

10. Provincial Mission Outreach

Notice of Motion # 10

Moved by: Charles Ferris (Fton)

Seconded by: Margaret Jenniex (CN)

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 recommendation 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.

Background

This initiative recognizes the changing demographic of the Anglican Church within the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada in terms of both decreasing numbers and the increased cost of providing ecclesiastical services within our existing seven dioceses. Because of this reality, it is increasingly difficult for our Dioceses to extend the human and financial resources required to provide ministry to communities within the vast northern sector of the Province. These areas often include ethnic minorities, including Indigenous people or small Anglophone minorities within Francophone regions. As well, the Mississauga Declaration speaks of the development of ministries and structures to deliver ministry to Indigenous people wherever they may be, up to and including the formation of a fifth province. Rather than leave these ministries to the care of only two of the seven Dioceses (supported by the General Synod), the Notice of Motion proposes a mechanism by which the entire Province in conjunction and cooperation with the General Synod would accept responsibility. To achieve this outcome, it would also provide a mechanism for doing so by shifting emphasis away from the current

companion Diocese and Companion Parish schemes (particularly the former) and by suggesting a possible shift in the manner in which the General Synod's northern ministry is fulfilled.