

## ***Commissions, Networks, Consultations and Initiatives of the Anglican Communion***

The four "Instruments of Unity" in the Anglican Communion are, in historical order, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference (of Bishops), the Anglican Consultative Council, and the Primates' Meeting.

In addition, there are a variety of commissions, networks, consultations and other initiatives that have received recognition as "official" undertakings of the Anglican Communion.

The inter-Anglican budget is intended to fund all Anglican Communion activities on a communion-wide basis, including the support of the Anglican Communion Office (ACO), which acts as secretariat to all four Instruments of Unity. The ACO is centered on four main areas -- the work of the Secretary General, Communications, Ecumenism, and Mission and Evangelism.

Information on the Anglican Communion website is commended for further information and study ([www.anglicancommunion.org](http://www.anglicancommunion.org)).

### ***Inter-Anglican Standing Commissions***

Inter-Anglican Standing Commissions are relatively new, but have grown out of years of work by Anglicans chosen by their provinces to carry forward communion-wide efforts on particular areas of church life such as ecumenical relationships or mission and evangelism. They generally have some level of staffing based at the Anglican Communion Office, and in most cases some measure of funding from the inter-Anglican budget.

#### **Inter-Anglican Theological and Doctrinal Commission (IATDC)**

The current body was set up in 2001 to study the nature of communion, and ways in which the relationship between the churches of the Anglican Communion could be sustained and strengthened. It aimed to develop the work of a predecessor commission which was formed after the 1988 Lambeth Conference, and after several consultations and meetings produced the Virginia Report and associated statements on Women in the Episcopate. It is seeking to identify theological issues which underlie public controversies.

*The Episcopal Church is represented by the Rt. Rev. Mark Dyer, Retired Bishop of Bethlehem.*

#### **Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations (IASCER)**

IASCER was established by the ACC in response to a request from the bishops gathered at the Lambeth Conference in 1998. Its purpose is to monitor the progress of ecumenical affairs in the Anglican Communion, and to offer support and advice as requested by provinces. It encourages “best practice” in ecumenical initiatives within provinces, and ensures that in bilateral dialogues with other partners there is consistency between the Agreed Statements developed. (Last meeting December 2004, next meeting December 2005.)

*The Episcopal Church is represented by the Rt. Rev. C. Christopher Epting, the Presiding Bishop’s deputy for ecumenical affairs and the Rev. Canon J. Robert Wright, Professor of Ecclesiastical History at General Theological Seminary*

Ecumenical Dialogues:

Reporting to IASCER are a series of bilateral conversations and commissions, on which the Episcopal Church is represented. The bulk of international, denomination to denomination, ecumenical work for Anglicans is undertaken through this route and funded from the inter-Anglican budget.

[Names of official Episcopal Church participants are enclosed in parentheses]

- *Anglican Communion – Baptist World Alliance International Conversations (North American phase: Howard Loewen, the Rev. Saundra Richardson, the Rt. Rev. Douglas Theuner, David Wheeler)*
- *Anglican Lutheran International Commission (To be appointed this year, with an Episcopal Church member likely to be requested)*
- *Anglican Old Catholic International Coordinating Council (The Rev. Canon Dr. J. Robert Wright)*
- *Anglican Oriental Orthodox International Commission (The Rev. Canon Dr. J. Robert Wright)*
- *Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission (The Rev. Dr. Rozanne Elder; The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold was Anglican co-chair until he resigned in November 2003)*
- *International Commission of the Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue (The Rt. Rev. Mark Dyer, co-chair; the Rev. Canon William Green, the Rt. Rev. William Gregg)*

### **Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism (IASCOME)**

The present commission was brought into being by ACC-11 (Dundee, Scotland, 1999). Its mandate is to enable the sharing of information and reflection, and the facilitation of relationships across provinces and synodical and voluntary mission agencies. It succeeded MISSIO, the Anglican Communion Mission Commission, appointed by ACC-9 (Cape Town, South Africa, 1993) to succeed the Mission Issues and Strategy Advisory Group. (The final meeting of this group was in March 2005; new commission members will be appointed).

