



ACC OFFICIAL REFLECTIONS (HOLY CROSS, ST. MICHAELS & JC-VCC) ON THE 2013 EAM CONFERENCE CELEBRATING THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

On 14 March 2013 the Anglican Church of Canada's CoGS (Council of General Synod) passed a 6-point motion which included:

5. *Recommends that the Council of General Synod study the Episcopal Church's Asiamerica Ministries (EAM) to explore ways of our participation in it.*

Acting on this motion, a day later, the Rev. Dr. Winfred Vergara, the Episcopal Church's Missioner for Asiamerica Ministries (EAM) extended an invitation to the Canadian Anglican Church. It was passed on to the JC-VCCⁱ immediately afterwards by Michael Thompson, General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The invitation was to attend the June 20-24 EAM Consultation at San Francisco, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the EAM. Two youth from Holy Cross, four priests of the Diocese of New Westminster, and two members of the JC-VCC were able to attend. This was double the Canadian attendance at the EAM Convocation in LA in 2011, when four members of the JC-VCC attended. It was the 2011 EAM experience that provided the inspiration for motion 5 above. See the Fall 2011 TOPIC article on page 3, which includes a 1990's reference to Bishop Michael's attendance at an EAM conference in the same city, just prior to him becoming Bishop.

As a high level summary, two institutional quotes from the Episcopalian News Service summarizes the EAM conference;

"The gift of water and the sins of racism were major symbols and themes"

"We can settle for nothing less than a truly multilingual, multicultural and multiethnic church"

The feeling was deep that this was the universal church that we are called to, where we no longer feel like 'other' in the wilderness.

This report summarizes into seven highlights key aspects of the five day conference, from an ACCⁱⁱ perspective (four essentials highlighted for ease of reference).

1. OPENING EUCHARIST & CANADIAN CONNECTIONS (June 20th)

Unexpectedly, a paragraph of the Rev. Dr. Winfred Vergara's homilyⁱⁱⁱ at the opening eucharist was dedicated to events at the 14 March 2013 CoGS which had led to the invitation to the Canadian contingent:

One of the living pioneers of the EAM, the Rev. Timothy Nakayama, is instrumental in bringing to the attention of the Anglican Church of Canada the injustice done to the Japanese Anglicans when the Diocese of New Westminster sold two Japanese churches while their congregations were in Internment camps. The Anglican Church of Canada very recently acknowledged "the error of our ways" and issued an apology to the Anglican Japanese Canadians and resolved to make amends and reconciliation

In the same homily, Dr. Vergara stated the mission of the EAM over its first 40 years:

(EAM) was meant to be a two-pronged ministry: ministry to immigrants from Asia and to American citizens of Asian ancestry. As EAM has evolved in history, it has now become a three-fold ministry: ministry to Asian immigrants, ministry to Asian Americans and ministry of building bridges to Asia. It is a cultural ministry, a cross-cultural ministry, a transcultural ministry. It is an ethnic ministry, a generational ministry, an ecumenical ministry. It is an immigrant ministry, a domestic ministry and a global ministry.

From a Canadian perspective, a paraphrase of the second sentence could articulate what this might mean in Canada:

A three-fold ministry: ministry to Asian immigrants, ministry to Asian Canadians and a ministry of building bridges to the Anglican Communion. Initially, per resolution 5 above, the focus could be on EAM bridge building.

2. CLOSING EUCHARIST, RACISM & 'CROSS-CULTURALISM' (June 23rd)

The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the United States, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, gave the homily at the closing Eucharist on Sunday afternoon. Her words on discrimination were amongst the most powerful of her homily (echoing words in Canadian acknowledgements on racism in the ACC):

People have found ... a place to worship, a community to help them settle in a new land, safe harbor from the larger society's discrimination (although that discrimination has been abundant even within this Church), and partners in building a society of greater justice that looks more like the Reign of God.

Her concluding words on cross-cultural ministry were telegraphed by Dr. Vergara's words on Thursday evening, when he described the EAM ministry:

(EAM) is a cultural ministry, a cross-cultural ministry, a transcultural ministry. It is an ethnic ministry, a generational ministry, an ecumenical ministry. It is an immigrant ministry, a domestic ministry and a global ministry.

