



Francophone Network of the Anglican Communion

Report to the Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council

The Rt. Rev. Pierre Welté Whalon, president;
The Rt. Rev.. Masimango Katanda Zacharie, vice-president
The Ven. David Oliver, treasurer
The Rev. Marie-Hélène Dolan, secretary

Le Livre de la Prière Commune:

The translation is finished. After examining the galley proofs sent to the translation committee, the translation was sent to the Church Publishing Company. The biblical passages of the new translation are taken from the Bible Nouvelle français courant. The French is now available in pdf format on the website of The Episcopal Church. This represents a decade of perseverance in lobbying, as well as following guidelines decided by the Francophone Network.

Lambeth:

The Lambeth Conference held in July 2022 at the University of Kent in Britain had a large number of francophone bishops present. The French resource table was set up by David Oliver; Pierre and Marie-Hélène manned it and greeted our francophone colleagues and many others, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, asked a lot of questions, showing their support.

The board had the pleasure of inviting the francophone bishops with their spouses to dinner at the Canterbury Lodge. Over fifty people enjoyed a convivial evening together, also debating hopes for the future.

The Network's archives

We are asking if the Abbey of Bec Hellouin could receive and protect our archival resources, as the monks have already accepted some materials before. The board approved the nomination of Emmanuel Lacam as archivist and voted the sum of 1,000 Euros for expenses.

The need for renewal

Some questions raised during our dinner meeting:

What do our colleagues think of the future of the Network? Why are there not more people getting involved? How can we recruit younger more active people to become leaders?

The present board members have served a number of years, and so it is more and more important to discern who will eventually pursue the leadership and evolution of the Network.

In the Francophone world

Two crying needs across the world for our francophone churches: formation and communication. We need practical translations. The Revd Stephen Spencer in charge of formation had not been aware of our work and needs of the Network, but has become interested and enthusiastic about our efforts to promote and make translations into French of Anglican documents. He agrees with Bishop Masimango that more immediate and practical needs should take precedence over the translation of the complete Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity. He suggested translating a selection done by a company in Brazil.

Bishop Dibo Elango has invited Pierre to present a seminar for the clergy in Cameroon.

We are also discussing a possible annual meeting for clergy and spouses, perhaps online. Bishop Masimango and others noted the difficulties with reliable internet connectivity.

The next full meeting

We discussed at length the need for a full reunion in 2023 in Africa, perhaps in Bujumbura.

We have considered a virtual meeting instead of in-person. It would be less costly, but there is still the vexed question of connectivity. Members have very few opportunities to meet in person, which is crucial for a spirit of support and collaboration. To be continued...

Respectfully submitted,

Marie-Hélène Dolan
The Rev. Marie-Hélène Dolan
Secretary

The Rt. Rev. Pierre W. Whalon
President