*The Episcopal Church is represented by the Rev. Dr. Ian T. Douglas, who has been appointed to the Continuing Committee that will oversee IASCOME's work until new members are appointed. (Margaret S. Larom and J. Patrick Mauney, the current and previous directors of Anglican & Global Relations, both served on MISSIO.)*

**Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Telecommunications (IASCT)**

The purpose of IASCT, established by ACC-12 (Hong Kong, 2002), is: "To share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to further extend the mission and ministry of the Anglican Communion in the world by using telecommunications technologies, and through that to encourage an environment in which people may find meaning and significance in community with one another." The commission hopes to survey and grow the telecommunications capacity of the provinces of the Communion, and affirms the establishment of the Anglican Communion portal and the nurture of provincial news websites. (First meeting, January 2004; next meeting not set.)

*The designated representative for North America is Margaret S. Larom of the Episcopal Church (director, Anglican and Global Relations).*

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**Theological Education for the Anglican Communion (TEAC)**

Described variously as a "Task Group of the Anglican Communion" and "The Anglican Primates' Working Party on Theological Education," TEAC's mandate is to make recommendations and practical proposals to strengthen theological education within the life of the Anglican Communion. A priority of the Archbishop of Canterbury, theological education has been a key item on the agenda of the Primates during recent years. Four sub-groups are studying the basic standards as well as challenges facing theological education available to the following: Bishops; Priests and Transitional Deacons; Vocational Deacons, Catechists and Licensed Lay Leaders, and Laity. A fifth group is examining "The Anglican Way," and a sixth group will be formed to examine the provision of resources. (The last meeting was in Bristol, England in June 2004; the next meeting will be in January 2006 in South Africa.)

*The Episcopal Church is represented by the Rev. Susanne Watson Epting, the Rev. Canon Ogé Beauvoir, and the Rev. George Hobson.*

**Networks of the Anglican Communion**

**Anglican Communion Environmental Network**

At the Lambeth Conference in 1998, the bishops expressed a variety of concerns about the ethical implications of new technologies as well as global environmental problems. In 1999, the Anglican Consultative Council authorized a new area of work to be carried out from the Anglican Communion Office. The first Anglican Congress on the Stewardship of Creation was held in Johannesburg in 2002, to help representatives of our churches

prepare for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In 2002 as well, the network was recognized by ACC-12 (Hong Kong). This network works closely with the Anglican UN Observer's Office. The last meeting was held April 17-22 in Canberra, Australia, with delegates representing 13 provinces.

*The Episcopal Church is represented by Ms. Martha Gardner, consultant for environmental ministries at the Episcopal Church Center. Also participating are the Rev. Sally Bingham and the Rev. Canon Jeff Gollieher.*

### **Anglican Peace and Justice Network (AJPN)**

APJN celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and is generally considered the strongest of the official Anglican networks. Five Anglican provinces took the initiative to create it (USA, UK, Brazil, Southern Africa, and Jerusalem and the Middle East), and on average, 22 provinces participate. The network meets every 2-3 years (the first gathering occurred in Jerusalem in 1987, as did the most recent in 2004). The next meeting will be in Africa. It has raised and helped shape the Communion's response to issues and situations such as debt and globalization, conflict and war, HIV/AIDS, poverty and trade, environmental degradation, and problems faced by women and youth.

*The Episcopal Church is represented by the Rev. Canon Brian Grieves, director of Peace and Justice Ministries. The Rev. Carmen Guerrero, officer of Jubilee Ministries; Thomas Hart, former director of the Office of Government Relations; and Ethan Flad, editor of the Witness, also have participated in international APJN meetings over the years. There was broad Episcopal participation when APJN met in the USA.*

### **International Anglican Youth Network (IAYN)**

Defined as a network of "persons involved in ministry among young people at the provincial level uniting young people within the Anglican Communion," the IAYN aims to raise the profile of (and support for) youth ministry in the Anglican Communion, to encourage and strengthen young people generally, and to encourage the inclusion of young people at all levels of decision-making in the Church. The IAYN produced a young adult gathering in 1997 with more than 300 participants from nearly every member church in the Communion, and envisions another such global gathering near Lambeth in 2008. Youth officers from 19 provinces met in August 2003 in the USA; a steering committee formed of representatives from six regions met in February 2005.

