

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED - ACAM/EAM-NORTH - 2015 YEAR END REPORT

The year 2015 was a year of multiple accomplishments for ANGLICAN CANASIAN MINISTRY (ACAM) in Canada. We list six, in a somewhat relative order of significance. This year was a long time in coming, and was prophetically considered as far back as 2011 in an Oct TOPIC article reporting on the 2011 Convocation in Los Angeles.

“The model (of EAM) would seem to have potential in furthering the ministries of Asiacanadians in the Diocese of New Westminster” ... and ... “They (all) came home motivated to work towards developing a similar fellowship focus in our country.”ⁱ

‘Furthering the ministries of Asiacanadians’ took some huge strides in 2015, as this report summarizes below.

1. STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

The biggest achievement for the group in 2015 was a FORMATION WORKSHOP, attended by sixteen people from 5 different churches. There was equal representation of both lay and ordained. Opening remarks were provided by Bishop Melissa Skelton, and the day was facilitated by the Rev. Ruth Monette.

The group produced a 16-page summary of proceedings. These can be found at

<http://stmikes-church.ca/ministries/06.15.workshop.pdf>

The forward looking essentials resulting from the day are found in Section V of that report, and are deemed so important that they are reproduced at the end of this 2015 year-end report.

2. EAM CONVOCATIONS IN SEOUL & TOKYO (30 SEPT TO 7 OCT 2015)

Representatives from Holy Cross, St. Michael’s Vancouver, and the Diocesan Office attended the EAM (*Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry*) Convocations in Seoul & Tokyo in early fall 2015 (30 Sept – 7 Oct). This was the fifth time representatives of the Diocese of New Westminster had attended International EAM Convocations (LA in 2011, SF in 2013, LA & NY in 2014, and Seoul & Tokyo in 2015).

This trip was particularly effective in building on ACAM Goal #3 from the June 2015 FORMATION WORKSHOP; BUILDING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS. Trip reports submitted to ACAM from Holy Cross and St. Mike’s articulated this clearly.

The ‘fruit’ from the conference, however, might best be summarized by concrete actions taken to further build these international relationships, as explained in the next section.

3. PROPOSED EAM CONVOCATIONS (WITH HOLY CROSS IN 2016, & WITH ST. MIKE’S IN 2017)

EAM 2015 at Seoul & Tokyo was only the second time in the 42 years that EAM has existed where they have traveled out of the country (the first was to Taiwan in 2008). During discussions at Seoul & Korea, the idea seemed quickly to grow within the Japanese & Filipino Convocations to continue this trend. The retiring Presiding Bishop’s North American highlight during her keynote address in Seoul Cathedral was likely the Mustard seed, as included in St. Mike’s trip report:

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

*“The work you are doing is **changing the face of the Episcopal Church!** ...”*

“ ... (EAM is) an expansive blessing for this church ...”

*... (and is) an unfolding & growing reality in **North American**”ⁱⁱ*

Prophetically, the Presiding Bishop’s words further inspired relationship building, leading to Holy Cross & St. Mike’s returning to North America with nascent plans (for 2016 with Holy Cross and 2017 with St. Mike’s) to present to their churches and the ACAM Team. In the 3 months since their return, those plans have been further formalized and actioned.

- The 2016 Japanese EAM Convocation will be the 3rd week in June, in Vancouver, tentatively 17-19 June.

4. REALIZING/SOCIALIZING ACAM-EAM LIFT-OFF IN CANADA

Three activities marked a transformation in four years of ACAM-EAM activities in Canada; these three were characterized, for the first time, by Diocesan involvement in this Ministry:

- **FORMATION WORKSHOP:** Diocesan involvement in the FORMATION WORKSHOP on 27 June 2015 represented a big step for ACAM-EAM; the support of Bishop Melissa and the Rev. Ruth Monette made it highly productive. It was the first time since 2011 in LA that the team expanded involvement beyond the five core churches (Holy Cross, St. Mary's South Hill, St. Mike's Surrey, St. Mathias & St. Luke, and St. Mike's Vancouver).
- **SEOUL CONVOCATION:** The 2nd seminal event in 2015 was attendance by the Ven. Douglas Fenton at the 2015 EAM Convocation in Seoul.
- **UNIT STATUS:** The 3rd involvement of the Diocese was the 8 Sept 2015 submission to the Rev. Ruth Monette to establish UNIT status for the ACAM, as per goal #1 of the Formation Workshop in June.

