

SECTION 1 - ADMINISTRATION

1.5.2 Council of the North

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The bishops of the Council of the North believe that their purpose is, under God, to equip one another in our mission to enormous and thinly populated dioceses; to offer mutual encouragement and pastoral care, hope to the oppressed, and challenge to the complacent. In all we do, we shall strive to be a sign of the Kingdom of Christ who makes all things new, and so keep faith with our partners in the wider Church who uphold us by their prayers and substance.

Minutes, Council of The North, September, 1998, Pages 11,12

1.5.2.1 HISTORY

1970 Task Force on the Church in the North

National Executive Council in October 1970 appointed a task force to consider the needs, challenges and opportunities facing the whole church in that area of Canada within the “mid-Canada corridor” and further north. In 1971 the Task Force was continued as the Primate’s Task Force on the Church in the North, reporting to the Program Committee. (**Note:** the gradual changes in the name, here and below).

1971 General Synod expressed strong concern about the levels of stipends and assistance given to the dioceses which “make up the area which is being studied”.

See Proceedings, 1971 p. 51

1973 General Synod received the report of research undertaken by Dr. J.W. Frei, and the final report of the Task Force. Dr. Frei’s report was published, and is available in diocesan offices and in the General Synod Library and Archives. The resolution of that synod approved the establishment of the Primate’s Council on the North and other recommendations as attached.

APPENDIX A

1976 The Primate’s Council on the North evolved into a different body representing all the assisted dioceses of “the North”. The Council of the North with terms of reference was established in May 1976.

APPENDIX B

1977 The Sub-Committee on Native Affairs (SCNA), now called the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP), arose out of the 1969 Synod. In 1977 it presented a

position paper “More Real Involvement” to the Council of the North. It was still relevant more than a decade later.

APPENDIX C

1980 The Report of the Council to General Synod as found in the Journal of Proceeding was quite a good summary of typical concerns and actions. It was developed as a commentary on the terms of reference and is therefore useful orientation material.

1986 The report of the Council to the third Canadian Partners in Mission Consultation indicated three mission issues of high priority.

APPENDIX D

That the Council of the North express its affirmation of the proposal by the Diocese of Saskatchewan for the election of a Cree Indian Suffragan Bishop, including the potential financial implications for the Council’s portion of the Program Budget of the National Church. **February, 1988**

At the March, 1992 meeting of the Council, Bishop Tom Collings outlined the history of the approval for a Suffragan bishop for the Diocese of Keewatin. The Council reiterated its support for a Suffragan bishop in Keewatin at the subsequent meeting of the Council of The North. **September, 1992**

Bishop Williams reported plans that the Diocese of The Arctic would be bringing to the Rupertsland Provincial Synod a proposal for two additional Suffragan bishops, in addition to Bishop Paul Idlout, to serve as regional bishops in the diocese. Costing to the diocese would be limited to the responsibility allowances for Suffragan bishops (\$ 6,000 p.a.), as each Suffragan would also serve as a parish priest. The Diocese of The Arctic would then have a total of four bishops. **February, 1997**

1.5.2.2 VALUES

Our purpose is to respond to God’s call to mission and ministry in the northern regions of Canada.

The Council is formed by this sense of a common mission, not only by common need.

- We know that the development of transparency and trust, challenge and response is vital to our common mission.
- We believe that faithful and effective ministry arises from the people of God in the varied communities of our dioceses.
- Our leaders and families are our most valuable resource.
- We listen carefully to each person and to the concerns of each diocese in order to support each other in ministry.
- We accept the dignity and responsibility of self-determination which means relying as far as possible on our own resources.

- We are in partnership and dialogue with each other and with the rest of the church, including those churches which share our ministry in the North.
- As a community of dioceses, we accept joint accountability for support which comes to us from outside, from sources such as the Program Budget of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, The Fellowship of the Maple Leaf, The New England Company, and other foundations.

1.5.2.3 COVENANTAL AGREEMENT

The following agreement needs to be passed at the synod of a member diocese at least every three years, and the motion, duly authorized, submitted to the Chair of the Council of the North, care of Anglican Church House.

We, the Synod of the Anglican Diocese of _____,
agree to covenant with other diocese in the Council of the North for the years _____
to _____.