*The Episcopal Church is represented by Douglas Fenton, staff officer for Young Adult and Higher Education Ministry); he is co-administrator of the IAYN.*

### **International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN)**

This network was founded in 1996, with Gini Peterson (Diocese of Atlanta) as a founding member. Its purpose is to enable women throughout the Communion to consult with each other and to highlight specific issues which they face wherever they are.

*The Episcopal Church supports IAWN's work through participation by Church Center staff and representatives of various women's constituencies.*

### **International Anglican Family Network (IAFN)**

Established in 1987, this network has published newsletters regularly for 12 years. These highly useful publications tend to focus on issues and situations that affect women and children (war, uprootedness, poverty, disease, violence). They are incorporated into the quarterly magazine Anglican World.

*Input from the Episcopal Church is sought regularly.*

### **Anglican Francophone Network**

Recognized by ACC-12 (Hong Kong, 2002) as an official network, the Executive Council of the French Speaking Anglicans around the World grew out of efforts begun in Paris in 1985 by a priest from the American Cathedral in Paris, France. The Rev. Canon Dr. Jacques Bossière understood the need to gather the French-speaking leaders of the Anglican Communion in an association called Rencontres-International. The purpose was to share experience, learn from one another, and work together in some areas such as leadership training (lay and ordained leaders). The first international conference took place in Limuru, Kenya, with the logistic support of ANITEPAM (the African Network of Institutions of Theological Education Preparing Anglicans for Ministry) in 1995. The second was in Canterbury in 1998, the third in Paris in 2001; and the fourth in Mauritius in 2003.

The next gathering of the Network will be in Montreal, Canada, July 12–19, 2005. The objective is to help Francophone leaders develop a better and deeper understanding of the partnership with North American Episcopalians/Anglicans.

Rencontres-International, which supports initiatives of the Executive Council, is an NGO with consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

*The executive director of Rencontres-International is the Rev. Canon Ogé Beauvoir (DFMS missionary in Haiti); the Episcopal Church also is represented by the Rev. Mary Ellen Dolan and the Rev. Nigel Massey.*

### **Anglican Indigenous People's Network**

Discussions about the importance of a network of relationships among the indigenous peoples of the Anglican Communion date back to the 1983 General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Vancouver. First practical steps were taken in 1991, when Sir Paul Reeves, then Anglican UN Observer, convened a meeting of indigenous Anglicans and Episcopalians at the General Convention in Phoenix. A steering committee including one representative per country was formed and later that year identified areas of mutual concern which essentially have been the focus of the work ever since: self-determination, indigenous ministry, spirituality, liturgy and worship, church self-examination and transformation, the church's role in society, and funding and resources.

Within 10 years the Network had expanded from the indigenous people of Aotearoa (New Zealand), Australia, Canada, Hawaii, and the continental United States, to include the Torres Strait Islanders, and Anglican indigenous minorities from Belize, Japan, Mexico and Taiwan. The Network met in Rotorua in 2003 and in Pala, California, in 2005.

*The Anglican Indigenous Network relates closely to the offices of the Anglican UN Observer (Archdeacon Taimelalagi Fagamalama Tuatagaloa-Matalavea) and the Native American missionary (Janine Tinsley-Roe) at the Episcopal Church Center. Malcolm Naea Chun of the Diocese of Hawaii has played a lead coordinating role.*

*The Episcopal Church has been represented over the years by the Rev. Darros Aiona, Dr. Owanah Anderson, the Rev. Dr. Martin Brokenleg, the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, Malcolm Naea Chun, Ginny Doctor, the Rt. Rev. Carol Hampton, the Rev. Charles G.K. Hopkins, Professor Pua Hopkins, the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, the (late) Rt. Rev. Steven Plummer and Linda Sproat.*

### **Anglican Refugee and Migration Network**

This was initiated in the 1990s by George Carey when he was Archbishop of Canterbury. He asked all provinces to designate representatives, and Ian George, the now retired Archbishop of Adelaide, was the convener. A statement on the Anglican Communion's commitment to refugees and displaced persons was approved by the Primates. However, due to lack of funding and staffing, the network has not been able to realize its original vision.

