

June 11, 2021

Dear delegates to the Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada:



The Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG) of the Council of General Synod (CoGS) looks forward to engaging with you during your upcoming Provincial Synod on Saturday, June 19th. We appreciate your making time on your agenda for this important work.

The Strategic Planning Working Group was created by CoGS in response to Resolution A103, passed at General Synod 2019 in Vancouver, which reads as follows:

Be it resolved that this General Synod direct the Council of General Synod, in partnership with the entire church, prayerfully to undertake a strategic planning process that will lead to the presentation of a proposal to the 2022 meeting of the General Synod for our ministry and mission with the General Synod.

The SPWG has been working on this task since November 2019. This work has included consultation with a broad range of individuals and groups across the Anglican Church of Canada. A brief summary of our work to date and future plans is included in the package of materials which have been sent to you.

Doing this work during a time of global pandemic has naturally affected both our approach and our outcomes. We have realized that current uncertainties necessitate a “transitional” plan that sets broad priorities and directions, rather than a more typical strategic plan that identifies specific activities with measurable outcomes to support detailed goals and objectives. At the same time, the spirit of these times has also guided us to articulate a vision that is courageous, through which we can boldly embrace this unprecedented moment in time as a call to transformation in our church and our world.

Attached you will find a working draft of a framework that outlines priorities and directions in the shape of five transformational aspirations for the Anglican Church of Canada, what each looks like, and some things the national church could do to contribute to realizing this vision.

While the mandate of the SPWG is to develop a strategic plan for the church’s national Office of General Synod, we recognize that this cannot be done without some understanding of the aspirations of the church as a whole. We’ve attempted to do this on the first two columns of the framework draft, entitled **A CHURCH THAT** and **WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE**.

In the first column, you will find five transformational aspirations. These aspirations reflect the priorities identified by CoGS during the past year and a half, and also represent a distillation of what we heard from a series of twelve “listening groups” comprised of almost 150 Anglicans from across the country. Each is rooted in scripture, and together they represent a broad vision for a healthy and flourishing church in our time.

The right-hand column, **WHAT CAPACITIES AND ACTIVITIES CAN THE NATIONAL CHURCH ADD? WHAT OUTCOMES DO WE WANT TO SEE?** begins to identify ways the national church can act and contribute to this vision.

We would like to test this emerging vision and plan with you during our time together on Saturday. Here are some questions we will be asking you to consider.

Looking at the first 2 columns (A CHURCH THAT and WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE):

- It is important that our plan be aspirational and inspirational. In what ways do these five transformational aspirations inspire hope? What's missing?
- Can you see yourself, your congregation, your diocese and your ecclesiastical province actively embracing these aspirations as calls to action? Which ones, and in what ways?

Looking at the 3rd column (WHAT CAPACITIES AND ACTIVITIES CAN THE NATIONAL CHURCH ADD? WHAT OUTCOMES DO WE WANT TO SEE?):

- In what ways do you see these activities of the national church addressing the most important opportunities and challenges facing Anglicans in Canada now?
- How could these activities of the national church add value in the church where you are (local, diocesan, provincial)? What is missing?

Overall:

- If we were to be transformed by the vision expressed in this document, what would the Canadian Anglican church look like when we meet again at General Synod 2025?

It would be appreciated if you could reflect on these questions in advance of our session together on Saturday. As you prepare, please feel free to share and discuss these questions with others. We look forward to our conversation.

Yours in Christ,

Judith Moses
Chair
Strategic Planning Working Group