



## **Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion**

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### **Report to the Anglican Consultative Council, Jamaica, May 2009**

#### **Background**

The Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC), founded at Canterbury, England in 1993, is a Network of the Anglican Communion consisting of over 130 institutions of higher education around the world that were founded by and/or retain ties to a church or branch of the Anglican Communion. With institutions on all five continents, CUAC was founded for the exchange of ideas, for the development of programs among member institutions, and for mutual member-collaboration through which they might better serve students, faculty and staff of these institutions in educational ministry to their societies and the world at-large.

CUAC functions as a communication and collaboration network that links all the Anglican-related higher-education (post-secondary) colleges and universities world-wide. It is autonomous in governance and self-supporting in finance, sustained through subscriptions by participating colleges and universities (fees based on student numbers and adjusted to currency and economy). CUAC provides for its members forms of communication through the Internet (web-site: [www.cuac.org](http://www.cuac.org)), Newsletters (Compass Points and eNEWS). Key to the association is an international conference for all members held every three years (the Triennial), and then national/regional "Chapters" (British Chapter, Chapter of the Americas, India Chapter, Asian Chapter, and Australian Chapter) which meet in their regions once or twice between Triennial Conferences. All these activities help CUAC institutional and individual members to discover and pursue opportunities in global education, faculty and student exchanges. CUAC colleges and universities create joint programmes and projects in cross-cultural education, in service-learning and community service, and in educational and cultural aid for developing nations. Exchange of students, faculty and administrators is a constant activity of member institutions, to support but also to enrich and broaden each college or university. CUAC strives to promote the ideals of Christian education in the global world through the dialogues, exchanges and joint projects among its members. It pays special attention to the role of Chaplains in the settings of a contemporary university or college.

A qualifying member institution is any college or university that is associated by history and tradition with the Anglican Communion and maintains an active

relationship with its local diocese or province. Membership is made up of institutions of higher learning, which can provide teaching and research in any field. CUAC is not an organization of theological colleges, but there are some colleges which find the association beneficial to them. As an inter-Communion service, CUAC does maintain on its web-site a list of those known Anglican theological colleges, seminaries and programmes. Regular membership assumes payment of an annual subscription as set by the Board of Trustees of CUAC. Each institution has one vote at the Triennial Meeting of the association. Each institution designates which of its administration, faculty, or staff are to serve as delegates and who is to vote on behalf of the institution. The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rev. Rowan Williams, is the Patron of CUAC, as was the Most Rev. George Carey before him. The organization functions through an elected international Board of Trustees, most of whom are college/university heads and some of whom are bishops of dioceses which have an active college/university that is a member of CUAC. The organization is a registered non-profit corporation in the State of Connecticut, but maintains an office in New York provided by The Episcopal Church. CUAC has a small endowment that was gifted to it by its founding organization, the Association of Episcopal Colleges, which also requires that the CUAC staff person also carries on some functions specifically for those U.S. Episcopal-related colleges in the US and abroad.

#### **Recent and Current Activities:**

- In May 2008, CUAC held its **6th International Triennial Conference at Chung Chi College of the Chinese University of Hong Kong**. The conference explored what the Asian Chapter identified as, for them, the three “marks” of an Anglican-shaped university/college education:

Excellence  
Character  
Service

- While held in Hong Kong, the Conference delegates traveled to mainland China over two days to visit and meet with leaders and students at Lingnan College, Sun Yat-sen University, Union Theological Seminary, as well as churches in Guangzhou and Shenzhen. The vitality of these communities and their dedication to learning were as apparent as their enthusiasm for ecumenical inclusion and liturgical practice. The experience itself provided direct evidence of thriving and growing communities committed to education and Christian faith together and living in a working relationship within the People’s Republic of China. Contacts were made between CUAC members and some of that leadership, which is the primary function of CUAC as a “Network”.
- After the visit of the conference to the mainland, the keynote address by Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane, “The Anglican Way in Higher Education,”

set out the nature of the strengths that the Anglican Communion brings to the pluralism that is increasingly the environment of faith:

*Anglicanism is not 'one size fits all.' It provides God's tailor-made coat of many colours for every one of us! One of the strengths of the Anglican way of being Christian is precisely this enrichment that comes from legitimate diversity, and of the resources it gives us to deal with diversity - whether we face it within Anglicanism, within the ecumenical life of the difference Christian churches, or within the widely varying cultures of our world, into which we, and our young people, are called to be salt and light.*

Archbishop Ndungane also reported on the Historic Schools Restoration Project in South Africa, which seeks to bring back educational centers that had been deliberately run down during the period of Apartheid. As he said, "The Historic Schools Restoration Project is not specifically Christian, but I hope you can see how Christian values and aspirations are mirrored within it." This principle of joining in action in the service of Christ, whether or not Christianity is specifically invoked, proved to be another key emphasis of the conference.

- Finally the "business" meeting mapped out the way ahead for CUAC until the next Triennial at University of the South (Sewanee, Tennessee, USA) in May 2011. Two themes that inform present and future CUAC activity were identified:
  1. *There are different cultural varieties of ways in which "service" has been and is being integrated into university curriculum, and members accepted such diversity in CUAC.*
  2. *Anglican higher education is to encourage the basic educational and moral goals of the Anglican tradition, even while the Communion is in the midst of difference. Cultural differences are not seen as a barrier to the common mission of the colleges and universities.*
- The Conference decided that it was important for CUAC to be present at the **Lambeth Conference in July 2008**. The General Secretary of CUAC – the Rev. Dr. Donald Thompson – was present at the Conference as "staff" along with other Communion networks, and participated in several presentations. A Reception was held at the nearby CUAC institution, Christ Church Canterbury University, for all bishops who have a CUAC institution in their midst. Several bishops had not appreciated that their colleges or universities participated in the educational ministry of CUAC. An important initiative that took place at Lambeth was the inauguration of a possible health network of the Anglican Communion. There are several CUAC institutions which are medical colleges or nursing colleges and have clinics attached to them. These were very

interested in a healthcare network along the lines of CUAC. The General Secretary remains active in that initiative. It may be that, should the network is developed, that the office support for it could be provided by CUAC, since the entire internet, publishing, and communications skills are already assembled for the educational network.

- The new **CUAC Trustees for 2008-11 met January 10/11 2009 in New York City**. A complete review was undertaken of CUAC: its historical mandate, its current membership and member expectations. It was noted that the chief new characteristic of CUAC is the establishment of national and/or regional chapters. Currently, there is a British Chapter, an Americas Chapter, an India Chapter, an Asia Chapter, and possibly an Australia Chapter. The Chapters are the key arenas for much of CUAC's programmatic and cooperative work between members. CUAC also functions as the network of information and cross-Communion encounter, primarily through the Triennial meeting and also Internet exchanges, by which institutions become aware of each other and can initiate projects and exchanges amongst themselves as opportunities arise. The current budget was reviewed, revealing an expected deficit. Some of the servicing (income-producing) operations of the New York office have ended, meaning that CUAC now has to rely totally on the subscriptions/dues and the small endowment provided for it by the primarily United States-based Association of Episcopal Colleges. In light of these restraints, it was decided to suspend publication of the journal, *Prologue*, and also to move the one office assistant position in New York from full-time to part-time. The dates for the next Triennial are Saturday, May 21 to Thursday May 26, 2011. One theme it may explore is the impact of race on educational institutions.

March 2009  
The Rev Canon Dr Don Thompson  
General Secretary

