



# ENCOMPASS

News and Events from the American Anglican Council • Second Quarter 2016



“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” Matt. 10:16

BY ROBERT LUNDY,  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

One vote kept The Anglican Church of Canada’s synod from opening the door to same sex marriage on Monday, July 11. I wanted to take heart at this outcome - any time a church beats back heresy, Christians should rejoice. We should be glad that the shepherds were able to chase the wolf away, but I couldn’t rejoice at this victory. That’s because I knew the wolf would come right back.

Within hours of the resolutions’ defeat, Bishop Michael Bird of Niagara and Bishop John Chapman of Ottawa each announced on July 12 that their dioceses would go ahead and solemnize same-sex marriages despite the Synod’s vote. According to the Episcopal News Service, the bishops were ready with their statements just in case the Canadian Synod voted against same-sex marriage.

A few hours later, the synod voted for a recount where it was discovered the resolution actually PASSED by one vote.

There will probably be a lot written about this so I want to focus on just a few things.

## The Walls of Orthodoxy

The reality is that the Anglican Church of Canada wasn’t saved by Monday’s narrow victory and then suddenly lost by Tuesday’s betrayal of the rules. The Church of Canada was lost over a period of years. It’s walls of orthodox teaching and practice that protected the sheep crumbled slowly but deliberately. The Dioceses of Niagara and Ottawa have been

embracing un-biblical teaching for years and it’s been no secret. Thankfully, many orthodox left the Canadian church and found safer homes, primarily the Anglican Network in Canada and Anglican Church in North America.

## Rules were made to be...

Another point I’d like to bring out is the lunacy of trusting in church polity or rules of order for the protection of orthodoxy. We’ve seen it in practice for over a decade and the Dioceses of Niagara and Ottawa proved it again yesterday: Satan doesn’t play by any rules. The deceiver doesn’t care about two-third majorities. Make no mistake, the evil one himself is ultimately behind the push for same-sex marriage within the church. If the hearts of those within the church, especially those in positions of leadership, are not controlled by Christ, then it makes no difference what the rules are. The Prince of Darkness will sneak in the shadows and get around them.

## Lessons for the Church of England

At the same time as the Church of Canada’s synod, the Church of England’s General Synod was meeting. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has managed to get most in the Synod to participate in “shared conversations” over sexuality. He also managed to get them to uphold a media blackout and keep the two days of conversations behind closed doors. At its conclusion, the Synod released a statement:

*“Wolves” continued on back page*

## Blessed by leaders who never fail to bear fruit

BY THE REV. CANON PHIL ASHEY,  
PRESIDENT & CEO

I was deeply blessed by a recent phone call from a Christian leader who has never failed to bear fruit (Jeremiah 17:8) for Christ and his Kingdom.

His name is Jim. He joined the staff at St James Newport Beach, California in the early 1970s as an assistant Youth Pastor, when I was still in high school. As I recall, he was working on his college degree at a small, local Christian community college. But what I remember most about Jim was his love for Jesus Christ, his love for the middle schoolers that he was assigned to pastor, and his love for me. Jim spent a lot of time with me personally. He challenged me to read my bible and love God's word, its clarity and authority in my life. He challenged me to expand my prayer life with God—even giving me a book or two to read! Nothing academic, it was all plain and simple and practical. That was Jim himself. He challenged me as a timid high schooler with leadership potential to stop worrying about myself and start discipling the middle schoolers and leading them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. So I did, and began to discover the joy of ministry.

Even after I had gone off to college and law school, and had become a District Attorney, Jim stayed in touch and invited me to come and share my testimony with new leaders he was discipling. Jim is one of the saints in my life who helped me recognize the little “burning bushes” along the way that added up to that big “burning bush” we call “vocation to ministry.”

