

Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes Shape Structure and Strategy

By Cynthia P. Brust, American Anglican Council
March 4, 2004

The Steering Committee of the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes (commonly referred to as the "Anglican Communion Network") met March 2-4, 2004 in Pittsburgh, PA for strategic planning. The committee is comprised of one representative from each of the 12 original dioceses who signed the Anglican Communion Network's structural Charter, as well as Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Robert W. Duncan, and Secretary, the Rev. Canon David C. Anderson. The Committee was joined by acting Convocation Deans, representatives of Global Mission Partners and the American Anglican Council's Strategy Group.

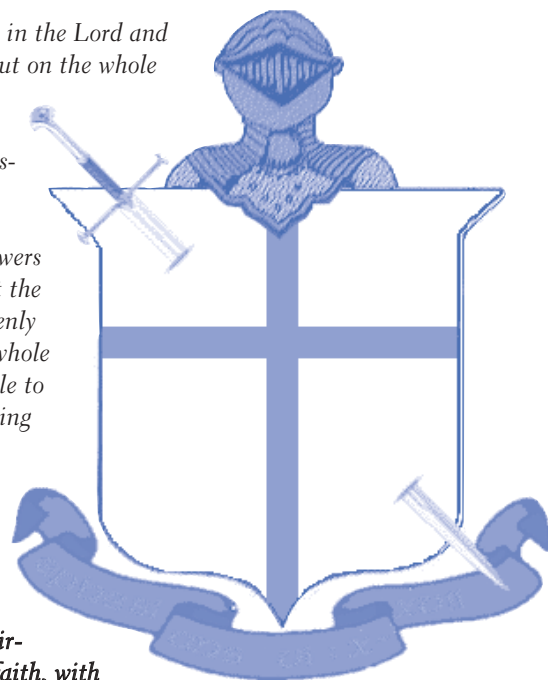
"We accomplished an enormous amount of organizational work and are committed to rapid forward movement," said Bishop Duncan, Moderator. "This is an action-oriented group focused on addressing the urgent crisis of the men, women and children in the pews who feel disenfranchised and abandoned by ECUSA, many of whom are experiencing

intimidation and harassment in revisionist dioceses."

Defining the Anglican Communion Network as a "biblically driven missionary movement", the Steering Committee developed Mission and Vision Statements as well as Core Values based upon the structural and theological characters. A centerpiece of Steering Committee actions was election of Convocation Deans who had previously served provisionally. Convocation Deans are the Rev. John Guernsey, Mid-Atlantic Convocation; the Rev. James McCaslin, Southeast Convocation; the Rev. Ron McCrary, Mid-Continental Convocation; the Rev. William Thompson, Western Convocation; and the Rev. David Moyer, Forward in Faith North America Convocation. Appointment of Dean for the New England Convocation is pending. These Deans established Convocation structures and developed procedures for association with the Anglican Communion Network, procedures which will be available in mid-March. In addition, they are developing a framework to provide organizational, spiritual and pastoral care in the Convocations.

Seal of the NACDP

Brethren: ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6.10-17, English Standard Version).



Letter Sent to FIF/NA Parishes Re: The Network

February 24, 2004

Dear Father,

This letter brings exciting news. As you may have read in our recent statement (see below), the FIF/NA Council has voted to join the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes. This decision will provide protection for those who uphold the Faith and Order of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

The Network has arranged to provide the long-awaited "Adequate Episcopal Oversight" for those parishes outside the Network Dioceses. FIF/NA has been given its own separate area, which is a non-geographical Convocation.

This means that Affiliated and Associated FIF/NA Parishes in non-Network Dioceses, who have paid their Annual Dues, may request and receive the Episcopal Oversight of FIF/NA Bishops.

In fact, the vision we have held since 1989, when ESA conceived "Province Ten" and created six Area Convocations, each with an ESA Bishop to care for the parishes in that area, is very close to fulfillment.

