

Global Relations Working Group
PMEJC
November 11 2008
Meeting Highlights for Information/Action

1. Communion Relationships:

Need to identify Lambeth results relevant to us, and be aware of the ongoing development of other formal Communion documents and processes.

Peter F. is part of the appointed General Synod team responding to the Lambeth Commentary, preparing a draft response for November COGS.

David T. noted the real power of Lambeth was in building relationships between bishops, and asked what role the GRWG could have in encouraging this.

Interest in knowing the status of the Anglican Church of Canada and The Episcopal Church at the next meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (2009)

2. Partnership Issues:

Need to know the Anglican Church of Canada's interpretation of the Lambeth moratoria to speak with global partners accurately, consistently.

Need to be aware/discuss the various new and emerging realities for the General Synod, Canadian Anglican church, Anglican Communion, and opportunities/challenges therein for the Global Relations program. Need to discuss why and how the existing Global Relations program will effectively serve in a climate of declining dedicated funding and limited staff resources toward meaningful, sustainable relationships with Anglican Provinces, ecumenical organizations/councils and others around the world.

Andrea was asked to write a summary (attached) describing the current Global Relations program context, including a brief review of program and department changes over the past decade, and theological underpinnings. The summary is intended to be a starting point for further discussion, not a public document.

3. PMEJC:

Acknowledging impending budget cuts and the unlikelihood of two committee meetings in 2009, the GRWG suggests all working groups identify how they intend to work in 2009, and inform the General Secretary and Primate accordingly.

Next conference call: Thursday, December 4th 2008 2:00pm (EST)

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To: Global Relations Working Group Members
From: Andrea

Background: Further to a request resulting from our Working Group conference call on November 4 2008, the following 2 summaries provide: an overview of the current context of the Global Relations Program, and of the program's theological underpinning. The summaries briefly attempt to position our current context within developments in Partnerships over the past 12 years [which is when I began working as the Asia/ Pacific Regional Mission Coordinator, Partners in Mission].

Part 1: Global Relations Program

Recent History: In 1997, *Partners in Mission (PIM)*, a historic program of Partnerships, General Synod, employed 5 Full Time people with responsibilities for sustaining, nurturing, developing relationships with overseas Anglican Provinces and their institutions, ecumenical councils and organizations, and others, in three regional groupings: Asia/ Pacific, Africa and the Middle East, and Latin America Caribbean. (Two other historic Partnerships programs primarily involving intentional relationships with international church partners were, and are *Volunteers in Mission (VIM)* and *Theological Students International Internship Program (TSIIP)*).

The purpose of PIM historically, with other programs, was to continue strengthening the church's commitment to and interest in serving with others in God's mission around the world. Major PIM expressions of commitment to relationships for mission were:

- i) financial grants to partner churches and organizations for local mission priorities, including theological education and training for church leadership, peace and reconciliation initiatives, youth and young adult ministry;
- ii) regular PIM staff visits (2-3 times annually) with partners for mutual sharing of information, planning ways of developing and strengthening relationship. Partners also visited the Anglican Church of Canada with PIM support/hospitality. Visits would often but not only coincide with local gatherings, events, synods; and
- iii) sharing the stories of partners' priorities and programs of mission with Canadian Anglicans via church media, mission education resources, verbal presentations, etc.

In 1997, the PIM program budget was @ CDN 2 million, disbursed to more than 50 partners in more than 60 countries. Not all 50 relationships were of equal intensity, but a majority involved regular correspondence, financial management, visiting, and reporting.

Since 1997, *Partnerships* has experienced a substantial reduction of staffing and program funding due to declining General Synod revenue and a reorganization of program components. In May 2006, the Global Relations program was created through amalgamation of PIM's 3 regional programs and PIM arrived at its current level of 2 full time staff. An intentional effort was made, in the interests of careful transition, to maintain the historic breadth and depth of partnerships globally. A measure of breadth and depth of relationship has eroded since 2006 due to budget reductions, new financial management standards and limited staff capacity. Since 2007, *Partnerships* changed further, by the resolve of General Synod 2007, to an integrated national Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Standing Committee and a more integrated mission and ecojustice program.

Current Situation: In 2009, Global Relations will have an annual program/grants budget of @ \$600,000, though the 2009 budget is currently under revision. In 2009, the Global Relations program will administer a total of 45 churches/organisations partnerships in more than 50 countries: 18 Anglican

Provinces/dioceses and 15 ecumenical organizations, 12 international scholarship students, and a small number of miscellaneous other organizations.

The joys inherent to the current situation include: continuing to be a part of the Anglican Church of Canada's historical commitment of relationships for mission and justice with Anglicans and others around the world; opportunity to participate in the sharing of stories and resources for mission locally in Canada and elsewhere in the world; opportunity to work with deeply committed and skilled colleagues, voluntary and staff, in Canada and globally.

The challenges inherent to the current situation include: keeping up with the day-to-day work of maintaining and strengthening relationships with historic and new partners amidst ongoing financial cutbacks and reduced staffing levels; energy and creativity to lift our heads and renew vision; finding effective, sustainable ways and means of integrating Partnerships' mission and ecojustice program priorities.

Part 2: Theological Underpinning

The Global Relations program tries to work in ways which reflect:

- i) The incarnational grace and love of God, inspiring human prayer, relationship and enterprise constantly, mysteriously, abundantly toward shalom; healing, reconciliation and peace with justice for all and creation;
- ii) The love and courage of Jesus Christ, inspiration of faithful Christian witness;
- iii) The deeply relational essence of God, three in one, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer

References

A Covenant for Communion in Mission, Inter Anglican Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism (IASCOME), 2005. www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/mission/commissions/iascome/covenant/index.cfm

Five Marks of Mission, Anglican Consultative Council (1984)
www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/mission/fivemarks.cfm

Ten Principles of Partnership, Mission Issues and Strategy Advisory Group II (MISAG II), 1993.

Mission Statement of the Anglican Church of Canada
www2.anglican.ca/about/mission-statement/htm

Submitted by:

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