So I was blessedly surprised to receive a phone call from him. He was calling from California, from a hospital bed where he has been confined while battling a number of health issues. Jim was just calling to pray for me—to encourage me and pray a blessing over me. He reminded me of the Godly heritage I had, and how my father would bless the ministry I am involved in today if he were alive. He prayed over and blessed my wife and each of my children by name, my brother and his wife and children. To say that I was deeply moved is an understatement.

Then Jim asked me what I was doing now in ministry specifically. So I shared with him about how the American Anglican Council (AAC) is helping to develop faithful leaders, coach them, revitalize and equip local Anglican churches to fulfill the Great Commission. Like the great leader and coach that he is, Jim challenged me to expand my vision to reach college students and younger, future leaders. He shared with me some of the work that he has been doing in the last few years on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church in the metropolitan Los Angeles area—working on several campuses. He has even reached down into the high schools and other public schools to address “character development” in the classroom—which leads to Christ-centered ministry with students and their families off campus. His ministry has

been so effective that the public schools are asking him for more! According to another friend who keeps in touch with Jim, a well-known local seminary is trying to assign some interns to work with Jim and learn how to bear such Christ glorifying fruit.

And here is Jim—44 years later, calling me, to encourage me. Thank you, Jesus, for Jim and for using him as a leader in my life all along the way.

That's what great Christian leaders do. It's not their education, their title, or their fame that matters. It's their heart. It's their consistency over many years in discipling other leaders, who they know will disciple other leaders. It's about being like Paul—continuing to “check in” with the Timothys they have raised up over the years just to love on them and give them an encouraging word. It's about having a consistent conviction and unwavering trust in Jesus Christ, the authority and clarity of God's word, and the power of prayer.

I have four children who are between the ages of 18 and 28. I've had opportunities to speak with some of my children's friends who are nominal Christians, once churched, agnostic and atheist. So Jim's challenge spoke to me very deeply. I am praying about what he said. I'm also praying for Jim to be healed so that he can rise up out of that bed and get back to the incredible vision he has for discipling high school and college students, and young adults. God clearly has much more for this humble servant leader to do, for the Kingdom. I hope you will join me in that prayer.

I hope and pray that I can become the kind of consistent, compassionately convicting, Christ-centered leader that Jim has been for me for the past 40+ years. He is a wonderful, Godly reminder of the kind of Biblically faithful leader the AAC is seeking to develop at every level of the church. May it always be so!

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes. Its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” Jeremiah 17:7-8 †



## Music, Theology and Construction

BY THE REV. CANON ALLISON BARFOOT, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ASST. TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF UGANDA

**W**hat do Music, Theology, and Construction Have in Common? They are all subjects I have studied! My bachelor's degree is in music, and my master's and doctoral degrees are in theology and ministry.

And, now, I have recently finished a crash private tutorial course in basic Ugandan construction techniques and budgeting for construction of a simple building.

I asked a few friends for recommendations for a tutor and found Francis, a local civil engineer who runs his own one-man contracting business. I asked him to explain to me the construction process for a simple, small rectangular building often found in rural areas of Uganda. I also wanted to know how to calculate the number of bags of cement the building would need, the number of bricks (Ugandans build with bricks, not wood), and the number of iron sheets for the roof. Poor Francis...no one had ever asked him this question before. Let alone a white woman!

Courageously, he agreed. We set up a schedule of eight private tutorials and met on the verandah of the nearby Namirembe Guest House twice a week for four weeks.

I learned about digging trenches for foundations, which way to lay the bricks for the foundation, how to avoid moisture seeping up from the foundation into the floor and walls.

I dug up algebra and geometry lessons from the ancient history part of my brain and even caught Francis in a few math errors. I asked for a price reduction, but he just laughed.

In the end, I achieved my goal – building a spreadsheet that would easily calculate the number of bags of cement, number of bricks, and number of iron sheets needed based on inputting the dimensions of the building.

