

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

Serving, Supporting, and Encouraging Prayer

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Reflecting on Lambeth...

Paul Fehleley, National Director

*More things are wrought by prayer / Than this world dreams of.
Wherefore, let thy voice / Rise like a fountain for me night and day.*

*For what are men better than sheep or goats / That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer / Both for themselves and those who call them friend?
For so the whole round earth is every way / Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.*

~Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

It would not be unreasonable to say that a significant number of bishops went to the recently held Lambeth Conference with a minimal sense of expectation. Yes, it would be interesting to meet and talk with others but there was little hope that this meeting would further develop the depth and meaning of the Anglican Communion. I am overwhelmingly pleased to say that those who went with little, or no expectation were completely wrong.

I attended the Lambeth Conference (<https://www.lambethconference.org/>) from July 25th to August 8th, 2022 as part of the communication team working with the press, other media, hosting news conferences and contributing to the overall work of sharing the story of the conference.

Why is it that those who went with such a sparse sense of hope were wrong?

I believe that the prayers that were offered not only by the bishops and their spouses but by other Anglicans and Episcopalians around the world made the difference. The Archbishop of Canterbury sent out a very significant letter the third day into the conference that gave a new opportunity for people to rethink and re-engage with the Anglican Communion. Acknowledgement was given for the first time that those who consider questions around human sexuality from a conservative or liberal point of view based their understanding on prayer and the study of the scriptures. No longer was one position to be seen as “right” and the other “wrong” and now the Holy Spirit’s guidance was seen in all those who prayerful considered these questions.

It’s truly clear to me that prayer was at the heart of this change and enabled the conference to move forward and discuss a variety of subjects including Mission and Evangelism; Safe Church; Anglican Identity; Reconciliation; Christian Unity; Inter-Faith Relations; Discipleship; Environment and Sustainable Development; Science and Faith. On each of these there was a ‘Lambeth Call,’ which included in each case declarations of our fundamental belief, affirmations of our fundamental belief, affirmations of our current priorities, and specific invitations for further work in the future.

The Archbishop of Canterbury writing in *The Church Times* said this “The Lambeth Conference was a series of remarkable surprises and examples of God’s gracious action as we gathered before God’s face and prayed. There was a beautiful and deeply moving sense of coming together, and in so doing truly meeting each other — learning from each other, committing ourselves to love across difference”

...cont’d

Lambeth Reflections Continued...

The Lambeth Conference offered a foretaste of hope, thoughtful disagreement, deep humility, and glimpses at the cultures, peoples, and possibilities bound up in the Anglican Communion.

This global fellowship, of which we are part continues to need the prayerful support of all of us so that the words prayed upon, spoken, and written in Canterbury will find their way in the beliefs and actions of ordinary Anglicans like you and me.

I think that Tennyson got it right "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of..."



A Prayer of Praise *by Chris Salstrom*

When we awake and the sun bathes the earth with
healing rays that feed our bodies and souls,
Let us praise God.

When the rains nourish the soil and cool the baking
grounds,
Let us praise God.

When calamity and catastrophe show us the best in
one another as we reach out to assist,
Let us praise God.

When illness lays us low and healthcare workers,
personal supports and prayer buoy us,
Let us praise God.

When good people lobby for equity and justice to right the wrongs in the world,
Let us praise God.

When we have blessings of all kinds, when we are alive to do so, because we know of God's love,
Let us praise God.

In all times and places, because we are able, let us always remember through joys and struggles,
To praise God.

Let Us Pray!

Beginning again in September we will be gathering virtually each month on the third Monday of the month, at 1.00pm Eastern Time, to hear from a variety of speakers and to together spend some time in prayer.

September 19 - *Praying the Grandfather Teachings*— Bishop Riscylla Shaw

October 17 - *Everything You Want to Know about Prayer and Shouldn't be Afraid to Ask*
—Bishop David Lehman

November 21 – Still being finalized; watch for more details.

