

Report of the Chair of OPCOTE to the Provincial Council

October 2013

1. OPCOTE has met twice since the last meeting of the Council: 5 April 2013, 4 October 2013. Present members include: +Stephen Andrews (chair), Harry Cleghorn (Ontario), Cliff Dee (Mamow, Moosonee), Bob Derrenbacker (Thorneloe), Kevin Flynn (St Paul), Marilyn Malton (Renison), David Neelands (Trinity), Sue Nicolls and Terry DeForest (Niagara), Tim Perry (Algoma), Kevin Robertson (Toronto), David Selzer (Ottawa), George Sumner (Wycliffe), Kim Van Allen (Huron), Todd Townsend (Huron College), Tim Vickery (Ontario and Continuing Education sub-committee), David Pfrimmer (ELCIC), Eileen Scully (FWM), Susan De Gruchy (staff & recorder)
2. Work of the Commission
 - a. *Review of the OPCOTE Mandate* – Areas of discussion include advocacy, financial matters, and social media. Need to re-examine terms of reference, regularise student representative, and inclusion of Moosonee after it becomes a mission area. We hope to develop standardised reporting that will help in educating the church and promote transparency. At some point, the Provincial Council may be asked to consider adopting a new Mandate.
 - b. *The Anglican Way: Signposts on a Common Journey* – Discussion of the TEAC document¹ led to a sharing of what institutions were doing to help students from a non-Anglican background understand the Anglican heritage and ethos. The group asked, 'Is it part of our task to assist in education elsewhere in the Communion? And student exchanges are important, but is there funding available?'
 - c. *Continuing Education*
 - i. There has been some confusion about changes in the CE Plan, so there is need for more effective communication. Not everyone is convinced that the purchase of computers should be a legitimate use of continuing education funds.
 - ii. Learned about the CREDO program in TEC, a 'resource to contribute to the well-being of the clergy of the Episcopal Church'.² It is expensive (\$8,000), but some of its features (treating the spiritual and vocational) could be adapted to the Canadian context. It was agreed that we could use a more readily available list of acceptable courses, accessible catalogue/inventory of what on-line courses colleges offer, easier access to what colleges have to offer, and links to where to find what is offered (where colleges could do own updating).
 - d. *Implications of the adoption of GS Resolution A140* – Competencies are being promoted at the local level with some postulancy commissions and

¹ <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/theological/signposts/english.cfm>

² <http://episcopalcredo.org/>

supervisors of newly-ordained. They have been formatted in booklet form by Church House and are available for distribution. It was acknowledged that the MDiv programmes already cover many of the areas addressed by the competencies, but they need to be more widely distributed and embraced as life-long learning goals. Also, there are areas identified by the competencies that deserve greater consideration by the colleges (training leaders for community engagement, new models of ministry, etc.). Given the work OPCOTE has done in the past regarding the diaconate, we may make some proposals for competencies for the diaconate.

- e. *Churches' Council on Theological Education in Canada* – we understand that CCTE is no longer operating and are trying to find out how the ecumenically-raised assets have been dispersed. It has been reported that they have given a grant to the Canadian Council of Churches to continue the annual student theological conference.
- f. *Topics identified for future discussion* – bursaries; use of technology for teaching; changes in ATS regulations; Scholar Priest Initiative
- g. The group expressed thanks for Bishop Patrick Yu's past leadership.
- h. Set future meeting dates for the rest of the triennium.
- i. Invited a student from St Paul University to fill student position on the Council.

3. Messages for Provincial Council

- a. OPCOTE has spent a considerable amount of time discussing ways theological education can be more effectively promoted. Upon learning that the *Anglican Journal* has decided not to feature a theological college supplement, stakeholders discussed other avenues of communication, including re-establishing a theological education Sunday, submitting articles or taking out ads in the *Anglican Journal*, posting to Anglican.ca, or establishing its own web site. Thoughts on this matter would be gratefully received by the Committee.
- b. OPCOTE encourages wide dissemination and discussion of the *Final Report of the Primate's Commission on Theological Education and Formation for Presbyteral Ministry and Recommendations*, recently endorsed by General Synod. It is a useful document for potential ordinands, postulancy committees, parish selection committees, and for clergy review (or self-review) processes.

Respectfully submitted,

+Stephen Andrews