



Anglican Network in Canada

1 June 2016

Update on ANiC's Ministry Priority: Church Planting & Growth

Dear ANiC members and friends,

It is not for the faint of heart. Ideally, it should not be done in isolation. I have had the privilege of church planting with support from parishes and church planting networks. When I accepted the position of *Chair of Church Planting* for ANiC, I did so on the condition of primarily being a bridge builder and connector.

The first partnership I helped facilitate was with **C2C Network**. We announced this last year. By way of reminder, C2C Network is an interdenominational network committed to planting and resourcing gospel-centered, Spirit-led and mission-focused churches. As such, C2C Network respects the uniqueness of each denomination that partners with them. This is one of their many strengths. We have been following C2C Network's *Ten Best Practices* for church planting, and have begun collaborating with their network for assessing and resourcing our existing and future church plants. As this relationship has been set into motion, it has produced a great question, "How does our Anglican heritage bear upon church planting?"

I am pleased to announce a second partnership with our own Province's church planting efforts, ***Always Forward***. Last year, I was invited to join this team but had to decline as my time was limited. However, now that our relationship with C2C is established, I have more time available. I am now a team member/member of the board of *Always Forward*. I will represent our diocese within the ongoing Provincial conversation about church planting. The *Always Forward* team is committed to help plant Gospel-Centered, Sacramental, and Missional Churches.

So, how will being a part of *Always Forward* help ANiC?

First, the [Always Forward website](#) will serve as our pipeline and entry point for future church planters from within Canada and around the world who desire to church plant within our diocese. Second, *Always Forward* is working to create distinctly Anglican resources for church planters. They will provide a space for us to be in conversation about how our Anglican heritage contributes to church planting.

Between *Always Forward* and *C2C Network* we have most of our bases covered. If you know (or are) someone who wants to plant a church with ANiC, send them to the [Always Forward website](#). There they can learn more about planting churches within our Province and our diocese. As we receive these requests, potential planters will then go through our assessment

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process with C2C Network. If you are an existing church plant and want resources and support, *Always Forward* will be producing great material that we will distribute. Furthermore, C2C Network provides many opportunities for equipping within all the provinces. If you want to find out more about these opportunities, please email me.

What remains to be done for church planting within our diocese?

First, pray. C2C Network has a practice of setting an alarm for 10:02 am everyday. This refers to Luke 10:2. At this time, we “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” We need God to raise up church planters.

Second, pray. Our financial resources are *extremely* limited. Fortunately we serve a God who can do a lot with a little, and frankly we bring a lot more than a few meager fish and loaves. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6). As we continue to water the many churches within ANiC, we must pray for growth. We need God to grow our existing churches that we might see more churches in a place to resource future church plants.

Third, pray. This *is* our greatest resource in church planting. Every single church within our diocese can participate in church planting. Perhaps you “adopt” one of our existing church plants and commit to praying for them during your Sunday services. As you develop a culture that prays for an existing church plant, I will not be surprised to see a passion for church planting to follow.

Lastly, consider going to the ***Always Forward 2016 Conference in Denver, August 25-27***. There are four different tracks: current church planters, potential church planters, churches that want to plant churches, and church planting leaders. If you find yourself in any of these categories, please let me know. It will be great to connect at the conference.

I am grateful to be serving our diocese in this capacity.

Grace and peace,

Rev Alastair Sterne

Priority leader, Church Planting & Growth