

Ecclesiastical Province of Canada
Report on Governance
Provincial Synod
Fredericton, NB
June 25-28, 2015

Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to provide the information required by Resolutions # 17, 18 and 19, adopted by the 2012 Provincial Synod in Montreal.

2012 Provincial Synod Governance Resolutions

The text of these Resolutions is as follows:

Resolution (Motion) # 17

Moved that this Synod request the Provincial Governance Task Force, in consultation with the Executive, Provincial Council, House of Bishops, and dioceses, to explore possible realignment of dioceses within the Province of Canada, with a view to reducing the number of dioceses to no fewer than three, and to report to the next meeting of Synod.

Resolution (Motion) # 18

Moved that this Synod request the Provincial Governance Task Force, in consultation with the Executive, Provincial Council, House of Bishops, and dioceses, to examine, make recommendations and to report to the next Provincial Synod. with respect to:

- a) the desirability of transferring to the Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, or otherwise sharing with it the current Diocesan administrative functions, including human resources, performance review, information technology, payroll and benefits; and
- b) the funding and staffing requirements attendant on such a transfer or sharing of administrative responsibilities.

Resolution (Motion) # 19

Moved that this Synod request the Provincial Governance Task Force, in consultation with the Executive, Provincial Council, House of Bishops, dioceses, and the General Synod to examine, make recommendations and to report to the next Provincial Synod with respect to:

- a) the desirability of replacing or supplementing the present Companion Diocese and Companion Parish arrangements with similarly structured mission outreach initiatives directed to the Province's geographically remote northern and other communities;
- b) requesting that the General Synod refocus its northern Canadian ministry initiatives so that the Province assumes a special responsibility for the northern communities within its boundaries; and
- c) the funding and staffing requirements of such a transfer and assumption of administrative responsibilities.

2013 Provincial Council Governance Resolutions

The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada Governance Task Force (sometimes referred to as 'Working Group) completed the requested follow-up work enunciated in these Resolutions and reported back to the 2013 Provincial Council Meeting in Corner Brook, NL. At the conclusion of its deliberation on these Resolutions, the following Governance Resolutions were adopted, namely:

A. Mission

1) Shared Mission Event within Cluster (Motion 5)

That the Dioceses in the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC) form three groupings, namely, the Quebec Dioceses of Montreal and Quebec; the Maritime Dioceses of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and Fredericton; and the three Newfoundland Dioceses of Western Newfoundland, Central Newfoundland and Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador and That during the next year each of these groups will hold within their group at least one joint mission-minded activity aimed at developing the marks of mission within their diocesan group.

2) North/South Parish-to-Parish Sharing (Motion 7)

1. That this council, request the Dioceses within the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC) to identify at least one parish or other Anglican community

within their Diocese to be considered for a pilot project of Parish-to-Parish sharing with a parish or other Anglican community within the jurisdiction of the Council of the North.

2. The Provincial Executive in collaboration with the Council of the North, shall establish the pairing of the parishes.

3. This Parish-to-Parish sharing may include, but is not limited to, shared social networking, the sharing of liturgy, the sharing of prayer through prayer cycles, youth gatherings, and face-to-face meetings and gatherings.

...

C) Administration

6) Executive Officers Collaboration (Motion 8)

That the Provincial Executive requests that Executive Officers and/or related staff of the seven Dioceses within the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC), gather within their geographical cluster and/or provincially in order to share their current work and relationships, to investigate potential areas of sharing and report back to the Provincial Executive before the next provincial Synod.

...

8) Videoconferencing (Motion 12)

That all the Dioceses of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC) acquire the technology for Video Teleconferencing or enter into agreements with agencies that have that technology to enable council meetings on a more regular and economical basis.

D) Education

9) Adoption of 12/12/12 (Motion 9)

That the Provincial Council commends the Diocese of Fredericton's 12-12-12 Post-Ordination Program for implementation by the Dioceses of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC) and that this step be taken in cooperation with the Provincial Executive and one or more of the three

Anglican theological colleges/schools located in the EPC – The Montreal Diocesan Theological College (McGill U); Queen’s College (MUN) and the Atlantic School of Theology (AST).

10) North/South Theological Training (Motion 10)

That the Dioceses of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada (EPC), in conjunction with the Provincial Executive and the theological training institutions within the Province, explore options for South-North/North-South theological training, and to report back to the next meeting of the Provincial Council.

