

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL SYNOD

Commission on Theological Education

Report to the Provincial House of Bishops and Executive Council

September 13, 2011

The Commission met four times since the last Provincial Synod. The meeting on November 26, 2010 took place at Huron College. On that occasion Dr. Bill Danaher informed us that the hall we met in was the site of a historic meeting of Primates of the Anglican Communion in 1963 which produced the historic document, *Mutual Responsibility and Interdependence in the Body of Christ*, the principles of which are especially relevant in the life of the Communion today. This change of venue fulfilled the desire of previous meetings to meet outside Toronto. Offsetting this benefit, the meeting also incurred additional costs, and attendance may have suffered. Members decided that we will continue to take advantage of the location and hospitality of Wycliffe and Trinity in the foreseeable future. There have been many changes in membership since the last meeting. Of note, negatively, is the understandable absence of a representative from the National church, and positively, the addition of a current theological student as a member, to be appointed by the authorities in Toronto, London and Ottawa respectively.

OPCOTE continued in the direction mentioned in the last report to tackle matters that are within its competence, fully aware that there are other important factors, such as student debt and funding of Theological Education, which impact theological education in the Province. Some of these bigger issues were touched upon in the first ever National gathering on Theological Education on Presbyteral formation at Manoir D'Youville, Chateaugai, Quebec in January 2010. This is the first gathering of stakeholders: bishops, diocesan representatives, educators, Communion and ecumenical observers. Representatives of OPCOTE participated before and during the gathering in various capacities. Subjects discussed included working towards a national standard of training for Presbyteral ministry, lifelong learning for clergy, and appropriate skills for a shifting culture. The full report is posted on the Anglican Church of Canada website, <http://www.anglican.ca/faith/files/2010/02/dYouville-Report.pdf>. Follow up of the conference now rests with the Theological Education Commission appointed by the Primate. OPCOTE eagerly awaits the progress of the national church committee, since they are also our concerns. Since none of our current member is on this committee we have written to invite some of their members to be at our meeting. We have received an informal update on its progress from the coordinator, but no representation is forthcoming.

Since the National Gathering, the commission decided to act, according to our own mandate, to work towards Provincial standards. We have gathered information from member dioceses regarding the process and expectations for ordination. Furthermore, we explored embarking on a longitudinal study on clergy effectiveness, being aware that the Province of Ontario is distinguished by:

1. Having relatively healthy institutions for theological education.

2. Having the norm, with some exception, of a Master of Divinity being the requirement for presbyteral ministry.
3. Having the only functioning theological commission in the country.

We hope that our work will complement and contribute to the work of the National church. To this end, we have met with Dr. Wendy Malcolm whose research on clergy wellness also is also longitudinal. She presented to us that wellness and effectiveness are related and that a combined study of the two is possible and desirable. However, even conducting research within the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario is a large scale study, and it will require outside grants. We are confident that she can lead us to the point of writing a proposal. A draft budget for this initial research is included in this report, pending your approval.

The Commission have also discussed the selection and formation of vocational deacons over several meetings, this work resulted in a report finalised this year. Part of this report collated the processes of member dioceses in the Province. With the improvement of the Provincial website we plan to post this resource for the information of visitors on line. Another topic we worked on was distance education. Inquires were made to different theological institutions in Canada. Even though replies were erratic, we also hope to post this on the Provincial website. Some ongoing work started in April includes a compilation of processes leading to ordination of presbyters. A discussion of both the expectations and resource available to presbyters for continuing education, based on information from member dioceses, is on the agenda for our November meeting. These constitute the list for our currently works in progress.

The Commission attempts to be a forum for exchange of information. We hope some of our work will inform members or stimulate their own work on Theological Education. As mentioned before, we only work within a narrow band of concerns appropriate for a largely volunteer body, with the help of our Provincial Executive Officers, Harry Huskins and Susan DeGruchy. Even with a narrow mandate, we sometimes find ourselves agreeing with the words of the hymn `Our strength unequal to our tasks.` Increasingly the success of our modest projects depend on timely co-operation of our Diocesan counterparts in providing us with information and opinions. With that co-operation we look forward to offering continued service to the Province on theological education.

Respectfully submitted

Patrick Yu

Chair

OPCOTE Effectiveness Study Proposal Budget

	Lit Review	Task Force	Toronto	London	Ottawa	Sault St. Marie
Admin	\$30	\$180 - \$272	\$422	\$382	\$489	\$1053
Travel	\$0	\$627 - \$1332	\$2944	\$2536	\$3812	\$9254
Hospitality	\$0	\$200 - \$425	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
Project Fees	\$1200	\$960	\$480	\$480	\$480	\$480
Total	\$1230	\$1967 - \$2989	\$4224	\$3816	\$4892	\$11587

Grand Total

This phase of the project is expected to cost about \$28,000 (\$17,000 without the Sault Focus Group). If the focus groups could be combined with another event such that the travel and hospitality costs are shared, the expenses could be significantly decreased.

Categories

- Administration: includes paper, photocopying, email notifications and teleconferencing. In the absence of information not yet available to us, we arbitrarily used 10% of the other costs to calculate these expenses for each component of the proposal, and recognize that this is probably more than would actually be needed.
- Travel: is the single biggest expense of doing this project, as participants' travel expenses would need to be reimbursed. It includes mileage (@ \$.50/km) calculated on the average distance traveled to participate in a focus group in Toronto, London, Ottawa or Sault St. Marie, plus commercial airfare for those who would have to travel from afar (particularly to or from the northernmost parishes). Please note that the cost of including a focus group that is drawn from people in the Dioceses of Algoma and Moosonee is 45% of the total focus group expenses. Given that the culture and working conditions of First Nations parishes are significantly different compared to clergy who live and work in predominantly non-native parishes, there is some rationale for waiting to do a focus group with First Nations parishes after we have established a workable non-native definition of effectiveness.
- Hospitality: includes the cost of food and beverages (at \$25/day/person for lunch and snacks), and assumes that a theological school, diocese or church would host the task force and focus groups at no charge for space or equipment.
- Project Fees: are primarily the costs of paying a research assistant (@ \$15/hr) and project coordinator (@\$40/hr). It assumes that Wanda Malcolm would be the primary investigator, and that her time would not be an expense of the project because it is covered by her salary at Wycliffe.

Notes:

1. Lit Review: admin costs are for photocopying and printing; project fees are for 80 hours of research assistance @ \$15/hr.
2. Task force: budget is based on a group membership of 8 – 17 individuals. It would be preferable to keep the numbers down toward the low end of that range, both because it would reduce the cost and, more importantly, because the complexity of the decision-making process increases as the size of the group increases.
3. Focus groups: made up of a primary investigator, research assistant, and 6 clergy, each of whom would bring their spouse, a warden/lay leader, a church staff member and a parishioner. This way each focus group would be made up of 5 subgroups of 6, each of which would look at clergy effectiveness from their own perspective (i.e., the perspective of clergy, of spouses, of wardens/lay leaders, of church staff members and of parishioners who do not have a leadership role in the parish). An additional focus group made up of Bishops from around the Episcopal province would be a good addition, and could be an add-on another event at which the Bishops gather.