

## 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.*]