

# Vol. 9, No. 1, - 14 January, 2015

## ***News from Our Anglican World***

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“For the word of the Cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” ~ 1 Corinthians 1:18

### **The Anglican Church in North America College of Bishops Meeting – 5-9 January**

The Bishops of ACNA just completed their first College of Bishops meeting for 2015. As the Church is moving out on so many initiatives here are some highlights from their official communiqué that may be of interest CHC members.

Led by our new Archbishop, The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach, they met to learn ways to be more effective and fruitful in the areas of prayer, teaching, business, and fellowship.

Special mention was made of Bishop Sutton’s teaching, as Provincial Dean of the ACNA, about how to more effectively perform the office of the Bishop. He challenged the College to recover the best of the apostolic office as it has been revealed in Scripture and experienced in the life of the Church.

Archbishop Beach gave thanks for the presence and grace of God that has been evident in the first six months of this new ministry. He expressed his commitment to shared leadership in the College and Province.

- With minor revisions, they adopted a “Preface Concerning the Confirmation Liturgy,” the intention being to ensure that each Anglican makes a public profession of faith and receives the laying on of hands by a bishop.
- The Task Force on Marriage recognized the massive changes in the understanding and practice of marriage in Western society, including such matters as the sexual revolution, no-fault divorce, same-sex marriage, and abortion. To this end, the College approved the formation of a task force that will work to consider marriage from a variety of interlocking perspectives: theological, liturgical, pastoral, legal, canonical, ecumenical, and public policy.
- The Holy Orders Task Force is working on Phase Three of its stated procedure, focusing on ordination and holy orders. The task force also has been working to identify divergent understandings, within our Province, about the nature of ordination and holy orders, including women’s ordination. Their goal is to resolve the concerns within the Province about how holy orders are understood and function.

- The Anglican Unity Task Force is working to simplify the many overlapping structures of our Province. It hopes to create clear processes for future use in parish and diocesan alignments.
- They overwhelmingly reaffirmed the Conclave's process by which a new Archbishop is selected.
- They discussed our commitment to multi-ethnicity as an essential element of our life as a Church and our witness to the wider North American culture. They celebrated our growing relationship and church planting efforts with our Latino and Asian brothers and sisters and gave thanks for the contributions of the Province's many African-American bishops, clergy and members. They pledged to grow our engagement with the African-American community.
- With regard to International Affairs, the ACNA continues to develop its relationships of full communion with and recognition from the vast majority of the world's Anglicans, and it has robust mission partnerships with many of its 35+ Provinces.
- They also discussed the grave tear in the fabric of the Anglican Communion caused by decisions of some provinces and diocese to depart from historic faith and practice\*. They continue their commitment to upholding and proclaiming Biblical truth as members of the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans, the outgrowth of the two GAFCON conferences in 2008 and 2013.
- The ACNA, in a report by Bishop Sutton, is engaged in eight different ecumenical dialogues: Roman Catholic Church, Orthodox Church in America, Polish National Catholic Church, North American Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Messianic Jewish churches, Good News Methodists, and Presbyterian Church in America. Archbishop Beach noted that in this increasingly secular time, it is all the more essential to be working across denominational lines as we seek to reach our culture with the Gospel.

The Bishops left the meeting with hearts that are thankful for God's love and for His providential care, as they take the next steps to reach North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ, and continue to invite your prayers. To God be the glory!

Blessings,

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