



ANGLICAN JOURNAL DAILY

Special coverage of GENERAL SYNOD 2007

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INSIDE

- Church battles racism2
- Be gracious, magnanimous,
urges Sentamu.....3
- Synod adjusts committee
structures.....3
- NOTEBOOK
- Online icebreaker.....3
- QUOTABLE QUOTES
- What should this Synod
be known for?.....4
- Sacred art blooms
at Synod.....4
- EDITORIAL
- Church deserves better
than closed-door talks5
- Council of the North
funding affirmed 6



Mel Malton

"Don't forget evangelism..."
Merged committee receives
additional mission direction



Art Babych

Hands up, baby, hands up

Tired General Synod delegates take a mid-morning stretch break.

Church reports 2006 deficit

Book centre mainly responsible for financial gap

Solange De Santis

STAFF WRITER

Winnipeg

The national office of the Anglican Church of Canada reported a deficit for the fourth straight year in 2006,

but the shortfall, at about \$486,000, was less than half the \$1.1 million loss recorded in 2005.

Revenue shortfall primarily came from the operations of the Anglican Book Centre, said treasurer Peter Blachford in an interview. The Toronto bookstore reported revenues of \$2.46 million and expenses of \$2.96 million in 2006, compared to revenue of \$2.89 million and expenses of \$3.11 million in 2005. "The bookstore used to make a profit,

Please see Finances, p. 2



Art Babych

Esther Wesley, left, and Mel Malton perform in a skit as part of the anti-racism presentation to General Synod.

Church battles racism

General Synod delegates yesterday recited a "Litany of Commitment to Journey Together," that affirmed that the Anglican Church of Canada would strive to be a church that is "free of racism."

The pledge came after a dramatic presentation that included voice-over reflections on racism experienced by aboriginal people and non-white Canadians.

"I'd rather be slapped in the face than hear, over and over again, 'you people bring these (problems) upon yourselves,'" said one aboriginal woman.

Bishop Jim Njegovan, who helped present the report of the anti-racism working group, said, "There is more to racism than prejudice. It is discrimination plus power, the misuse of power." He said that even the structures of the church have been set up to favour white people. "Our procedures have the historical context of the dominant European culture which is mystifying to aboriginal people and new immigrants."

The church, however, has taken steps to combat racism and has since General Synod of 2004 taken important steps, the group reported. Anti-racism training workshops have been conducted in various church governing bodies. In addition, the Council of General Synod at its spring meeting approved a Charter for Racial Justice, which serves as a guide for General Synod's ongoing work on racial justice.

Finances

Continued from p.1

but sales continued to flag," said Mr. Blachford.

The bookstore's fortunes changed earlier this year, as Lutheran publisher Augsburg Fortress agreed to manage the outlet – and the financial risk – and pay rent to General Synod. "In 2008, that line will be revenue, period," said Mr. Blachford.

In the annual financial report presented to the General Synod meeting, income from dioceses – the major portion of revenue for the national office, also called General Synod – was down slightly at \$8.71 million, compared to \$8.73 million. Total revenue declined to \$13.71 million from \$14.0 million.

The Anglican Appeal, the church's flagship fundraiser, was down to \$426,000 from \$500,000. The financial management and development committee is analyzing the reasons for the Anglican Appeal's decline and "we are going to map out a strategy on a multi-year basis," said Mr. Blachford.

On the bright side, General Synod received a larger contribution (\$514,000, compared with \$142,000) from bequests and investment income rose to \$97,000 from \$77,000 due to a change in investment managers.

Expenses were also down, as a

result of cost-cutting by various departments at the national office, to \$14.20 million from \$15.10 million.

Overall, the 2007 financial picture is "tracking extremely well, ahead of where I would have budgeted," said Mr. Blachford. However, he added, he is concerned about diocesan contributions in 2008. Conversations with some diocesan treasurers indicate that some dioceses, which he declined to name, may be considering reducing their grants to General Synod.

Mr. Blachford also said he hopes that the days of seeing "the glass half-empty" will end with the planned establishment of a new financial development office in Toronto. "We've cut as far as we can rationally go. This church is blessed with resources and it's time to make that mind-shift from scarcity to abundance," he said. (In his opening address, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, the primate, noted that the national partnerships department has cut the number of liaison staffers for global relations from three to one – now with responsibility for the entire world – and urged the General Synod meeting to review that cut.)

He also noted that General Synod is in line to receive about \$1 million as a refund when the revised residential schools agreement with the federal government goes into effect. That will probably take place later this year.



