



May 2005

# ENCOMPASS

News and Events from the American Anglican Council Mission and Ministry Network

## ECUSA "withdraws" reps, asks for presence at ACC

THE AMERICAN ANGLICAN COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH USA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S LETTER TO THE ANGLICAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF APRIL 13, 2005

The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA) met April 13, 2005 and has announced they will refrain from "official participation" in the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) meeting scheduled for June 2005 in Nottingham, England. In their letter to the ACC Chair, however, the Executive Council writes they will still send their delegation. We find it very disturbing that the Episcopal Church leadership met in seclusion, continuing a pattern of secrecy. In addition, we note that they seem incapable of acquiescing fully to the requests and clear expectations of the Primates as

expressed in their 2005 Communiqué. As with the House of Bishops' March 2005 Covenant Statement, the Executive Council has professed compliance to the Primates while dictating their own terms:

"In the spirit of the Covenant Statement recently adopted by our House of Bishops, we voluntarily withdraw our members from official participation in the ACC as it meets in Nottingham. As an expression of our desire "to bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2), we are asking our members to be present at the meeting to listen to

reports on the life and ministry we share across the Communion and to be available for conversation and consultation." [Episcopal News Service—Executive Council Letter to Anglican Consultative Council]

The Executive Council's letter to the Anglican Consultative Council is manipulative and deceptive. The Primates were clear and direct in their call to the Episcopal Church and Anglican Church of Canada:

"...we request that the Episcopal  
(*"ECUSA" continued on Page 3*)

## Reaping a harvest: Dr. Angus Graham Jr.

How One AAC Member is Making a Difference

BY JENNIFER M. ABEL, EDITOR

While many Anglicans and Episcopalians regrettably are standing by with a "wait and see" attitude toward the current crisis in the Anglican Communion, an AAC member from Bradenton, Florida, is taking just the opposite approach. Dr. Angus Graham Jr. has been a member of Christ Episcopal Church Bradenton since 1960, and he is not about to watch his church go down the tubes along with the other revisionist-friendly churches in the Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA). And he believes most members of his parish would not want that to happen either—if only they were more aware of what is really going on within their denomination.

Dr. Graham became interested in and supportive of the AAC and other orthodox Anglican organizations last fall, but a recent talk at his parish by AAC member Doug Spangler about the Anglican Communion's current situation spurred Dr. Graham on to action. Five church members, under Dr. Graham's leadership, immediately gathered in mid-February. Meeting at Dr. Graham's home, they educated themselves quickly and thoroughly about the Anglican Communion's current crisis. Then they set about informing others of the same

knowledge.

"Our core group's goal is to change – to educate – everybody," Dr. Graham said. "They shouldn't be apathetic—they need to join [the AAC]."

Dr. Graham explained that he believes a large majority, perhaps around 80 percent, of his parish is in disagreement with ECUSA's (especially Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold's) current revisionist innovations and actions.

"Several of us knew most in Christ Episcopal Church Bradenton didn't think this way at all. We want an orthodox rector and orthodox teaching in our parish," he said. Dr. Graham went on to explain that he and other church members "feel somewhat unprotected because our bishop has only encouraged individual [AAC] membership within our parish and that the parish as a whole wait before becoming a parish affiliate." Unlike Dr. Graham, the parish's bishop, the Rt. Rev. John B. Lipscomb (Bishop of Southwest Florida), does not appear aggressive about taking immediate massive action, Dr. Graham said after meeting with the bishop in early April.



*Dr. Angus W. Graham Jr., M.D., is an AAC member from Bradenton, Florida, where he has been a member of Christ Episcopal Church Bradenton for over 40 years.*

The main obstacle Dr. Graham and his friends now face is that most parish members are uneducated and therefore unmotivated to take action, he said. Vestry members are being contacted and informed in addition to lay members. The course of action

(*"Reaping a Harvest" continued on Page 2*)

Reaping a Harvest (cont. from Page 1)

for laity and clergy alike in many parishes all too often seems to be to bury their heads in the sand and pretend nothing is wrong. But Dr. Graham and his friends know something is wrong, and they refuse to allow apathy to take hold or to assume someone else will tackle the issues for them.

In March the five members of the core group met again, this time with 25 additional individuals. After less than two months' time, at least 37 church members had learned of and joined the AAC due to this small group's efforts, and another 30-plus members said they planned to join. The number in support of orthodox Anglicanism and of the AAC continues to grow in the Bradenton area thanks to Dr. Graham's work. The group was encouraged by the fact that, for the first time in April, their AAC informational meetings were published in the church bulletin (with their interim rector's permission)

and they were permitted to use their church facilities to assemble.

"We're getting them signed up as quickly as possible," Dr. Graham said, going on to explain that he hopes to have recruited several hundred AAC members within the next six months to a year. He said the goal is for Christ Episcopal to become affiliated with the AAC and the Anglican Communion Network (ACN) and to therefore recommit itself to orthodox biblical teaching and belief. For now, Dr. Graham described the church's AAC members as a "layman's sub-chapter of the AAC".

