



Anglican Church Women - Diocese of Algoma

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Anglican Church Women in the Diocese of Algoma is to unite all women in promoting the love of Christ with their time, talents and resources.

Launch Out Into the Deep *Luke 5: 4*

To ALL Anglican Church Women of the Diocese of Algoma

We are writing to you as the members of the “ACW” transitional team. At our recent 45th annual meeting, a workshop was held to discuss changes to the current constitution and to obtain recommendations from you, as women of the church, on how a governing body could serve you better.

Seven questions were presented and we have attached these questions to this letter. We have added an 8th question to allow further comment. It was emphasized that communication was required BOTH from you and from the governing body.

The current purpose, function and membership of the Anglican Church Women of Algoma follows:

“The purpose is to unite all Diocesan Anglican Church Women in a fellowship of worship, mission, study and offering which will deepen their devotion to God, and lead them in Christian service in the church, community, diocese, nation and the world. The function is to foster interest, support and to provide assistance in the promotion of church, deanery and diocesan activities.

Membership shall consist of all Anglican Church Women from across the Diocese of Algoma.”

You have heard many comments and lots of discussion following our 45th annual conference and annual general meeting. Many questions are being asked as to how we arrived at this situation, very simply put, our constitution prevented a lot of options, the nominating committee (5 Deanery Presidents) could not provide a slate of officers, we received only one name – a very good one, but no support for a full executive. This left us with two choices:

- Seek revisions to the constitution from the membership for adoption the following year.
- Disband the Diocesan Board effective immediately.

Either option required leadership and by constitution, the Executive Board shall meet to consider matters as they arise & take action as necessary. Should any vacancy occur in any office, the Board should have the power to appoint a person to fill this position.

Three officers shall constitute a Quorum for transaction of business.

The transitional team was elected by the 2011-2012 ACW Board and confirmed by the membership with the following mandate:

- ❖ To serve for a ONE year term.
- ❖ To review and rewrite the constitution as per the trends and suggestions given by the membership.
- ❖ First draft to be available to full Board by August 10th. To be reviewed and comments/suggestions returned to the transition team within 10 days.
- ❖ Second draft to be distributed to all Deanery officials and Parishes for discussion at their branch level and Deanery meetings. To be reviewed and comments/suggestions returned to the transition team by October 15th
- ❖ Motion of revisions to be emailed/posted on the web by November 10th
- ❖ Voting to be until December 1st 2012
- ❖ Based on the results of the voting an attempt will be made to nominate a new Diocesan Executive for installation at the 2013 Conference and Annual to be held in Muskoka May 27th to May 29th, 2013.

PLEASE GIVE PRAYERFUL THOUGHTS TO YOUR ANSWERS AND RETURN THEM TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING BY JUNE 15TH 2012.

Your transition team:

Janet Pike
6 - 2818 Redwood Ave.
Thunder Bay P7C 1Z2
jepike@tbaytel.net

Donna Oliver
8 North Portage Rd
Huntsville P1H 2J6
john.donna.oliver@sympatico.ca

Jacque Howell
401 – 35 Dairy Lane
Huntsville P1H 2L8
jehowell@vianet.ca





"The women of today are the thoughts of their mothers and grandmothers, embodied, and made alive. They are active, capable, determined and bound to win. Generations of women, dead and gone speak through us today. "

Matilda Joslyn Gage, 1889

1. Our ACW Executive currently has 5 positions: President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary & Treasurer. Each deanery takes a 3-year turn to provide the Executive membership. Should we continue to form the Executive in this way, or is there another way that could better serve the women of our Diocese?

2. Our ACW Executive (President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary & Treasurer) are currently elected to a 3 year term. Several of our Board Positions (Chair of Devotions, Chair of Family Life, Chair of Communications, Chair of Social Action & Chaplain are 6 year terms. The remaining five board members are the Presidents elected by each Deanery (Thunder Bay, Algoma, Sudbury-Manitoulin, Temiskaming & Muskoka). Should we continue this Board structure, or is there another structure that could better serve the women of our Diocese?

3. Each year the Diocesan ACW Treasurer drafts a budget that is brought to the Diocesan ACW Executive for consultation, and then the Diocesan ACW Board for consultation, and finally to the membership at the Annual meeting for discussion and approval. The budget covers the following expenses: Executive and Board meetings, Annual General Meeting costs (that are not covered by registration fees), annual donation to the General Operating Budget of the Diocese of Algoma, and travel costs for a representative from Algoma at the national ACW level. Are these priorities the best uses of our funds, or are there other financial priorities that could better serve the women of our Diocese?

4. The majority of our ACW Diocesan annual expenses are covered by donations from our ACW parish branches. The amount is set by the Board, and every year the Treasurer sends a letter to each parish branch requesting a donation for this purpose. The amount is 2% of the Apportionment the ACWs parish pays to the Diocese of Algoma's general operating

budget. Should we continue to assess and request donations in this way, or is there another method that could better serve the women of our Diocese?

5. Each year, our Executive committee suggests two mission projects to highlight throughout the year and at the Annual General Meeting. The membership votes to choose one of these mission projects. 'Thank offerings' for this mission are collected at the Annual General Meeting. This project is intended to be a celebration of our common mission that transcends the mission of each parish branch. Should we continue this practice or is there another way to celebrate our common mission?

6. Our Diocesan ACW shares news of its activities through the Diocesan website, newsletter, Annual General Meeting reports, and the communication between the Deanery presidents and the ACWs in the parishes. The Deanery Presidents gather news from the parishes and share it with the Diocesan ACW through stories, questionnaires and surveys. Are these methods of communication sufficient, or are there other ways the Diocesan ACW can communicate with the ACWs in our parishes and deaneries?

7. Are ACW parish branches are currently assisted by a Deanery Executive, Diocesan Executive, and a Diocesan Board. What role should these Deanery and Diocesan structures play in serving the women of the Diocese of Algoma? Should they continue in this role, or are there other roles that could better serve the women of the Diocese?

8. Further Comments or Suggestions re structure and finances.