December 19 – *The Music of Prayer ... The Prayer of Music*, with the Rev'd Andreas Thiel

Below you will find a NEW link to these sessions. Please note that it has changed from last year. Looking forward to seeing you there.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87388880778?pwd=YWNXaIB4ZUJaMG5HRIM0ZnVWMIgVZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 8888 0778; Passcode: 997550

OR join by phone; find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kcEOUrK2Ah>

Current Work of your AFP Executive

Valerie Kenyon, AFP Canada Chair



What a pleasure it was to gather virtually with Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Diocesan Contacts in June. These individuals support AFP Canada by both sharing the prayer needs of their regions with the National Executive, and distributing information about resources and others supports being made available by AFP Canada. This is important work and the time and energy of Diocesan Contacts is deeply appreciated.

After opening in prayer, we shared something of the contexts out of which we minister, what we found effective in our ministry and where we would appreciate support. Questions were asked and suggestions/clarifications made as we went along. Looking ahead, we are hopeful that regular virtual meetings (perhaps biannual) can be organized and that eventually we will have Diocesan Contacts from every Diocese across Canada represented. Watch for more details about this in the months ahead.

Some Changes in the Executive

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to Mark Perrin from the Diocese of Calgary, who has served on the Executive for more than decade supporting the work of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer designing and maintaining our website. Mark, your willingness to serve and your expertise in so many areas was invaluable, and we will miss you.

Beginning in July, David Dow, from the Diocese of Ottawa, has stepped forward to assume these website duties. The Executive is so grateful to have you on board David. David brings with him many years of faithful ministry in a variety of situations as well as great expertise in web design and maintenance. Thank you, David. We are looking forward to working with you.

*...be filled with the Spirit,
as you sing psalms & hymns & spiritual songs among yourselves,
singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts,
giving thanks to God the Father at all times
and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
~Eph 5.18b-20*

A Prayer for God's Presence

Creator of the universe,
watch over us and keep us in the light of your presence.
May our praise continually blend with that of all creation,
until we come together to the eternal joys
which you promise in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~BAS, pg 132



The Christian Way of Life *by Paul Dumbrille*

People sometimes ask: “How can I lead a Christian life when faced with the busy demands, temptations and choices involved in living in today’s world?” Christian writers throughout the years have suggested that we establish and follow a **Rule of Life** (I use the phrase **Way of Life**). The first Christians were known as followers of “The Way” (Acts 9:2). What might this look like?

Regularity and Accountability: In today’s culture, the busyness of life make it difficult to establish any sort of routine. While we can’t control the world around us, we can control our reaction to it; putting some regularity into our spiritual practices. Regularity and self-discipline do not mean rigidity. We need to be accountable to God, ourselves, others, the Church, and the world.

The Way of Prayer: A Christian Way of Life includes a regular time for quiet prayer. We are all unique; consequently, the ways in which we regularly practise prayer will be different. Regular times of prayer and meditation are an essential ingredient in a Way of Life.

The Way of Study and Reflection: A Christian Way of Life involves nurturing our mind, seeking the truth through study and reflection through prayerful studying Scripture, and the writings of others, using discipline and care to choose those things that are useful for our inner growth.

The Way of Fellowship: Christian Life is not a solitary endeavour; it involves fellowship, encouragement, and companionship of others. This can be practiced in a small group, such as regular Bible Study, being part of a Prayer Group, belonging to what the Cursillo Community calls a Group Reunion; as good ways of regularly praying, learning from and encouraging each other.

The Way of Worship: The Christian life leads into the whole experience of the Body of Christ; always including the corporate worship of the Church. The Christian who establishes a Way of Life comes to the liturgical acts of the Church (worship) with the fervour that makes them spiritually alive and also ignites the faith of others.

The Way of Christian Action: The Christian Way of Life is not solely one of belief and trust in God; it is the way of getting beyond ourselves and serving others. It is a Way of responding to the needs of others and showing the world what the Christian response is to the troubles and needs of those less fortunate than ourselves. Our Mission is to help others and to bring the Christian message of love, reconciliation, and peace to those whom we encounter.

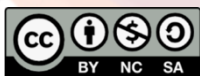
You can find a more extensive discussion of “The Way of Life” on the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer website at <https://anglicanprayer.org/index.php/2017/04/12/a-way-of-life/>

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