In the words of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori (equivalent to the Canadian Primate)

New and abundant life awaits those who are willing to pick up and cross over. There is a reason why we call this cross-cultural ministry – if it is faithful it is about the culture of the cross. Walk on, my friends. That is the way to the kingdom!

Fred and Katharine's shared vision provides us with a way of re-imagining multi-cultural, cross-cultural ministry.

3. **RODGER NISHIOKA – MISSION in a CHANGING LANDSCAPE** (June 22nd)

Mindful that over 90% of the attendees were of Asian descent, the Rev. Rodger Nishioka (associate professor of Christian education at Columbia Theological Seminary) gave an inspired keynote address on 'Mission in a Changing Landscape.' Roger's focus was specifically on the changing demographics in the United States, relative to the Asian American ethnic groups. Confirming what we all suspected, Filipino's are the fastest growing ethnic group, while Japanese is the slowest. When this PowerPoint presentation is available, it is something that can be easily shared with interested members of our congregations, and will be especially of interest to the Strategic Planning teams. A segment of the presentation dealt with Eastern (Pacific) versus Western culture, and was moving in the insights it provided into enhancing our understandings of one another. Much of the laughter during Roger's address came during this segment.

4. **VISITING BISHOPS**

The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church was in attendance. Five Bishops were in attendance from overseas. And there were five Bishops from the United States present, including the multi-cultural Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles. These Bishops were very active over the five days. In addition to sitting in on the different ethnic convocations, they participated fully in the cultural celebrations, highlighted by the Presiding Bishop joining in a Filipino line dance, and the Japanese Bishop giving a solo rendition of a wedding song.

5. **INSIGHTS**

1. **Connections** - an insight that has only grown in clarity from 2011 to 2013 is that there is no better opportunity for multi-cultural 'cross-cultural' fellowship and inspiration. The drum-beat of many veteran participants was about 'Connections.' The Sunday Eucharistic service at Grace Cathedral was amongst the most spirit filled we have experienced. The deepened relationships and the new relationships would be impossible outside of EAM – where else do 9 ethnic communities from the Anglican Communion 'Connect' under one roof for 5 days?
2. **Evolution** - a first time attendee at EAM is apt to be overwhelmed. A second time attendee is less overwhelmed. In both cases, the insights that accrue to their home churches/communions can be significant. It would be very important that these relationships be encouraged to grow over future EAM activities in the years ahead.
3. **Lay Participation** - EAM participation is congregational. Half of the Canadian participants were ordained, and half were lay (the ratio was 20%-80% for the Filipino Americans). By comparison, Canadian lay participation was quite low. If we continue to participate, finding ways to increase lay participation would be highly desirable.
4. **Youth Participation** - EAM participation has a heavy youth component. In that sense, Canada was well represented, with 2 out of the 8 (25%); EAM youth participation, by comparison, was about 20%.
5. **Continuity** - for those attending their second EAM, it was found that the continuity, as might be expected, made networking and relationship building so much easier. We lost 1/2 our participants from 2011; if we lose 1/2 our participants from 2013, it still means the continuity of 4 Canadians. Maintaining or enhancing this trend would be healthy.
6. **Convocations** - between the global EAM's (like the Olympics, periodic), the essential relationships will develop within the ethnic convocations. There are already solid relationships within the Filipino, Japanese and Chinese EAM Convocations. Rev. Vivian Lam has been a leader in the EAM, and will likely provide real guidance in this area.

6. **The Investment**

The return on the investment of sending eight people to EAM would seem to be immediate, and substantial. This will especially be the case for those churches that are developing Strategic Plans, as much of the conference material and deliberations can be directly utilized in shaping those deliberations/discernments. In the longer term, it would be prudent, in parallel with the Strat Planning process, to begin considering how EAM type activities are budget/anticipated, and how national oversight can be achieved. In private conversations, the thirty plus year veterans of EAM emphasized the words 'National' and 'Budgets.'

7. **Our Thanks to Fred and Lelanda**

Canadian participation would not have happened without two people from the EAM head office organization; the Rev. Dr. Winfred Vergara, and Lelanda Lee. Lelanda attended CoGS in March 2013 as an observer from the Episcopal Church. During discussions on motion 5 (beginning of this report), Lelanda indicated the support that could be counted on from EAM. And, boy, did her and Fred deliver. If we get to our 40th as they did this last weekend, Lelanda and Fred will be two people who we would include as our 'Genesis' sources, the givers of light and living waters.

