ACA Chapter Guidelines for Start-Ups

Updated February 2023

**What is ACA?** The Anglican Communion Alliance arose from the need for an ongoing group of orthodox Anglicans to find a home within the Anglican Church of Canada. Our motto is “Deepening Biblical faith in the Anglican Church of Canada.” Lacking any formal ACA membership requirements, we point to the Montreal Declaration of 1994 as an expression of our theological commitments: <http://www.msgr.ca/msgr-3/montreal_declaration_00_index.htm>. It states succinctly our continuity with the universal church in light of our present realities: ***In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.***

You can learn more about ACA at [www.anglicancommunionalliance.ca](http://www.anglicancommunionalliance.ca/)

**What do we do?** Our Mission is to provide a recognized place for prayer, education, and fellowship together in our Anglican Church of Canada. We operate across all the dioceses in Canada, with representation at the General Synod. We network through our monthly cross-country calls, a monthly Prayer Zoom, e-Newsletters, Prayer Bulletins, conferences and weninars. As bishops, clergy, and laity we affirm the Anglican orthodox Christian heritage in an age that challenges our faith at many levels.

**What are LOCAL CHAPTERS**?

Local groups in various geographic locations across Canada have formed "Chapters" in fellowship with other supporters of the Anglican Communion Alliance. These Chapters are voluntary groups of like-minded individuals in the Anglican Church of Canada who, along with ACA, assent to the Montreal Declaration. Meetings are generally planned and executed by a local Chair and usually a small executive consisting of a social convener, treasurer, and secretary. Meetings are generally held quarterly or monthly, according to local needs.

Anglican Communion Alliance does not formally oversee these groups; these groups do not have any legal status or insurance coverage through ACA; they are not organized according to a Constitution or bylaws; and there is no arrangement for accountability to the ACA national Board.

All those who participate in a Chapter are instructed, when communicating with others (bishops, the public, parishes, etc.), that they are speaking as individuals, and are not representing ACA (either the national organization, or the local Chapter, since it has no legal status) in any way.

Focus:Each chapter has its unique history and focus, but generally time is provided for informal fellowship over coffee or bag lunches, with a program involving a speaker/special presentation/Bible Study and time for discussion.

Format: Most Chapters are held in theologically orthodox Anglican Churches. Wherever suitable space can be found, including homes, is acceptable. Some are held over the lunch hour while others prefer a Saturday. Some are made up predominantly of clergy and others mostly lay people, with some simply a mix of both. Some meet only in-person; others meet only on Zoom due to geography; others use a hybrid format. The local situation usually determines the member composition. ACA National Director or Chair are happy to visit Chapters (usually by Zoom) when invited to provide updates and to build fellowship.