

Council of General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada (CoGS)

It is my great pleasure to have been elected to serve as a member of the Council of General Synod for the next three years. CoGS meet twice a year. The extensive workload and limited budget of COGS has promoted initiatives to new ways of working through coordinating committees and commissions with clearly defined mandates and timelines. This enables much work to be accomplished at substantially reduced meeting costs.

Commemoration of the Apology

The most moving and impactful event of the meeting was the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Apology. Archbishop Peers recounted the events leading up to the Apology and shared stories of his personal journey with indigenous peoples and Archdeacon Sidney Black offered a personal reflection on the Apology and paid tribute to Archbishop Peers. Participants in the 1993 National Native Convocation in Minaki, Ontario, where the Apology was delivered introduced two videos; the first Dancing the Dream and the second the acceptance of the Apology by the late Vi Smith on behalf of the Gathering at Minaki. It was very special to experience this moment in the life of our church, a moment that continues to shape who we are and who we are becoming as a people of God. On this note our Primate announced the formation of a Commission on the Doctrine of Discovery, the meaning of Reconciliation, and Justice for Indigenous peoples which will formulate a path to consider how to translate the 2010 general synod's repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery into concrete action.

The Joint Declaration - Homelessness and affordable housing and Responsible Resource Extraction

The 2013 joint Declaration identified two public witness priorities for Anglicans and Lutherans; Homelessness and affordable housing and Responsible Resource Extraction. Bishop Jane Alexander spoke passionately about their experiences with a proposed affordable housing development in Edmonton and the need for ecumenical community leaders to stand up for justice issues when they are met with resistance from special interest groups. Bishop Mark MacDonald spoke of the priority of responsible resource extraction.

Directives following General Synod 2013

in response to the resolution of the 2013 General Synod to prepare a motion to change Canon XXI on marriage, COGS established a Commission to carry out a consultative process to report its findings back to the Council its findings and any recommendations as to what matters council should consider in writing the text of the directed enabling motion.

The creation of Mishamekweesh

The Council approved the new boundaries in Manitoba and Northern Ontario that would provide for the establishment of a new Diocese - The Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamekweesh.

Tony Teare, member of Council of General Synod