In addition to the solid Diocesan support/involvement in 2015, there was a Holy Cross article in the September TOPIC that spoke to some of the history of Asian Ministry in BC in the last century. And there was an equivalent article in the Anglican Journal on 27 July 2015 (<http://www.anglicanjournal.com/articles/the-end-of-a-war-the-start-of-new-ministries>)

It is hoped that a future TOPIC article can cover the Seoul/Tokyo convocations, the progress of ACAM-EAM in 2015, and the status of the UNIT application.

5. NAMING – ACAM vs EAM

For 42 years, the group that has championed Asian Ministries in the Episcopal Church has been the EPISCOPAL ASIAMERICA MINISTRY (EAM). For the first three years of this Ministry in Canada, we loosely called ourselves EAM-North.

The group officially adopted the name ANGLICAN CANASIAN MINISTRY (ACAM) at its 4 March 2015 meeting.

6. INSTITUTIONALIZING ACAM-EAM

Three significant actions in 2015 marked the beginning of the institutionalization of ACAM-EAM in Canada.

- Holy Cross - At Vestry, naming of an official representative, and establishing a budget center.
- St. Mike's (Vanc) - At Vestry, naming of three official representatives, and establishing a budget center.
- Diocese – an 8 Sept 2015 receipt of a UNIT application from ACAM-EAM.

These marked the first actions since the National Church provided the institutional 'Genesis' in March of 2013:

"On 14 March 2013 the ACC'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.ⁱⁱⁱ*

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-VCC immediately afterwards by Michael Thompson, General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada."^{iv}

6 GOALS ARISING - FORMATION WORKSHOP

ANGLICAN CANASIAN MINISTRY (ACAM)

27 June 2015

1. Cease being invisible; find a way to become a UNIT in the Diocese, with an associated budget that covers both lay and ordained (Ruth advised us that a process existed for this [see Appendix III], and that she could help us aim to have a Mission & Ministry Development application ready for submission by September 8).
2. Build on the CoGS resolution of March 14, 2013, and go National, as EAM did in 1973 (after #1).
3. Along the lines of the Korean EAM event in October, and St. Michael's sister church program, build international relationships.
4. Pursue incorporating Asian cultures into existing Diocesan programs, including Leadership Training and Racism Training.
5. Be clear in defining for whom we exist (Asian congregations, Asians in white congregations, Diocesan Advocacy, National Advocacy, Anglican Communion bridge building, or all of the above?).
6. Finalize a Mission/Vision to go along with the September 8th application, drawing on the EAM vision, along the lines of EAM's four areas of priorities (Congregational Life, Advocacy, Support Group, and Training^v), and their articulation that the "*core vision of the EAM is to give a harmonious voice to the diverse Asian voices and help enable the Episcopal Church to truly become an intercultural Church.*" ^{vi}

ⁱ Diocese of New Westminster **TOPIC** Newspaper Article, '*Episcopal Asiamerica Convocation in Los Angeles*,' Oct 2011, p.10

ⁱⁱ Eucharistic 125th Anniversary Con-celebration, Seoul Cathedral, Keynote Homily, 3 Oct 2015

ⁱⁱⁱ **TOPIC** ARTICLE, '*A Journey of Justice & Reconciliation*,' May 2013, p.17

^{iv} ACC OFFICIAL REFLECTIONS (Holy Cross, St. Michaels Vancouver & JC-VCC) on the 2013 EAM-40 CONFERENCE, June 2013, p.1

^v The Episcopal Church: ASIAMERICA MINISTRY in the 21st CENTURY. Dr. Winfred Vergara, p. 4

^{vi} *ibid*, p.5