But, why? Well, it turns out that one of my “other duties as assigned” is to help some of our international partners evaluate whether requests for funding of local construction projects are reasonable. When I get asked these things, I think to myself, “Why do you think I know this? I have degrees in music and theology?”

Finally, I just decided to learn what I could so that I would not be fooled. Uganda has some of the most amazing cement – when it gets to a construction site, it grows legs and walks away. Most construction budget estimates are padded with extra bags of cement because of this unique quality. I wanted to know how much fluff was typically added to projects.

Not long after I finished my tutorials, I was able to help one of our bishops and his American church partner re-do a construction budget so that it was much more reasonable. The project had stalled; but, because of Francis, I was able to help them get un-stuck and moving forward again in their partnership and mission.

It turns out that in 10th grade, when I asked my geometry teacher if I would ever need to use those formulas again, she was right. I never imagined, though, that they would be resurrected as a missionary in Uganda.

So, what do music, theology, and construction have in common? I don't know...except they're all subjects I have now studied. And, apparently, it's helpful information when you're a missionary. †

*Canon Barfoot is the founder of Global Mobilization Ministries. Find out more about the ministry at [www.GlobalMM.org](http://www.GlobalMM.org).*

## CEO COMPLETES DEGREE IN CANON LAW

**T**he American Anglican Council (AAC) congratulates the Rev. Canon Phil Ashey, President & CEO, on completing his LLM in Canon Law from Cardiff University Law School in Wales. The LLM in Canon Law provides an opportunity for critical appraisal of Ecclesiastical Law in the context of relevant national and international law. Canon Ashey's dissertation is titled *The Future of Conciliarism as a Model for Church Governance within Anglicanism* and will be published later this year.

AAC board of trustees member and practicing attorney Rich Baker says this accomplishment will further the AAC's ministry. “Combining this expertise in church law with Canon Ashey's experience as an attorney and priest makes him and the American Anglican Council a more unique and qualified resource for Anglican leaders around the world.”

*Top: Canon and Mrs. Ashey after graduation. Bottom: Canon Ashey greeting Professor Norman Doe and his classmates.*





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### *“Wolves” continued from page 1*

“It is our hope that what has been learned through the relationships developed will inform the way the church conducts whatever further formal discussions may be necessary in the future. It is our prayer that the manner in which we express our different views and deep disagreements will bear witness to Jesus who calls us to love as he has loved us.”

If you are a born-again believer in the Church of England, take note of what is happening in the Anglican Church of Canada. The orthodox that remain defeated the push for same-sex marriage and it didn't matter. “But it was a narrow defeat and we have much better numbers in our favor in the Church of England,” you might say. If the measure had failed in all three orders of synod, do you really think that would have stopped the Bishops of Niagara and Ottawa? Rules don't change hearts. “But we've learned how to have ‘good disagreement’ in the Church of England and we have much better relationships across theological lines.” In The Episcopal Church (USA) and the Canadian Church, for those who uphold the scriptures, good disagreement means you lose but at least you don't have to like it.

Here at the American Anglican Council we try to keep people informed and involved in the Anglican Realignment.



Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada Fred Hiltz addresses the synod.  
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What challenges does the Anglican portion of the Body of Christ face? What steps must we take to go forward? To do that we must have an idea of what the enemy is up to. There's no doubt the enemy has his sights set on the Church of England but doesn't want us to know it. He'd much rather we think he's not there or is uninterested. As we move forward in the realignment of Anglicanism around Biblical Christianity, I pray we are as innocent as doves but shrewd as serpents because there are wolves in the area. (Matthew 10:16) †

**T**he American Anglican Council is a network of individuals, dioceses, parishes and ministries who affirm biblical authority and Christian orthodoxy within the Anglican Communion. By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, the mission of the American Anglican Council is to build up and defend Great Commission Anglican churches in North America and worldwide through advocacy and counsel, leadership development and equipping the local church. *Encompass* is a quarterly publication of the American Anglican Council.

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