Status

In 2014, The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, in consultation with and concurrence by the Provincial Executive, recommended that the further study and implementation of GS 2012 Resolutions # 17, 18 and 19 should be completed by the Provincial Synod, the Provincial Council and the Provincial House of Bishops.

This Provincial Synod may determine if these Resolutions, and the more specific subset of Resolutions adopted by the 2013 Provincial Council, are worthy of further consideration and action.

Acknowledgments

The Provincial Executive acknowledges and thanks the members of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada Governance Task Force, including Bishop Sue Moxley, Bishop Dennis Drainville, Archdeacon(now Bishop) Geoff Peddle, Canon Ron Stevenson, Dr. Frank Hayes, The Ven. Shawn Samson, The Ven. Alan Perry, Cynthia Haines-Turner and Canon Charles Ferris (Chair). The Executive also thanks Archbishop Claude Miller for his support of the PCGTF’s work.

The Provincial Executive also thanks the members of the various Task Groups who contributed to this work.

Submitted by:

**The Executive
Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada
June, 2015**

Background

To better understand the context of the Resolutions before this 2015 Provincial Synod, it is helpful to know a summary of their historical background.

The March, 2003 Anglican Church of Canada Aboriginal Schools Settlement Agreement and the events attendant on it forms a convenient start point for the background to this examination of governance. The event created a near catastrophic change in the governance structures of the ACC. This event is exemplified by the joint decision of the General Synod and the Provinces that the Province of Canada should adopt the following contemporaneous fail-safe legislation in the event the General Synod failed to survive the legal action arising out of its involvement in the education of Canada's Aboriginal young persons:

The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada
Canon 6 Canons of the General Synod

1. The Provincial Synod accepts all enactments of the General Synod and particularly accepts the application of the following Canons to the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada:

Canon XII Continuing Education Plan
Canon XIII Deaconesses
Canon XIV The Book of Common Prayer
Canon XVII The Licensing of Clergy
Canon XVIII Discipline
Canon XIX Relinquishment and Abandonment of the Ministry
Canon XX The Supreme Court of Appeal

Canon XXI Of Marriage in the Church

Subsequent to this, the General Synod determined that it should undertake a fundamental examination of its governance structure, including its relationships with the Ecclesiastical Provinces.

In 2007, The General Synod adopted the following Resolution:

That the Primate, after consultation with the House of Bishops, be requested to initiate discussion with the provinces and dioceses of the Anglican Church of Canada regarding:

1) the possible reform of the provincial organization of the Anglican Church of Canada, and, in particular, whether the effectiveness and efficiency of the Anglican Church of Canada would be significantly improved by:

a) entirely eliminating the four provinces from the organizational structure of the church and transferring the powers and authority the provinces presently hold to the General Synod, or

b) maintaining the existing provincial structure for some part of its present purpose and transferring part of provincial power and authority, for example part or all of provincial legislative authority, to the General Synod, or

c) reorganizing the dioceses into groupings with greater common goals, concerns, needs and interests than the collections of dioceses forming the existing provinces.

2) the possible reform of the diocesan organization of the Anglican Church of Canada, in particular by:

a) adjusting diocesan boundaries to reflect modern transportation patterns and population shifts created by social and economic changes,

b) reducing of the number of dioceses within the Anglican Church of Canada,

c) implementing any other change that might improve the effectiveness, efficiency, or economy of the operation of dioceses.

Following consultation between the General and Provincial Synods, the Provincial Council adopted the following Resolutions in September 2007

Resolution (Motion 11)

That Provincial Council direct the Provincial Executive to explore options to enhance the governance of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada and to report back to the 2008 meeting of the Provincial Council.

Motion Carried.

And, again in September 2008, the Provincial Council adopted the following Resolution:

Resolution (Motion) #7:

That this Council appoint five members to form a working group to explore new ways of being the church in Eastern Canada as a means of helping us to more readily accomplish Christ's mission. This working group will report and make recommendations to Provincial Synod in 2009.

At its September 2009 Synod, the following Resolution was adopted:

Resolution (Motion) # 23:

That this Provincial Synod request the Metropolitan, with the advice of the Provincial Executive, to establish a Task Force to identify how the Province and each of the Dioceses may implement the deliberations of this Synod on internal governance, on the relationship of Provincial Synod with General Synod and with the diocesan synods, and how they may address any civil legislative issues that may arise from time to time and which may affect the Province or any of the Dioceses.