



# The Ontario Provincial Council

The Anglican Church of Canada

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## Agenda

March 27, 2012

- 10:00 am Opening worship –
- Acceptance of the Agenda
  - Courtesies of the House
  - Acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting
- 10:10 am Update on ACPO work: Rev. Canon David Linn, Ontario ACPO Secretary
- 10:30 am Update on possible revision of the formula for diocesan contributions to the OPCOTE General Fund. Committee members: Jim McShane (Chair), David Embury and Ann Smith
- 11:00 am Changes to the Cemeteries Act coming in July: Michael D’Mello, Provincial Registrar of Cemeteries, and Marilyn Marshall, legal counsel.
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 12:55 pm Justice Camp briefing: Murray MacAdam
- 1:00 pm Ontario Human Rights Commission (re-writing of the Commission’s Policy on Religious Freedom and Creed): Chief Commission Barbara Hall & Policy Director Dr. Shaheen Azmi
- 2:00 pm Developments in Moosonee & the new diocesan Moosonee Mission Area Canon. The Provincial Chancellor will present the draft of a new (parallel) Provincial Mission Area Canon
- 2:30 pm Update on the Provincial Synod Re-Configuration Committee ((letter attached): Members - Provincial Chancellor Chris Riggs (Chair), Canon Michael Fleming, Ross Gillett, Elizabeth Oberle.
- 3:00 pm Update on Provincial Synod 2012 – Susan DeGruchy
- Theme for Provincial Synod session: What it means to be in Mission as a Province / The Five Marks of Mission and who are dioceses are living them out.
- 3:00 pm Audited Statements: Treasurer, Din Oosterbaan
- 3:25 pm Closing Prayers

3:30 pm

Adjournment

## Support Documents:

### Number One:

#### **Provincial Synod Priorities 2009 – 2012**

1. Advocacy: Continuing the work of the Secretariat for Government Relations in conjunction with our social advocacy carried out in collaboration with other groups such as ISARC.
2. Education and Vocations: Continuing the work of OPCOTE and our support for ACPO, as well as support for any initiatives in this area undertaken by our Ontario House of Bishops and collaboration with related initiatives undertaken by the national Church.
3. Governance and Re-structuring: Examination of better ways of doing what is being done now, and new means and structures that would enable us to be more effective and more efficiently use our resources.

### Number Two:

#### **Metropolitan's Letter to the Diocesan Bishops on a potential reduction in our Synod membership**

December 21, 2011

To the diocesan Bishops in the Province of Ontario

Dear friends:

As you may recall from our last meeting, Ontario Provincial Council has been considering reducing the size of our Provincial Synod by giving it the same membership as the Provincial Council. This is consistent with General Synod Resolution A111 (2010) and the Primate's request that all levels of the Church consider ways in which they might make their governance structures more effective, efficient, and economical.

The first session of our Provincial Synod met in 1861 and had 126 members. By 1935 this had risen to 150 members. Since then the size of the membership has been progressively reduced. The present number of 86 members has, since the 1960's, consisted of the bishops of the Province, four lay and four clergy delegates and one youth delegate from each of our seven dioceses, plus the Synod Officers. Making the membership of the Synod the same as that of the Council would retain having one bishop from each of our seven dioceses but would see the number of delegates reduced to one cleric and one lay delegate from each diocese. We might want to continue with one youth delegate from each diocese or have youth equally eligible for election with other laity.

The cost of the last session of Provincial Synod in Cochrane in 2009 was about \$70,000. This was atypically high due to the long distance most had to travel; our next session in Kingston will be closer to \$60,000. We believe a reasonable estimate of cost savings by reducing the number of delegates from each diocese by two lay and two clergy delegates would be about \$10,000 per session.

I would ask that you consider the following suggestions, consult within your diocese either formally or informally, and respond to me prior to our next council meeting on March 27, 2012:

- (a) Would it be worthwhile at Provincial Synod to present a Motion to reduce the membership of the Synod from four lay and four clergy delegates to one lay and one clergy delegate per diocese - in order to test the will of the Synod?

(b) Would your diocese support such a change?

This comes with my very best wishes and all blessings for a happy and Holy Christmas.  
Yours faithfully,

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson  
Archbishop of Toronto