*The Episcopal Church is represented by Richard Parkins, director of Episcopal Migration Ministries.*

### **Anglican Urban Network**

Proposals for an Anglican Communion Urban Program were developed following the 1998 Lambeth Conference, and approval for the formation of a network was given in 2000. A chief concern is the ability of humans to flourish in a globalizing, urbanizing world, and the network is collecting information on urban mission and ministry throughout the Communion. Four focus areas are: training for urban ministry, empowerment of the poor, interchange and communication with regions, provinces, and other Anglican networks, and theological reflection and social analysis across boundaries. Members work closely with the Anglican UN Observer's Office and have participated in the UN Special Session on Human Settlements (New York, 2001) and related summits.

*The Episcopal Church is represented on the Steering Group by the Rev. Canon Carmen Guerrero, officer of Jubilee Ministries. The Ven. Michael Kendall is a consultant to the committee.*

### **Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC)**

Recognized as an official network in 2003, the history of CUAC dates back to 1962, with the creation in New York of the Fund for Episcopal Colleges, subsequently named the

Association of Episcopal Colleges (AEC). In addition to the US members listed below, key historic members are Cuttington University College in Liberia and Trinity College of Quezon City in the Philippines. The AEC conceived the notion of developing a worldwide association of Anglican-related institutions and CUAC was launched in 1993. More than 120 institutions -- located on every continent -- are now members of CUAC, and its fifth international conference is in Canterbury and York in June 2005. CUAC has a major survey underway of all Anglican theological institutions and programs worldwide, and is collaborating with TEAC in that regard.

*Episcopal Church participants are, typically, the presidents of Bard, Clarkson, Hobart and William Smith, Kenyon, St. Augustine (Chicago), St. Augustine's (Raleigh), St. Paul's, University of the South (Sewanee), and Voorhees in the USA, and the Université Episcopal d'Haiti. The CUAC/AEC office is located at the Episcopal Church Center.*

### **Network for Inter Faith Concerns (NIFCON)**

The aim of this network is to keep Anglicans informed of events, courses and articles on inter-faith matters, and in particular, at the request of the Lambeth Conference, to monitor Christian-Muslim relations from an Anglican perspective.

*Episcopal Church participants have included the Rev. Dr. Lucinda Mosher, Ms. Jolinda Matthews, Dr. Charles B. Jones, and Dr. Yvonne Haddad (particularly the Al Azhar Dialogue).*

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## **Consultations**

Periodically, there are official gatherings of Anglicans who hold particular positions in the structures of their churches, or who are appointed by their primates to represent their churches at specific consultations.

### **Provincial Mission & Evangelism Coordinators Consultation**

Building on the momentum of the Decade of Evangelism, the first Inter-Anglican Consultation for Provincial Evangelism Coordinators was held in Nairobi in May 2002. Almost every province was represented. The participants themselves led discussion as well as Bible study, prayer and worship. They exchanged information about goals, strategies, programs and problems. This sharing of ideas was in itself a goal of the consultation, as many coordinators were the first in the newly created positions in their province. From this conference many consultations on mission and evangelism have been held, both on provincial and diocesan levels, and Guidelines for Evangelism Coordinators have been put together drawing from the experiences of the delegates.

*The Episcopal Church was represented by the Rev. Charles Fulton, director of Congregational Development.*

### **Provincial Secretaries Meeting**

Those men and women charged with serving their churches as provincial or general secretaries, with major synodical as well as inter-Anglican relationships, try to gather periodically in different parts of the world. The purpose is fellowship and information exchange. (The last meeting was in Johannesburg in August 2004; the next meeting will be in 2007.)

*The Episcopal Church has been represented by the director of Anglican & Global Relations (the Rev. Canon J. Patrick Mauney, who attended 4 of the 5 meetings held to date) and the executive officer of the General Convention (both the Rev. Rosemary Sullivan and the Rev. Anthony Jewiss have attended).*

### **International Anglican Liturgical Consultations**

The official network for liturgy in the Anglican Communion, recognized by the ACC and the Primates' Meeting, and holding first responsibility to resource and communicate about liturgy on a communion-wide basis. Consultations are held every few years, with steering committees making arrangements in between. (The most recent meeting was in August 2003 in Cuddesdon, England; the next will be in August 2005, in Prague.)