Dr. Graham's unfinished story serves as a humble yet powerful inspiration for the rest of us. Though the work is tedious at times, he indicates that his methods are succeeding and can serve as an example for others in similar situations: "We feel that the best approach at growing our AAC membership is frequent small meetings where people can ask questions and get answers and to



Dr. Graham standing in front of the Christ Episcopal Church Bradenton sign publicizing a parish meeting.

really know the details of what is happening to ECUSA."

Upon forming and educating an initial core group of fellow like-minded parish members, they will in turn be able to inform others about the Anglican Communion crisis. By holding multiple meetings as Dr. Graham suggests, and by spreading the word through one-on-one interaction, more individuals will slowly become aware of their need to act, and they will be equipped to spur others on to help. The process often requires time and patience, but a small amount of yeast spreads through the whole batch of dough, and in the end "we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).†

# Membership

**Are you an AAC member?** Join tens of thousands of other Anglicans in the United States who are in partnership with believers throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion for orthodox Anglican mission and ministry. Learn the simple steps and benefits to attaining individual, parish or chapter membership by reading about each affiliation level in the chart below.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	PARISH OR MINISTRY AFFILIATION	CHAPTER AFFILIATION
<p><b>How to join:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Complete the <i>Become a Member</i> form on the AAC web site OR</li> <li>❖ Contact us by phone (if no Internet access) and request a membership brochure</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefits of an AAC member:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Receive weekly email updates to stay informed</li> <li>✓ Receive our monthly newsletter, <i>Encompass</i></li> <li>✓ Be part of a broad-based support system</li> <li>✓ Know you are making a difference in these difficult times</li> </ul> <p><small>*Note: We ask that each person in a family become an individual AAC member rather than joining as a family.</small></p>	<p><b>How to affiliate a parish or ministry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Prayerfully determine the will of your parish or ministry (Note: Parishes need rector and vestry approval.)</li> <li>❖ Contact Linda Newton (see below). If writing, include your name, phone number, best time to reach you, and email address. Linda will guide you through the process for becoming affiliated.</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefits of an AAC affiliate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Become a magnet church/organization for orthodox believers in your area and in the world</li> <li>✓ Become listed as an Affiliate Parish or Affiliate Ministry on the AAC web site</li> <li>✓ Receive an outdoor sign</li> <li>✓ All the benefits of other membership levels</li> </ul> <p><small>*Note: Your parish can be ECUSA affiliated or non-ECUSA affiliated to obtain AAC affiliation.</small></p>	<p><b>How to start an AAC chapter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Seek out a group of like-minded Anglicans in your geographical area</li> <li>❖ Contact Linda Newton about your intent (see below). Include your name, phone number, best time to reach you, and email address. Linda will guide you through the process for starting an AAC chapter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefits of an AAC chapter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ability to work as a team to make a difference</li> <li>✓ Sponsor events</li> <li>✓ Find fellowship with other orthodox believers in your area</li> <li>✓ Serve as an integral link between AAC leadership and individuals</li> </ul>



Contact Linda Newton: [lnewton@americananglican.org](mailto:lnewton@americananglican.org) (email); 800-914-2000 (phone, toll-free); or write to her at the AAC address listed on the front of this mailing.

ECUSA (continued from Page 1)

Church (USA) and the Anglican Church of Canada voluntarily withdraw their members from the Anglican Consultative Council for the period leading up to the next Lambeth Conference. During that same period we request that both churches respond through their relevant constitutional bodies to the questions specifically addressed to them in the Windsor Report as they consider their place within the Anglican Communion." (cf. paragraph 8)

While the language of the Communiqué is gracious and diplomatic, the intent is crystal clear—the American and Canadian Churches have been told to stand down from the Anglican Consultative Council. In addition, they have been presented with a clear choice to permanently walk together or walk apart. The parameters for “walking together” are also definitive: the Episcopal Church must repent of its heretical actions and embrace once more in word and in practice the faith and order of Anglicanism. We cannot accept that the Executive Council does not understand what the Primates have requested, and therefore we must assume that this is a deliberate plan to circumvent and ignore the full intent of the Communiqué.

The Executive Council is setting up an opportunity to lobby and influence the ACC meeting. Given the fact that ECUSA is insisting on such a presence, it seems a matter of justice and fair play that those who are excluded from ECUSA and isolated because they stand against revisionism should also be present and “available for conversation and consultation”. We call upon the Anglican Consultative Council to deny the Executive Council’s request; however, if the ECUSA delegation attends, we believe it is critical to include voices that offer a very different perspective, one that is consistent with Scripture and the accepted faith and order of the Anglican Communion. †

*Editor's note: To view the Executive Council's entire letter, please visit the AAC web site's News section, or find the article posted on [www.episcopalchurch.org/ens/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ens/). In addition, for further reference, this statement and other reactions to the Council's letter are posted on the AAC BLOG and/or web site.*



## Message from the President

BY THE REV. CANON DAVID C. ANDERSON  
AAC President and CEO

In the midst of the crisis we have endured over the last several years, it has been easy at times to lose hope and vision. However, we must not take our eyes off the horizon. We have lived from crisis to crisis and from meeting to meeting, hoping each will be the last and provide the resolution we so deeply desire. The church's decline has been long and steady; and many are tired, fed up, and disgusted by the rollercoaster ride of peaks and valleys. We all want solutions; we want the frustrations to end; we want to worship in spirit and in truth; we need safe harbor; and we crave a season of stability in which we can concentrate on proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ.

