

**GENERAL SYNOD 2019
RESOLUTION**

Resolution Number A090

Subject: Communications Coordinating Committee

Moved By: Chancellor David P. Jones, Q.C.

Seconded By: Ms. Cynthia Haines Turner

Be it resolved that this General Synod:

Confirm:

1. The amalgamation by the Council of General Synod of the existing Communications and Information Resources Coordinating Committee and the existing Anglican Journal Coordinating Committee to form the new Communications Coordinating Committee,
2. The terms of reference for the new Communications Coordinating Committee adopted by the Council of General Synod, and
3. The provisions adopted by Council of General Synod with respect to the mandate, governance, editorial policy and editorial board for the *Anglican Journal*.

Source: Governance Working Group

Submitted By: Governance Working Group

Does this motion contain within it any financial implications? Yes No

If yes, has the General Synod Expenditures Committee considered the implications? Yes No

EXPLANATORY NOTE/BACKGROUND

Section 39B g) of the Constitution permits the Council of General Synod to amalgamate existing Coordinating Committees, but requires General Synod to confirm the amalgamation of the existing Communications and Information Resources Coordinating Committee and the existing Anglican Journal Coordinating Committee to form the new Communications Coordinating Committee, as well as to confirm the terms of reference for the new Communications Coordinating Committee.

The effect of confirming the amalgamation will be to amend the Constitution section 39B (a)(iv) and (v) and to renumber section 39B (a)(vi).

PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION (C)

Section 11 b) of the Declaration of Principles requires the Constitution to be amended by a two-thirds majority of each Order voting at one session of General Synod.

Note: an amendment to any section of the Constitution which has its origin in the Declaration of Principles must be consistent with the Principle concerned.

The Anglican Journal

a) Mandate

The General Synod shall produce and distribute journalistic content of interest to the members of the Anglican Church of Canada, whose purpose is to connect and reflect the Church to internal and external audiences, providing a forum for the full range of voices and views across the Church.

Elements of this content may appear in print and/or digital formats, using the most appropriate and cost-effective technologies as these evolve over time, consistent with the goal that all Canadian Anglicans and others who wish to access this information are able to do so as easily as possible and practicable.

A print version of the national publication may also provide a means to distribute diocesan newspapers and other materials as inserts. Online formats will also provide opportunities to link, share and exchange diocesan information.

b) Governance

The General Synod is the publisher of the Anglican Journal and of all communications products on all platforms of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. The General Synod exercises this role through the Council of General Synod and on the advice of the Communications Coordinating Committee and the Editorial Board.

The editor of the publication reports to the Executive Director of Communications. They seek and receive advice and input from the Communications Coordinating Committee and (with respect to journalistic content) the Editorial Board, and are expected to exercise their professional judgement in carrying out their duties.

c) Editorial Policy

The Anglican Journal (whether in print and/or digital formats) is a journalistic enterprise, and as such is expected to adhere to the highest standards of journalistic responsibility, accuracy, fairness, accountability and transparency. Its journalism is fact-based, fact-checked and in-depth, tackling important issues, asking and answering difficult questions.

The Anglican Journal is committed to representing the widest possible diversity of information and opinion across the Anglican Church of Canada. It promotes informed engagement by Anglicans in the life of their church, and nurtures healthy self-reflection, respectful dialogue and constructive debate.

A balance of views is measured and achieved over a reasonable time frame.

All stories are clearly identified as reportage, analysis or opinion.

The principle of right of reply is respected and encouraged, through letters to the editor, solicited guest columns, op ed pieces, and other forms of moderated user-generated content.

Where an expression of opinion conflicts with official church policy, it will be accompanied by an explanation by an informed spokesperson of the official position of the church.

This Editorial Policy may be modified from time to time by the Council of General Synod on the advice of the Editorial Board

d) Editorial Board

There shall be an Editorial Board, whose responsibilities are:

1. to provide advance input into the journalistic planning process; and
2. to review journalistic performance in light of the mandate and editorial policy.

These responsibilities apply to all journalistic content, published in any medium, platform or format, by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Day-to-day editorial and journalistic decision-making remains the responsibility of editorial leadership and journalistic staff.