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Be gracious, magnanimous, urges Sentamu

Marites N. Sison

STAFF WRITER

Winnipeg

Two international church leaders yesterday urged delegates of General Synod to adopt a positive approach to human sexuality, a contentious issue that will be dealt with during the ongoing meeting of the Anglican Church of Canada's highest governing body. In his remarks, Archbishop of York and primate of England John Sentamu urged delegates to exercise "gracious magnanimity" when dealing with the divisive issue of whether homosexual unions should be blessed by the church.

For his part, Canon Kenneth Kearon, secretary general of the Anglican Communion, urged Canadian Anglicans to "take time to stand back from the Anglican Communion" where the focus has been about schism over the issue of human sexuality. Instead, he urged them to "rejoice in the wonderful family of which we are all a part of and to celebrate the wonderful ministry that is being done in many parts of the world."

Archbishop Sentamu urged delegates to re-examine "if we aren't being challenged in our application of canon law and gracious-magnanimity in relation to the question of hu-



Josie De Lucia

John Sentamu, Archbishop of York and Primate of England, brought greetings to the meeting of General Synod on June 20.

man sexuality."

God, said Archbishop Sentamu, is "the supreme example of the one who is graciously magnanimous and who deals with others with gracious magnanimity." He offered the example of the adulterous woman who was brought before Jesus. "He could have applied the letter of the law according to which she should have been stoned to death; but he

went beyond justice," he said. "As far as justice goes, there isn't one of us who deserves anything other than the condemnation of God, but God goes far beyond justice."

To be "graciously magnanimous," he added, a church must have "a responsibility to both affirm moral standards and to ensure that its rules don't seem rigorous to the point of inhumanity."

Synod adjusts committee structures

Staff

On its first business day, General Synod dealt with a number of changes to the canons, or laws, of the church.

One major change allowed the merger of the national Partners in Mission and Eco-Justice committees, which develop relationships with overseas churches and do ecological and social justice work. In introducing the proposed changes Bishop Sue Moxley of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island said the committees have "many areas of

convergence." She added, "it clearly made a lot of sense to move in the direction of pulling our work together and it will save the church money."

Among other changes: synod agreed to reduce the number of members of the Communications and Information Resources committee to ten from 14; it changed the clergy licensing canon to give priests who face discipline the possibility of a hearing and it allowed national committees to include members who are not Anglicans.

NOTEBOOK

Online icebreaker

Youth delegates to General Synod wasted little time in establishing their online presence - they have started a group on Facebook, a popular networking Web site. The group was started in early June and had 18 members by the first day of Synod; it invited seekers thusly: "Join this group and let's save a few awkward days of 'getting to know you' icebreakers." Group discussions included plans for an early Synod get-together and a light-hearted examination of the primatial election.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

The *Anglican Journal Daily* newspaper asked General Synod members early in their meeting to share their thoughts on their role and their hopes for the coming week.

What should this Synod be known for?

Archdeacon Dianne Parker, Diocese of Nova Scotia/Prince Edward Island



For a willingness to stay at the table, to draw the circle wider ... for a sense of discernment and seeking God's will.

George Power, Diocese of British Columbia



For a debate around the issues ... that we all respect each other and treat each other with courtesy ... for a sense of family.

Families can fight but I hope we won't be known for that.

More quotable quotes are available at www.anglicanjournal.com. Internet access is available in Oxford Hall on the Mezzanine level of the Marlborough Hotel.

Sacred art blooms at Synod

Solange De Santis

STAFF WRITER

Art will have a dramatically expanded presence at this General Synod, compared to previous gatherings -- in plenary, at worship and at the display hall. The lucky high bidders at a silent auction that benefits various Anglican initiatives will be able to take home a piece of sculpture, a painting or a drawing.

Sacred Expressions is the title for a collection of 50 artworks -- chosen from among 200 submissions -- that expresses the synod theme *Draw the Circle Wide, Draw It Wider Still!*

"The 50 pieces will be shown on a big screen during worship. We aimed for a blend of professional and 'naïve' or amateur artists. There is even a child's work," said Lisa Barry, senior producer of Anglican Video, who coordinated the project and was a member of the three-person jury that chose the works. (The other members were Rev. Donna Joy of St. George's church, Winnipeg, who chaired the committee, and Andrew Wilhelm-Boyles, national director of the Creative City Network of Canada.)

Synod delegates will receive a copy of a full-color catalog of all the works, containing descriptions of the artists' conceptions and contact information for some, since most of the works are for sale. The catalog is for sale to non-delegates.

The six items in the silent auction,



Submitted

Jesus heals a leper in a papier-mâché sculpture by Sara Chu.

which will be shown in the display hall, include two sculptures, two drawings and two paintings. The sale will benefit the Anglican Appeal, Anglican Journal Appeal, the Sacred Arts Trust of the Anglican Foundation, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund's HIV/AIDS work and the Indigenous Healing Fund.