FALL 2011 TOPIC ARTICLE AS SUBMITTED BY THE JC-VCC

EAM Convocation in Los Angeles, June 16-19, 2011

4 members of the Diocese of New Westminster recently attended the annual Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry (EAM) Convocation, Japanese-American Chapter, held at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul in Los Angeles. Rev. John Shozawa and his wife Lynne, and Greg and Michiko Tatchell, all of JC-VCC, were in Los Angeles June 16-19. EAM brings together ministries for Japanese-American, Chinese-American and Filipino-American, much along the lines that the PBMO did in British Columbia during the first half of the 20th Century. EAM was created in the Episcopalian Church in the '70's, and JC-VCC member Canon Tim Nakayama of Seattle was a central leader in establishing this national ministry. Bishop Michael Ingham attended an EAM conference in San Francisco just prior to becoming Bishop in 1994, meeting Rev. Shozawa who was rector at Christ Church in San Francisco at that time.

The focus of the 2011 EAM conference was the Japanese-American Episcopalian churches, and included leaders from the National Episcopal Church, the Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce from the Diocese of LA, and representatives from 4 Japanese-American churches (Los Angeles, Hawaii, Boston and New York). Canon Tim Nakayama had made arrangements for the four JC-VCC members from Vancouver to make a presentation during the convocation. John, Lynne, Greg and Michiko chose as the focal point of their presentation the RELINQUISHED video produced by the Diocese for the May 2010 Diocesan Synod. The convocation asked discerning questions regarding the difficult truths revealed, and expressed gratitude for the words of the Bishop in his apology at the end of the video. There was considerable interest in the next steps under consideration leading up to General Synod in 2013.

The model of this convocation, Asiamerica Ministry, would seem to have potential in furthering the ministries of Asiaticans in the Diocese of New Westminster and Canada. EAM has existed nationally in the Episcopal church since the '70's, and has served to nourish individual Japanese-American, Filipino-American and Chinese-American ministries, and to bring them together to mutually support and evolve their unique ministries within the broader Episcopal church. Members from the Hawaiian, Los Angeles, New York and Boston churches helped their Canadian guests see and experience how successful EAM had been in that objective, both for adult members, and the youth, whose members made up a parallel activity of the 2011 convocation.

The four members from Vancouver were from Holy Cross and St. Michael's, and were acting as representatives of JC-VCC. JC-VCC Phase 1 (RELINQUISHED) concluded its research phase at Diocesan Synod in May of 2010, and is now well into Phase 2 (Reconciliation). The Rev. Markus Duenzkofer joining the team from the Diocese, a formal national affiliation forming with Toronto Anglicans (Friends in Toronto), and the emerging EAM relationship are all manifestations of the progress JC-VCC has made since its historic appearance before Diocesan Synod in May of 2010.

Part of the mandate of JC-VCC Phase 2 is to socialize the message from the May 2010 Diocesan Synod. The first presentation within the Diocese was made at the invitation of St. Mark's in White Rock in the Spring. The presentation at the June conference in Los Angeles was the first international example of this, while the team will be making a trip to Toronto in the Fall to share the message with the Diocese of Toronto, a process already begun by JC-VCC member Joy Kogawa. For Diocese of New Westminster churches interested, please call Basil Izumi at 604-275-0622, or email the team at jc-vcc-phase2@hotmail.com, or visit the web site at relinquished-churches.com.

The EAM conference in Los Angeles was a strong example to the JC-VCC of the multicultural, international nature of our Anglican Communion. In particular, the Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce's specific role in Multicultural ministries demonstrated how multicultural ministry is evolving in the Communion. The four Diocese of New Westminster participants at this conference were moved at the empowerment this focus gave to the multicultural Episcopal congregations, both in the Diocese of Los Angeles, and across the country. They all came home motivated to work towards developing a similar fellowship focus in our country.

ⁱ JC-VCC = Japanese Canadian Vancouver Consultative Council

ⁱⁱ ACC = Anglican Church of Canada

ⁱⁱⁱ Full coverage of the EAM conference can be found at <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/tag/asiamericaministries40/>