

Remembering Jesus: Report on the 2017 ANiC Synod

October 25 to 27, 2017 (Burlington, Ontario)

It was a privilege to attend the 10th ANiC Synod. It was a good time to reflect on the progress made over the past decade and to look ahead at the decade to come; to remember God's faithfulness in bringing us from suffering to joy. October 25, 2017 was workshop day. I attended '**Building the Church**' where 5 speakers talked about their congregation's experience in acquiring a church – with God's help. Examples included fundraising and build new, rent to own and renovate and rezone. About 7 or 8 of the 72 churches in ANiC now have their own space. I also attended Penny and Rev. Sean Love's presentation on **Catechism in the church** – adults to children. There was interest and participation in their interactive presentation.

Bishop Charlie Master's charge based on 2 Timothy 2: 8-10 reminded us that there would be push back but Paul's example was to suffer everything for the sake of the salvation of those called by God. To do this he encouraged us to be like the Bereans and daily search the Word, cultivate a climate of prayer: to pray for the harvest and to pray for open mouths to be his witnesses. He called us to a **Decade of Evangelism**.

The committees responsible for the 5 priorities gave their reports which were encouraging. 1) **Bold Witness** There is teaching on this at the new ANiC website in the form of videos. We are encouraged to share our story, to not be anxious or force things but remember that Jesus said, 'It is finished' on the cross. Buddha's last words, in contrast, were 'Strive without ceasing.' 2) **Biblically Grounded** We were encouraged by this committee to send ministers or members to a conference called 'Be Clear About the Gospel' which will be held March 13/14th, 2018 at Good Shepherd Vancouver. William Lane Craig and Rick Reed are the speakers. The talks will make it clear what the gospel is and is not. 3) **Loving Children** Jeremy Graham spoke about our duty to teach children in all situations and to pray for them for lifelong faith. He spoke about 'God's Big Story,' a free curriculum and encouraged people to contact him with questions. 4) **On Mission** We heard from several speakers about overseas missions such as Cuba Mission which bring medical supplies and water filters; CMJ and a family which were commissioned to serve in Israel and from a man involved with Living Edge which provides food to local churches so they can distribute food to the homeless or needy. This ministry facilitates outreach by churches to their community. We heard from Allan Tan and a minister from the US and how they each used a grant from the Harvey Legacy Fund to serve Youth (at Good Shepherd) and various outreaches (in the US). 5) **Church Planting and Growth** Over the past year 1 ½ churches were planted. We were encouraged to pray for leaders to plant churches and for resources to help them get their new churches established.

The Synod was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen relationships between churches and to renew friendships and establish new ones – To listen and be heard. I was greatly encouraged.

Respectfully submitted: Tracey Larter (Lay Delegate for St. John's Richmond).