Although we were never able to implement this vision, in the Providence of God the long-awaited reality is even better than we envisioned at the time. Here is why:

It is International and fully within the Anglican Communion:

- The Network was suggested, and is supported, by the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- The Network is recognized as a legitimate entity by fourteen Anglican Primates who represent the vast majority of the Anglican Communion. More are expected.
- The Network is blessed to have the full support of the Ekklesia Primates' Council of more than a dozen Primates. This Body functions well with most of the Primates upholding the traditional Order of the Church, while others ordain women.

It gives FIF/NA independence:

- As a fully equal partner with the American Anglican Council, FIF/NA has an independent Convocation of the Network. Rather than the "Province Ten" within ECUSA, with all of its strictures, the FIF/NA Convocation is instead an ecclesial entity that does not

ordain women, thus allowing us the freedom to better live out our own "Statement on Communion" and to reproduce ourselves.

- FIF/NA has total freedom within this non-geographical Convocation of the Network to define its structure and its operations. In fact, we have had our structure and leadership in operation since 1989 and are READY TO MOVE AHEAD!
- Membership as an independent entity in the Network enables us to take another step forward in our growing relationships with the "extra-mural" Anglicans.

Practically speaking:

- Our President, The Rev'd Dr. David L. Moyer, will serve as the first Dean of the new Convocation.
 - Each year at our Annual Assembly, we will elect two delegates to the Network Council from the members of those parishes who do not belong to one of the twelve Network Dioceses. FIF/NA parishes in hostile dioceses will thus have more representation in the Network.
 - FIF/NA parishes in the most desperate situations will be ministered to very soon.
 - Finally, FIF/NA parishes in the nine AAC Network Dioceses, who are not persecuted by their Bishops, will continue under the oversight of their own Bishops. When the time arrives that the Network is able to implement all of the elements of the Lambeth agreement of 1998, these parishes may come under the oversight of FIF/NA Bishops if they should desire it.
- FIF/NA continues as a separate organization, working for the fullness of the Faith and Order of the Apostolic Church. FIF/NA is most certainly not changing or compromising any of our stands. On the contrary, we believe that more people will come to agree with us now that we, as a part of the Network, have the freedom to "be the Church" as we said in Rosemont in 1997.*
- Again we ask that FIF/NA parishes wishing to apply for Adequate Episcopal Oversight send their requests through the FIF/NA office so that we are fully informed of your actions.*

Faithfully in Christ,
Lay Canon Carolyn C. (Cris) Fouse
National/International Field Director

Statement from the Council of FiF North America

13 February 2004

As the members of the Council of Forward in Faith North America we offer greetings in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mindful of the sacrificial labors of many of our members over several decades; the vision cast in 1989⁽¹⁾ (in the structure of the formation of the Episcopal Synod of America); sharpened in 1997 (in the Rosemont Statement⁽²⁾); we rejoice that vision is now being recast in the cooperative efforts of the emerging clarity provided in our partnership in the Network of ACDP.

The circumstances at Good Shepherd Rosemont in September 2002⁽³⁾ provided an opportunity for new cooperation between Forward in Faith, the American Anglican Council, Ekklesia, many Primates and the former and present Archbishops of Canterbury and offered a providential foreshadowing of our emerging common life.

In response to the specific call from the Archbishop of Canterbury, visionary leaders of the Household of Faith are collaborating in the Network which is drawing counsel from the deepening relationships among the international Primates. Just as they have faithfully and charitably modeled common life recognizing differing theological perspectives⁽⁴⁾ we are encouraged by the maturity of their relationships and seek to manifest the same steadfast commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the Church. This charity is "the very bond of peace and of all virtues without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Him."

The Network's commitment to the ongoing integrity of Forward in Faith's succession in Holy Orders reinforces our confidence in our common future for orthodox, unified, and missionary endeavor as longstanding divisions are healed to the Glory of God. We commend the Network and our common life to the prayers of all faithful people.