*Participants from the Episcopal Church have included the Rev. Dr. Clayton L. Morris (General Convention, staff officer for Liturgy and Music) and the Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander, the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, the Rt. Rev. Paul Marshall, the Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf, and Robert Brooks, Jean Campbell, Carol Doran, Richard Martin, Ruth Meyers, Leonel Mitchell, Juan Oliver, Wayne Pokorny, Pamela Porter, Juan Quevedo-Bosch, Bryan Spinks, Tom Talley, and Louis Weil.*

### **Anglican Mission Organizations Conference**

The first mission agencies consultation was held in Brisbane in 1986 and was held for Northern mission agencies only, with those from the South invited only as "external partners." At the strong recommendation of MISSIO, the second consultation, titled "Transformation and Tradition in Global Mission," was held in Cyprus in 2003. It brought together leaders from the traditional voluntary and synodical mission agencies of the North with the new mission organizations and initiatives in the Global South. This event demonstrated the development in mission in the Anglican Communion and the growth and shifts in leadership and equal partnership. Coming from almost every church in the Communion, many participants were experiencing an inter-Anglican event for the first time. The energy, stimulation and visioning arising from the face-to-face meetings and exchanges of ideas continue to have a ripple effect across the Communion, with ongoing networking among delegates and important strategic planning for mission and evangelism within and across provinces and dioceses.

*Participants from the Episcopal Church included the Rev. Jane Butterfield, Gini Peterson, Edwina Thomas, the Rt. Rev. Julio Holguin, the Rev. Dr. Ian Douglas, the Rev. Dr. Titus Presler, the Rev. Thomas Prichard, and the Rev. Dr. Christopher Duraisingham. (Margaret S. Larom was on the planning team.)*

### **Advisory Council for Anglican UN Observer's Office**

The council is vital to the AUNO, not only for consultative support but also for visibility and fund-raising. The AUNO is located at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City.

*The Episcopal Church has strong representation on the Advisory Council. Current members include: the Rev. Daniel Appleyard, the Rev. Canon George Brandt, the Rev. Theodora Brooks, the Very Rev. Donald Brown, James G. Carr, Marnie Dawson Carr, the Ven. Michael Kendall, the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, the Rev. Canon Harold Lewis, the Rev. Andrew Mead, Peter Ng, the Rev. Canon John L. Peterson, Charles Royce, the Rt. Rev. M. Thomas Shaw III, SSJE, the Very Rev. Spenser Simrill, Br. Stephen Storen, BSG, Anita Timmons, William Wright, the Rev. Marek P. Zabriskie (ex-officio), the Rt. Rev. Mark Sisk, and the Rev. Canon Brian Grieves, representing the Presiding Bishop.*

### **Anglican Women's Empowerment Team**

Working closely with the Anglican UN Observer's Office, this inter-Anglican task group succeeded in bringing 41 provincial delegates from 27 churches in the Anglican Communion to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) in March 2005. The purpose is to bring a collective Anglican voice to the UN, to help the Anglican Communion do its share in implementing the Beijing Platform (on the rights of women), and to increase the participation of women in all areas of decision-making in the church and in society.

Goals include expanding the number of Anglican representatives to the UNCSW next year, and, with the International Anglican Women's Network, support a global network of women who hope to sponsor a global gathering of Anglican women in the future.

*The Episcopal Church delegates who served on the Anglican Communion delegation to the UNCSW this year were Marge Christie and the Rev. Canon Emily Morales. More than 40 women of the USA represented the Episcopal Church in a separate delegation to the UNCSW, but there was much collaborative effort and fellowship.*

*Members of AWET include Lois Bennett, Hondi Brasco, Theodora Brooks, Karen Chane, Marge Christie, Helen Goodkin, Phoebe Griswold, Christina Hing, Margaret Larom, Kim Robey, Margaret Rose, Karen Sisk, and Pat Yankus.*