



June 2019 Update

# HARVEST TASK FORCE

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES TO  
ANIC'S GOSPEL MISSION

## DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

As we enter into summer, we want to give you an update on our ANiC discernment process that the Harvest Task force is facilitating.

In March we received the answers to questionnaires from fifty churches in ANiC. The thoughtful responses of so many of our churches is very helpful to our discernment and we are thankful to you for your work. There were several consistent and clear themes that came out of the questionnaire.

**First** there was a strong desire expressed to share the good news of Jesus with the those outside the church. However, many churches also articulated significant challenges to carrying out this mission.

**Second** there was widespread concern for our bishops and their workload, and a desire to address this issue quickly.

**Third** there was a deep appreciation for the mission work that the Asian and Multicultural

Mission in Canada (AMMiC) does, and a consistent desire to interact more with this movement for the sake of mission. Amongst AMMiC respondents there was also desire for greater authority to strengthen their mission work.

**Fourth**, there was strong support for planting churches and for strengthening existing church plants.

Finally there was a consistent endorsement of one day moving to multiple dioceses, but at the same time a consensus that it is not yet the right time to go ahead with this move.

Over the last three months, our ANiC bishops, ANiC council and the Harvest Task Force (HTF) have prayerfully considered these results and have decided to remain as one diocese for the time being to work for the gospel growth that will necessitate multiplying dioceses.

In this context we will work on four areas of initiatives to strengthen our harvest work of bringing Jesus and his good news to our world. These four areas involve:

- 1 Developing a diocesan-wide initiative that will engage with each ANiC church to resource and encourage ministries that will strengthen gospel mission in their area.
- 2 Addressing Bishop Charlie's, Bishop Stephen's and Bishop Trevor's work load. This will involve assessing priorities of time and travel and reallocating responsibilities amongst bishops, and perhaps other leaders, in order to enable the bishops to lead the work of the harvest more effectively.
- 3 Enhancing the role of Bp Stephen and AMMiC in our diocese of ANiC in order to help all of our churches to more effectively reach our multicultural society. We will also create a proposal to give more authority to AMMiC in several areas of their mission to strengthen their outreach.
- 4 Articulating and communicating a clear church planting strategy and committing resources to this work. Well considered and funded church plants are a key to our work of reaching our country with the good news of Jesus.

Out of these four areas, our diocesan committees, bishops and HTF are now working to determine specific recommendations to be presented to our bishops at the end of August, to ANiC council in September and sent to all of you, our ANiC churches, on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please pray for the work of our Bishops, John MacDonald, the ANiC church development committee led by Rev. Mike Stewart, AMMiC led by Bishop Stephen Leung, the church plant priority led by Alastair Sterne, and the Harvest Task Force as they work on these recommendations. It is crucial that we rely on God's wisdom and his direction as we work together, prayerfully addressing these initiatives.

If you have any thoughts and feedback that you would like to share with the Harvest Task Force regarding this work, please email us at our addresses listed below.

Yours in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

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For more information about the Harvest Task Force go to [www.anglicannetwork.ca/harvesttaskforce](http://www.anglicannetwork.ca/harvesttaskforce)