

Anglican Church in North America
Committee for Catechesis
Provincial Council Report 2016

1. Contact Person:

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2. Initiative Summary - Program Scope and Initiative History:

Initiative Summary

The Catechesis Task Force was formed under the direction of Archbishop Robert Duncan in 2008 to advise the emerging College of Bishops of the Anglican Church in North America concerning the making of disciples of Jesus Christ and their instruction in the faith. The Task Force was charged to serve the Province by:

- encouraging lifelong spiritual growth and learning, with particular emphasis on the hallmarks of genuine discipleship to Jesus Christ
- developing a comprehensive catechumenal vision and framework, which will include a common catechism to be submitted for approval and implementation throughout ACNA
- collecting and/or producing Christian education materials, curricula, etc. that serve this catechumenal end

3. Results and Evaluation:

Members of the Committee for Catechesis (CfC) are:

- The Rev. Jack Gabig PhD, Chair (Diocese of Pittsburgh, Nashotah House Seminary)
- The Rev. Art Going (Pear USA)
- The Rev. Stephen Lake PhD (Diocese of The Upper Midwest, Green House)
- Kristy Leaseburg, Project Manager to the Committee (Diocese of Fort Worth)
- The Rev. Lee Nelson, Vice Chair (Diocese of Fort Worth)
- The Rev. Tripp Prince (C4SO)
- The Rev. Ben Roberts (ANiC)
- The Rev. Joel Scandrett PhD (Diocese of Pittsburgh, Trinity School for Ministry)
- Leslie Thyberg PhD (Diocese of Pittsburgh, Trinity School for Ministry)

The efforts of the CfC are aimed at restoring an historic catechumenate appropriate to the needs of the 21st Century for the catechetical movement of the Anglican Church in North America. The Committee operates under the auspices of the office of the Archbishop and under the Supervision of ACNA Dean for Domestic Affairs, Bishop John Guernsey. A quarter-time Administrative Assistant has been called to help manage, coordinate and execute calendared events, facilitate communication with the various working groups, document meetings and respond to public inquiries regarding the Committee's work.

In January 2013, the College approved *To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism* for a two-year trial period to allow feedback from the Church at large. The response to its publication shows that it has been well received. It is now in its seventh printing selling out shortly after each release. Additionally, *To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism* has been well received internationally, now appearing in more than fifteen foreign language translations either completed or currently underway.

In its efforts to strengthen, resource and network the Church for the work of disciple-making, the Committee oversees a number of working groups. Over the past year the working groups listed below have undertaken the following:

- *Catechism Revisions Team*: The Rev. Dr. Joel Scandrett (Convener), The Rev. Dr. JI Packer, Bishop Neil Lebharr, Charles Erlandson, The Rev. Dr. Toby Karlowicz - The revisions team has met face-to-face three times moving carefully and steadily through the working draft of the Catechism and making revisions in response to feedback provided during the two-year period that ended January 1, 2016. The Rev. Dr. Steven Lake and others have begun work on Catechist Notes.
- *Catechism Publisher/App Development* – The Rev. Dr. Joel Scandrett (Convener) has negotiated with various major publishers regarding the publication of the official edition of the Catechism. One specific publisher has offered its staff to: (1) administer international rights and ensure accuracy of the 15+ translations of the Catechism worldwide, (2) manage excellent sales and marketing support through domestic and global distribution channels, and (3) develop an engaging and highly usable mobile catechism app. Once a few more details are settled a proposal for contracting with the publisher will be brought to the Office of the Archbishop and his Cabinet for a final decision.
- *Curriculum and Resources Team*: Kristy Leaseburg (Convener), Dr. Julia Marie Halderman, Amy Lumanog, The Rev. Dr. Kate Martin, The Rev. Nancy Cain McCombe, Heidi Marshall, Cindy Telander, and Dr. Leslie Thyberg – The work of the Curriculum and Resources Team is dependent on the completion of the Catechism to be approved by the College of Bishops. Consequently, the group has not produced a lot of materials, rather spent the past year strategizing on the best use of materials that will be forthcoming from the Catechism Revisions Team and the Catechism Essentials List from the Anglican Family Working Group.
- *Anglican Family: Church in the Home*: The Rev. Christopher Klukas (Convener), The Rev. Tripp Prince, Mike Seawright, Hannah King, Dr. Leslie Thyberg, Dr. Julia-Marie Halderman, The Rev. Carrie Klukas, The Rev. Kate Martin, and Kristy Leaseburg – The Anglican Family Team has spent the past year developing the anglicanfamily.com website to be a resource blog to share articles on family discipleship that encourage parents and children's/youth ministers. Additionally, work has begun on a *Family Catechism Essentials* document for use by families at home. The team hosted a symposium at Christ Church Plano last October 15-17, 2015 with nearly 100 in attendance. Clergy and lay leaders representing nearly 40 parishes came together for training, resource sharing, and networking in an effort to support families in the work of catechesis at home.

- *Catechist Training Team*: The Rev. Lee Nelson (Convener), The Rev. Art Going, The Rev. Dr. Stephen Lake, Marcia Lebharr – The Catechist Training Team worked this past year preparing a two-year cycle of training events in cooperation with ACNA approved seminaries across North America. Training events will feature three key note presentations along with break-out sessions for skills development and discussion. Keynotes are: 1) The Grand Narrative of Catechesis (Biblical Theology), 2) Tradition, Theology, and Vision of Catechesis, and 3) Life & Call of the Catechist. The first event slated for March 2015 at Trinity School for Ministry was postponed until the upcoming academic year in an effort to establish a replicable template and trainers to serve at future events.
- *Canadian Committee for Catechesis*: The Rev. Benjamin Roberts (Convener/Liaison) – The Canadian Team has been working to develop curricula and training for the Canadian Church.

4. Needs to Be Addressed by the Initiative:

Each team envisions addressing the following goals in the upcoming year:

- *Catechism Revisions Team* - Our goal is to present to the College of Bishops revised drafts of the Gospel and Creed sections in January 2017, and of the Lord's Prayer and Decalogue sections in June 2017.
- *Catechism Publisher/App Development* – Our goal this year is to present to the Office of the Archbishop and his Cabinet for approval a finalized proposal and pending contact from the publisher to create an app and other related digital resources to promote discipleship.
- *Curriculum and Resources Team* – As we wait for an approved revised catechism, our goals for the year are: 1) to develop a website to facilitate networking and sharing resources, ideas and insights, 2) to assess and list reliable resources for educators to offer ratings and reviews, and 3) to develop multiple tiered plans for educators to incorporate Catechesis into their existing programs at varying degrees of commitment.
- *Anglican Family* - In an effort to plan and promote a second family catechesis symposium, we have temporarily turned focus from the work on the website resources such as a *Family Catechism Essentials* as well as a blog for sharing ideas. The team will resume progress on the website this summer. The second Anglican Family Symposium is to take place at Truro Anglican Church Sept. 28-30, 2016. Promotion will begin July 1, 2016.
- *Catechist Training Team* – Our goal is to prepare and launch a consistent cycle of training events in cooperation with ACNA approved seminaries across North America.
- *Canadian Committee for Catechesis* – Our goal is to generate curricula and training to meet the different culture and needs of the Anglican Network in Canada.