



Guidelines for the Networks of the Anglican Communion

Approved by Standing Committee, 21 May 2018

1. Definition

An authorised Network of the Anglican Communion connects Anglicans globally and creates a cluster of energy around a particular area of mission, ministry and concern. In so doing, the Network contributes to the unity, life and witness of the Anglican Communion.

Through various means such as a dedicated website, an email listserv, social media, occasional regional and international gatherings, and the publication of on-line and printed newsletters, reports and resources, a Network may enable its members to:

- tell the stories of grassroots experience
- share news, ideas, theological and liturgical material, and information about models of mission, ministry and good practice with a view to improving ministry and practice in their own context
- join together in the role of advocacy where there are common concerns and parallel responsibilities across the Communion
- provide information and briefings to the Instruments of Communion
- support one another in prayer and in practical ways to strengthen loving service and friendships in Christ's name.

2. Formation

On application, the Anglican Consultative Council and/or the Standing Committee may recognise a Network addressing particular themes and concerns across the Anglican Communion, in accordance with the following Guidelines. A Network so recognised shall be identified in the published edition of the minutes of the meeting of the Council.

- a) The subject matter of the Network shall be consistent with, and supportive of, the initiatives of the Provinces and member Churches of the Communion.
- b) Through the Secretary General, the Network may propose subjects for consideration by the Anglican Consultative Council and, whenever possible, shall be available for consultation on subjects on which its members hold expertise.
- c) The Secretary General may encourage occasional meetings of Network representatives for mutual consultation and may, in respect of specific issues, invite Network representatives to meet with the Standing Committee.

3. Accountability

- a) The Network shall be accountable in all matters, including finance, to the Anglican Consultative Council and the Standing Committee through the Secretary General. Unless otherwise agreed, financial management will be within the ACO Finance Department.
- b) The Network shall keep in regular contact with the designated Director co-ordinating its work at the Anglican Communion Office, whose role is to support the Networks in achieving their vision and goals, and ensure their important work contributes to the agenda and deliberations of the Instruments of Communion.

- c) The Network shall provide an annual report to the Standing Committee, and to the Anglican Consultative Council when it meets.

4. Financial arrangements

- a) The Network, through its designated management team or steering group, is responsible for the proper stewardship of any financial resources.
- b) The Network shall submit a statement of accounts annually to the Finance and Administration Committee.
- c) Since there is no core funding of Network activities within the budget of the Anglican Consultative Council, the Network is encouraged to seek the funds it needs to pursue its goals from appropriate sources, in consultation with the designated Director co-ordinating its work at the Anglican Communion Office.

5. Membership

- a) The Network shall seek to engage a membership across the Anglican Communion, taking care to reflect the global presence and diversity of the Communion.
- b) Where a Network seeks a core group of formal provincial representatives, these should be appointed in consultation with the relevant Primate or provincial or church structure.

6. Leadership

- a) The Network shall have a designated leadership team or steering group to keep the Network moving, and not be reliant on one personality. The membership of the team may be elected at an international Network gathering or by means of an electronic ballot among formal provincial representatives. In the latter case, the designated Director co-ordinating its work at the Anglican Communion Office and a second external enumerator shall assist the process. Where a Network wishes to designate a team through alternative means, it shall do so in consultation with the designated Director co-ordinating its work at the Anglican Communion Office.
- b) Outside of the designated team, all Network members are equal – all have something to share and something to learn.
- c) The designated team shall identify one of its members to act as Network convenor/ coordinator. Other team members may be allocated other responsibilities, eg, communicator.
- d) The designated team may choose to invite one or more others to take on the role of Network chair or patron.
- e) The designated team has responsibility for planning leadership succession, and for succession where the Network has a core group of formal provincial representatives. Succession arrangements and outcomes shall form part of the Network's annual report to the Standing Committee.

7. Communication

- a) The Network shall provide and regularly update a dedicated website either within the Anglican Communion portal or accessible from the Anglican Communion website, and shall provide further appropriate means of communication so that all its members can contribute.
- b) The Network shall communicate with other Networks, with the assistance of the designated Director co-ordinating its work at the Anglican Communion Office, and seek to identify areas of common concern and potential collaboration.
- c) Similarly, the Network shall, where appropriate, communicate with other areas of the Anglican Consultative Council's work, eg, the Department for Mission and the Anglican Alliance, in order to work collaboratively and to the benefit of the Communion.

8. Closure

- a) A Network shall cease to enjoy authorised status in the case of one or more of the following :
 - The Network has achieved its goals with no future work needed.
 - The Network has become inactive, or unable to achieve its goals.
 - Leadership arrangements have ceased or failed, and no process is in place to renew them.
 - The Network has ceased to operate in line with these Guidelines.
- b) The Standing Committee may withdraw authorised status from any Network.

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