The Editorial Board is appointed by the Primate, Prolocutor and Deputy Prolocutor in consultation with the Communications Coordinating Committee. The Editorial Board shall consist of 4-5 members with at least one of its members being a member of the Communications Coordinating Committee and at least one a past or current diocesan editor. They are chosen for their expertise in both journalism and religious affairs, and are broadly representative of the church and the country as a whole.

The terms for members of the Editorial Board will be 3 years (renewable) provided that members may initially or subsequently be appointed for shorter terms to ensure that members are staggered for continuity. The Editorial Board provides regular (at least quarterly) input and feedback to editorial leadership, through conference calls and written reports. There is an annual face-to-face meeting. The Editorial Board provides an annual report, through the Committee, to the Council of General Synod.

The Board will also convene to consider, in a timely manner, relevant journalistic matters referred to it by the Council of General Synod, the Committee, management or other interested parties.

The Communications Department of the General Synod provides logistical support to facilitate the Editorial Board in discharging its responsibilities.

Adopted by Council of General Synod, March 2019

[If confirmed by General Synod 2019, will become Appendix C in the *Handbook of the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada.*]

Communications Coordinating Committee

Duties and responsibilities:

The Committee shall have strategic and advisory responsibility for the entire communications portfolio of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The committee shall:

- a) interpret and carry forward the intentions of General Synod with regard to information and communications.
- b) discern and be responsive to the information and communications needs of Canadian Anglicans.
- c) ensure that the communications department effectively projects, promotes and celebrates the mission, ministry and values of the Anglican Church of Canada to internal and external audiences.
- d) ensure that the communications department facilitates effective between General Synod and dioceses, and among and within dioceses.
- e) support and foster an integrated communications function and staff structure for the Synod, including an integrated journalistic service for the Anglican Church of Canada.
- f) review and approve a communications strategy (including resource allocation) as developed and implemented by management.
- g) conduct an annual review of the department's performance, based on an evaluation of outcomes against agreed goals and metrics as proposed by the committee and management and approved by the Council of General Synod, and report this to the Council of General Synod.
- h) have input into the job description and selection criteria for key positions, including the Executive Director of the department and the Editor of the Anglican Journal, and may be invited to participate in the selection and annual performance review processes for these positions.
- i) exercise oversight of the content and distribution of the Anglican Journal, and other journalistic products of the Anglican Church of Canada, such as online news, in consultation with the Editorial Board, and provide advice, as required, to the Council of General Synod, acting on behalf of General Synod as the publisher. In exercising this responsibility, the committee is guided by appropriate journalistic standards, including the editorial mandate and journalistic guidelines as approved by the Council of General Synod, as well as other applicable journalistic ethics, standards and policies which may be proposed by the committee and approved by the Council of General Synod.
- j) exercise oversight of all other communications products of the Anglican Church of Canada (including, without limitation, corporate communications, branding, archives, data management, web site, social media, resource production and distribution, graphics, Anglican Video and ABC Publishing). In exercising this responsibility, the committee is guided by standards such as those of the International Association of Business Communicators, the Canadian Public Relations Society, and other relevant standards and policies which may be proposed by the committee and approved by the Council of General Synod.

- k) support the work of departmental management and advise as requested.
- l) advise the Primate on appointments to the Editorial Board, maintain liaison with the Board through a common member, receive an annual report from the Board and transmit it to the Council of General Synod.
- m) exercise those functions common to all committees, namely:
 - i) develop annual budget proposals
 - ii) communicate with other committees and groups
 - iii) report regularly and make recommendations to the Council of General Synod
 - iv) within the committee's mandate, do functional strategic planning and visioning
 - v) maintain liaison with the House of Bishops
 - vi) at least once in each triennium, review policies governing the various areas of work of the Communications and Information Resources Department.
 - vii) may from time to time establish sub-committees which will be created according to the procedures outlined in Procedures for Sub-units of Standing Committees.
- n) meet annually face-to-face and maintain regular contact between meetings.

Adopted by Council of General Synod, March 2019

[If confirmed by General Synod 2019, will be added in Part II of Appendix B of the *Handbook of the General Synod of The Anglican Church of Canada.*]