Committed to responding together with other member dioceses to God's call to mission and ministry in the northern regions of Canada, we affirm the values of the Council and agree to:

- be fully open about our finances with the Council;
- seek Council approval before adding any new stipendiary position in our diocese;
- confine clergy salaries and allowances to those agreed to by Council;
- share the portion of the Program Budget of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada designated for Canadian grants in a way that best promotes ministry in the north:
- participate fully in meetings of the Council;
- outline the needs of all Council dioceses, not our own, when speaking or preaching in non-member dioceses.

Passed: _____ 20_____

at the _____ Synod of the Diocese of _____

Signed: _____

for the Diocese of _____

Date: _____.

1.5.2.4 TERMS OF REFERENCE

With the approval of General Synod 1973, a Primate's Council on the North was established and reconstituted as the Council of the North by action of National Executive Council in May 1976. It is comprised of all Bishops of assisted dioceses.

Terms of Reference for the Council are:

1. To develop a strategy of mission in the North, including responsibility for the recruitment, deployment and payment of personnel.
2. To indicate direction in which the work of dioceses and parishes should be moving, seeking to maintain maximum flexibility and freedom for local and regional initiative.
3. To encourage and sponsor new projects to meet identified needs.
4. To refer matters of particular concern to appropriate existing bodies for action.
5. To identify and lend support to appropriate programs initiated by other bodies which are responding to specific needs.
6. To propose to the Program Committee the amount of support needed annually by the assisted dioceses.
7. To develop a promotion program about the work of the Church in the North in order to enhance the relationship between the Church in the North and the Church in the South. ***“To tell the story of the magnificent, faithful, evangelical work of the dioceses of the Council of the North, we resolved to commit 1% of the Council budget for the development of program resources which will be made available to all the dioceses of the Anglican Church of Canada.” (October 2002)***

1.5.2.5 MEMBERSHIP, REPRESENTATION, ELECTORAL PROCESS, COMMITTEES HISTORY/BACKGROUND

Diocesan Membership:

When it was possible for Qu'Appelle Diocese to become self-supporting, the question was raised whether it should remain in the Council. Qu'Appelle decided not to remain.

The Archdeaconry of Labrador has been recognized as having many of the same northern concerns as Council dioceses and, though part of a self-supporting diocese (Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador), is also properly part of this community. The Diocese of Quebec became a member of the Council of The North in September, 2001. While the whole diocese conforms to the standards and terms of reference of the Council, it was recognized that the Archdeaconry of the North Shore would benefit most directly from the resources shared among the Council dioceses.

APPENDIX F

1. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Council of The North consists of the bishops of the Council dioceses and the Treasurer of General Synod. During the course of each Fall meeting one delegate from each diocese appointed by the diocesan bishop may attend, with full voting rights. At the request of any three members, voting shall be by dioceses.

October, 1994; April, 2002

2. ELECTORAL PROCESS

- a) Election of the chair shall be by the Episcopal members of the Council, and shall be held at the last meeting prior to each General Synod, facilitated by the Secretary and the Treasurer. ***April, 2002***
- b) All Episcopal members of the Council shall be on the first ballot. After the first ballot any nominee may withdraw.
- c) After each ballot the nominee or nominees with the lowest number of votes shall be deleted from the list.
- d) Balloting shall continue until one candidate has at least 51% of the votes.
- e) The nominee with the next highest number of votes shall be the deputy chair.

February, 1989

1.5.2.6 Covenant: TOTP and Council of the North

Assembly 2015 - Resolution

Moved/ Seconded: Suzanne Jackson/Dwight Oatway

Be It Resolved That: the Assembly of the Territory of the People Anglican Church gathered in 2015:

We, the **Assembly of the Territory of the People Anglican Church**, covenant with other dioceses and areas in the **Council of the North** for the years **2015 to 2019**.

We commit to responding together with other member dioceses to God's call to mission and ministry in the regions of Canada served by the Council of the North.

We affirm the values of the Council and agree to:

- Be fully open about our finances with the Council;
- Confine clergy salaries and allowances to those agreed to by the Council;
- Share the portion of the Program Budget of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada designated for Canadian grants in a way that best promotes ministry in the Council;
- Participate fully in meetings of the Council;
- Outline the needs of all Council dioceses and areas, not only our own, when speaking or preaching in non-member dioceses.