, the four National Secretaries meet once a year with the four ACPO Bishops to report on our individual conferences and bring up any issues which may have surfaced. In addition, the secretaries meet at other times (by Zoom) with the National ACPO Bishop, the Right Reverend Susan Bell, and the National

Director of Faith, Worship and Ministry, the Reverend Eileen Scully, in order to discuss the ACPO process itself and how it can be improved and updated to reflect the current state of the Church.

The topics we are currently tackling include reviewing the handbook and application form so it reflects modern day language; the sharing and developing of resources to train assessors, how to cut costs – especially on travel; and perhaps most importantly, and the changing role of assessors as different models of priesthood appear. These topics, and others, offer a challenging work which we undertake with enthusiasm and devotion to the process.

I wish to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to all Bishops and their respective assistants for their support and responses whenever I send messages regarding candidates and assessors. I thank all those who are willing to serve in this important ministry of discernment. I also wish to thank the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada for their continued financial assistance. And I wish to offer my deepest gratitude to our ACPO Bishop, the Right Reverend John Organ for his constant support and guidance, especially when the unexpected moments pop up.

In closing, I would like to recognize the Reverend Eileen Irish who was a most important person in the ACPO family. After serving as an assessor many years ago, Eileen took on the role of Chaplain for approximately ten years. This was a role she absolutely adored as it gave her the opportunity to connect with all the candidates. Eileen passed away during the 2022 Conference doing what she loved. Through this report, I commend her to our Lord and may rest perpetual always shine upon her.

Thank you for the trust you place in me in this role.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Venerable Leo Martin
ACPO Secretary
Ecclesiastical Province of Canada