

The Anglican Consultative Council

As you may be aware by now, the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) will be holding its 15th Meeting in Auckland from 27th October to 7th November 2012.

What is the ACC ?

The ACC is a representative body for all the Provinces of the Anglican Communion. Every Member Church or Province elects representatives, and the number of those representatives depends on the size of each Church. So Provinces which have more than one million members elect three people, a bishop, a priest or deacon, and a lay person. Our own Church elects two members. The ACC is one of the four 'instruments of communion' in the Anglican Communion. The other three are: The Lambeth Conference of Bishops; The Primates' Meeting; the Archbishop of Canterbury. When the ACC meets there are also a number of ecumenical guests present, normally as representatives of the major ecumenical dialogues in which the Anglican Communion is involved internationally.

What is special about the ACC ?

It is the only one of the four instruments that has a constitution agreed on by all the Member Churches of the Communion. It is the only instrument that includes people other than bishops – i.e. clergy and lay people.

How often does it meet ?

The ACC normally meets every three years, and usually it meets in a different member Church on each occasion.

How is it organised ?

The ACC has a President, who is the Archbishop of Canterbury. For the day by day running of the ACC, there is also a Chairperson, and a Vice Chairperson. Bishop James Tengatenga from Central Africa is the Chairperson at present, and Lay Canon Elizabeth Paver from the Church of England is the Vice Chairperson. There is an elected Standing Committee, which comprises five Primates, elected by the Primates' Meeting, and eight members elected by the ACC itself, from various parts of the Communion. The Anglican Communion Office is situated in London, and the Secretary General is Canon Kenneth Kearon, a priest from the Church of Ireland. There are a number of staff members with different portfolios, such as Ecumenical Relations, Communications, Theological Education, Anglican Communion Networks, etc.

What will happen in Auckland ?

The Standing Committee will meet first for two days prior to the main event. Members will be living in the Barrycourt Hotel / Motel complex in Parnell, and the main meetings will take place in Holy Trinity Cathedral. On Friday 26th October it is expected that the Archbishop of Canterbury will unveil the Headstone for the late Bishop Sir Paul Reeves.

How will it start ?

There are two opening events.

On **Saturday 27th October** there will be a Powhiri – a welcome from each of the three partners in our Church – Maori, Pacific, and the NZ Dioceses, in association with the City of Auckland. This will be at 10.00am at the Telstra Events Centre in Manukau. This welcome is open to the people of the Church. There will be a strictly controlled number of speeches of welcome, and each speech will be complemented by a mass choir / kapa haka group comprising nearly a dozen of our Anglican Schools from Auckland and Waikato and a little further afield. Once the welcome is over, a number of the Archbishops present, together with the Archbishop of Canterbury, will answer questions from various students. Lunch will be available for purchase, and the event will finish after lunch. We hope parishes will organise bus transport for this event.

On **Sunday 28th October** the Archbishop of Canterbury is to preach at the Opening Eucharist which will be held in Holy Trinity Cathedral at 10.00am. That is also an open event, and we await advice as to whether it will be necessary to request tickets for seating in the actual Cathedral, or for the video relay into St Mary's.

Later on that same Sunday, members of the Church will be welcome to come back to the Cathedral to experience the Anglican Networks Market Place, and to join in Cathedral Evensong with the ACC members.

Is it an open meeting ?

The ACC needs to get on with its own work in relative privacy, but there will be three evenings on which topics of general interest to the Church will be presented and discussed. These events will take place in either the Cathedral or St Mary's, and they will be open to the public. Once details are known of these events, suitable publicity will be shared. The day by day discussions will also be widely reported on by means of web-site and other communications media.

What else is to happen ?

The ACC members will spend one day in meeting, experiencing and conversing with the *Kingitanga* at Turangawaewae Marae.

Each of the three partners in our Church will entertain members at Dinner in a variety of locations.

On **Sunday 4th November**, ACC members will travel widely in groups of two or three to engage in a Mission Encounter with people of different parishes and pastorates, including a guest ACC preacher in every Cathedral and major Hui Amorangi centres in the nation. Those who host members in this way will be welcome to join the ACC on the Monday morning to reflect together on what they have each learned from such a mission encounter.

Do any other people attend ?

A number of members will be accompanied by husband or wife, and a variety of activities and visits will be arranged for their benefit. A number of press and communications people from overseas will also be in attendance.

How can we be involved ?

- # By coming to the Powhiri on Saturday 27th October
- # By coming to the Opening Eucharist on Sunday 28th October
- # By offering to host ACC members on Sunday 4th November
- # By volunteering to be a helper at the Cathedral on one or more days
- # By offering to help with transport for outings for the group of spouses
- # By offering to provide muffins or scones for morning tea at the Cathedral

Where do I get further information ?

The local Hosting / Planning Group is chaired by Bishop John Paterson, and has a small office in *Tuia* – the General Synod Office at St John's College.

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We are looking forward to hosting this significant event.

Chair – ACC-15 Hosting Group