We're not there yet and in fact may have a long road ahead: the June Anglican Consultative Council meeting, General Convention 2006, Lambeth 2008—what a temptation to despair! And yet we must hold a Christ-driven vision before us. Christ's vision for some will be to move out of the Episcopal Church quickly; His vision for others is to hold on and stand firm until ultimate resolution comes. I urge us all to be supportive of our brothers and sisters no matter their course, praying for one another and bearing one another's burdens. I urge us to be united around the Cross and to be a people fueled by passion that comes from devotion to the Lord.

The AAC will continue to work to protect, strategize, mobilize, educate and communicate. I applaud the efforts of Dr. Graham in Florida and of others across the country, and I encourage you to follow their example. I am convinced that our work is now more important than ever, and added numbers increases effectiveness. I ask each of you to pray for the Lord to reveal His vision and perfect will for our lives, individually and corporately, and to teach us to walk obediently in that perfect will. †

## Financial Giving: The AAC and the IRS

Over the past month we have received numerous telephone calls from individuals who feel they are no longer able to financially support their local parishes. However, these individuals still feel the need to maintain the level of stewardship consistent with their Christian walk. They have inquired as to whether the AAC is a 501(c)3 (non-profit, tax-exempt) organization to which they may divert their regular tithes and offerings.

Our response is to inform these individuals that we are a tax-exempt organization, and under the circumstances, through their support and the support of other concerned Episcopalians/Anglicans, “we join together in common confession of the Gospel to support one another in accordance with classical Anglican orthodoxy.”

We are in no way suggesting that parishioners stop supporting their local parishes and only contribute to the AAC. We do, however, want to provide an alternative for those who want to maintain a giving lifestyle. †



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Learn more at [www.americananglican.org](http://www.americananglican.org)

## Let Us Introduce You... to Two New AAC Staff Members:



**Jennifer M. “Jenny” Abel**  
*Assistant to the Director of Communications*

Jenny Abel joined the staff of the American Anglican Council this past February as Assistant to the Director of Communications. In her capacity, she is responsible for editing and producing *Encompass* (AAC's monthly newsletter), managing the AAC web site and BLOG, and assisting with media relations and various other special communications projects.

Jenny grew up in the South, primarily in Atlanta, where she graduated from The Westminster Schools in 1999 and has attended Christ Church of Atlanta since 1997. She graduated two years ago from Furman University (Greenville, S.C.), where she received numerous honors and was active in a number of organizations, including serving as the Chief

**T**he American Anglican Council is a network of individuals, parishes, specialized ministries and Episcopal Bishops who affirm Biblical authority and Anglican orthodoxy within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. In the Lord's grace, we commit ourselves to proclaiming the Good News to every person and to working to reform and renew our church.

*Encompass* is a monthly publication of the American Anglican Council.

**Publisher:** The Rev. Canon David C. Anderson  
**Executive Editor:** Cynthia P. Brust  
**Editor:** Jennifer M. Abel

Copy Editor of the student newspaper her senior year. She attended the Focus on the Family Institute during her college years, and before accepting her position at the AAC, Jenny served as Associate Editor of the Georgia Family Magazine in Macon, Georgia, and as a legal secretary.

Jenny brings a passion for orthodoxy and deep commitment to the work of the AAC: “I am thrilled to be at the forefront of the current cultural war against postmodernist, revisionist thinking,” she says. “I am so excited to be serving the Lord through the AAC so that the Gospel is preached and His Word upheld during these times of trial for the Anglican Church and for all Christians.” †



**Linda Newton**  
*Affiliates Administrator*

Linda Newton joined the American Anglican Council staff in late March as the new Affiliates Administrator. She serves as a personal contact and record-keeper for AAC Chapters and Affiliate Ministries and Parishes. She also serves as a liaison to the public on behalf of AAC Affiliates by answering incoming requests for orthodox parish locations in specified areas, and about any other questions regarding AAC affiliation.

Linda recently moved to Georgia in order to be closer to her three grandsons, and she comes to us with 27 years of experience as a training professional for a major retailer. Her interest in the AAC was ignited by her attendance at the Plano Conference in Texas in October 2003, where she says she was amazed “to realize so many people shared [her] beliefs and had the courage to act on them.” She attends Holy Cross Anglican Church in Loganville, Georgia, and says she is “overjoyed” to be working for the AAC at this critical time. †