1. The structure and purpose of the Network is virtually identical to that framed by the ESA in 1989.
2. The Rosemont Statement: "We continue to 'be the church. We are not going anywhere.'"
3. Efforts by Charles E. Bennison, Jr. to remove The Rev'd David L. Moyer as Rector of Good Shepherd by attempting to depose him were thwarted by cooperation and collaboration among agencies and international leaders.
4. Varying theological perspectives include evangelical, catholic, and charismatic, as well as differences concerning the ordination of women.

Note to Those Who Are Still Uncertain about FIF/NA's joining the Network:

As the ECUSA continues to fall apart, and as the realignment of the faithful continues to take place, keep in mind the following:

- The Primates will work with only one entity in the USA. The Network is that entity.
- As an equal partner in The Network, FIF/NA has the freedom to live out our own Statement on Communion (with the temporary exception of FIF/NA parishes in AAC Network Dioceses).
- The leadership of the Network is committed to a serious examination of the issue of the ordination of women. We have every confidence that, through such an examination, the Truth as written in Holy Scripture will convict and convince.

Two More Dioceses Vote to Associate with Network

The Dioceses of San Joaquin (California) and Springfield (Illinois) have formally associated with the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes, bringing the official number of Network Dioceses to six. The other six Dioceses who attended the January organizing Convocation are expected to bring this matter before their own Conventions.

Official Member Dioceses to this point are: Central Florida, Fort Worth, Pittsburgh, Rio Grande, San Joaquin and Springfield.

Archbishop of Canterbury Meets with Anglican Mission Leadership

by Jay L. Greener
Mar 3, 2004

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Rowan Williams, this morning warmly greeted the leadership of the Anglican Mission in America (AMiA) and welcomed them to Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop's official residence and office in London. Following a few minutes of informal conversation over coffee, Archbishop Williams invited the two AMiA bishops, the Rt. Rev. Chuck Murphy and the Rt. Rev. TJ Johnston, to share the work and ministry of the Anglican Mission with an advisory council that he has established to gather information on developments within the Anglican Communion. While that meeting was occurring, the Archbishop of Canterbury consulted privately with the two sponsoring Primates of the Anglican Mission, the Most Rev. Emmanuel Kolini of Rwanda and the Most Rev. Yong Ping Chung of South East Asia. At the conclusion of the conversations, Archbishop Williams again connected briefly with the AMiA bishops as they departed Lambeth Palace.

Bishop Murphy, the Anglican Mission's Chairman, felt the time was

very helpful. "We're very grateful for the opportunity to meet and talk with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and to share with his advisors the growing work and ministry of the Anglican Mission in America. I feel the conversations created increased understanding and were constructive." Archbishop Yong shared the positive evaluation: "Our meeting was very warm and covered a wide range of topics. Archbishop Kolini and I are thankful, especially, for the opportunity we had to pray, together again, with Archbishop Williams."

High demand for AMiA report Supplies Running Low

The Anglican Mission in America designated a committee chaired by The Rt. Rev. John Rodgers, Jr. to conduct a thorough Biblical study of the Ordination of Women

FIF/NA is able to offer the report to you in a printed format for \$15.00. A CD-ROM format is available directly from the AMiA for \$10. (Call 843-237-0318.)

In either format, we encourage you to read this important study.

To order the printed book, call us at 1-800-225-1351 or email us at FiF.NorthAmerica@forwardinfaith.com.

FIF/NA Parishes seeking episcopal oversight

Please remember to notify the FIF/NA office if you are applying to the new Network for Episcopal Oversight. We need to know which of our parishes are applying. This information will, of course, be kept totally confidential.

Convenors Needed

Within the new Network, the FIF/NA Convocation will cover the entire country. FIF/NA Bishops will therefore arrange, as much as is possible, to come for visitations to clusters of parishes. Convenors are needed to help to organize these clusters within the FIF/NA Convocation. Convenors are also asked to help form new Chapters and revitalize old ones.

If your diocese does not have a convenor, YOU can be the one to organize FIF/NA members in your area, send someone to the Annual Assembly, and move forward in faith with us. Notify Cris Fouse at 1-800-225-3661 or cris.fouse@forwardinfaith.com