In a world where religious art has declined in prominence in the past few centuries, the range of spiritual expression in the show is startling. "The visual is such a strong part of our faith," said Ms. Barry.



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EDITORIAL

Church deserves better than closed-door talks

Same-sex discussion requires openness

Leanne Larmondin
EDITOR

Organizers of the meeting of General Synod took two Wednesday afternoon “conversations” about the contentious matter of same-sex blessings behind closed doors – excluding members of the media, but still allowing observers of all stripes to hear the discussion.

A strange choice.

The decision was made by members of the meeting’s agenda committee – a group of members and officers of General Synod. The chair, Barbara Burrows, and the General Secretary, Archdeacon Michael Pollesel, explained to *Anglican Journal* staff that they wanted Synod members to receive information and discuss the matter in a “safe space.” Similar conversations about the *Windsor Report*, financial development and church governance, though, were not closed to the media.

(The conversations were added to the agenda to introduce members to complex issues before they are debated in plenary.)

There was reason to hope that



Mel Malton

the church had matured to the point of being able to trust that its members were sophisticated enough to engage sexuality issues in an open fashion. Members of the Council of General Synod – the church’s governing body between meetings of General Synod – held the same conversation as recently as last March with the media present.

Surely, after two decades of church conversation about sexuality, those charged with making crucial decisions about their church at its highest level ought to have enough confidence in their convic-

tions to consider such an in-camera session unnecessary and counter-productive.

This decision can only be attributed – and may possibly add – to an atmosphere of fear and apprehension. But the church has important decisions ahead of it and its decision makers must face them with forthrightness and courage.

A “private” conversation in a group as large as 100-150 is absurd. The wider church was shut out of one of synod’s most important conversations yesterday. The church deserves better.

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CANADA

Council of the North funding affirmed

Mel Malton

SPECIAL TO THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL DAILY

Following a lively presentation by the Council of the North, General Synod voted unanimously to affirm that support grants to the church in the Canada's North will continue at no less than the current level for the next five years.

In addition, Synod encouraged the council to launch collective fundraising activities to supplement the income received from those grants.

The council's presentation on Wednesday afternoon began with a welcoming drum song by the Sakeeng Drum Group – a sung prayer of thanks to the Creator.

Through words, songs and images, the work of the Northern church was brought to life, with examples of the commitment and vitality that makes the North, as council chair Bishop Anthony Burton called it, "the soul of the Anglican church."

Several segments of the presentation described examples of "real people doing real ministry" – from Inuktitut-speaking clergy who travel hundreds of kilometers to visit patients in hospitals far from home, to the ministry of presence offered by one priest to a bereaved family in an isolated Yukon community.

Each story was interspersed with a throat-singing performance by Inukshuk Aksalnik and Stephanie Adams of Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.



Art Babych

Throatsingers Stephanie Adams, left, and Inukshuk Aksalnik, both of Rankin Inlet, perform at General Synod during the Council of the North presentation.

Synod members heard that in spite of the success stories, northern ministry is struggling. It was reported that the number of paid incumbencies throughout northern dioceses continues to shrink; staff positions are being cut back or eliminated. "The net result is an overall impoverishment of the church's ministry to the North," said presenter Bruce Myers.

Two resolutions to address the funding crunch, moved by Bishop

David Ashdown of the diocese of Keewatin, were subsequently proposed.

Following the successful passage of the resolutions, Archbishop Hutchinson expressed delight with the support shown for northern ministry.

"I could not be more delighted by what you've just done," he told Synod. "There is such vitality in these remote communities, and yet because of their remoteness, they will never be financially independent."



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EVELYN THOUGHT it was about time her parish church established a permanent endowment fund to provide ongoing support for its educational programme. She has been an active member of her parish for her entire life, and is grateful for God's many blessings to her and her church family. She is particularly impressed by the vitality of her parish and its plans to focus on Christian education for all ages.

In cooperation with her financial advisor, Evelyn cashed in **\$300,000** of her Guaranteed Investment Certificates (which yielded a very modest income, fully taxable), and entered into a General Synod

Charitable Gift Annuity agreement – with her parish being the beneficiary. This agreement would provide Evelyn an annual income of **\$30,000 (10% yield), entirely income tax free.** In addition, she would receive a donation receipt for **\$146,137.10.**

Evelyn is delighted to be in a position to share her accumulated assets in this prudent way, knowing that her gift will make a permanent difference in the life of her beloved parish for generations to come.

If you would like to follow Evelyn's example of generosity, but don't have \$300,000 to spare, consider dividing all of the above figures by 10 or 20 – we can design an annuity especially for you!

For further information about gift planning, please contact:

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Telephone 416.924.9199 ext. 268
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