

In Long Beach, California, where leaders of the **Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)** are meeting, the announcement was made that the ACNA has added two dioceses with two more in formation. They also welcomed the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic and the Diocese of Cascadia. The Provincial Council of the Anglican Church in North America unanimously voted to grant admission and full diocesan status to the two new dioceses today. In addition, the Council also unanimously voted to admit two groups of congregations in the Carolinas and the Southwest (West Texas and New Mexico) to begin to form dioceses in their respective geographic locations.

The newly-admitted Diocese of Cascadia has grown from seven congregations in the northwest region of the U.S. to 21 congregations in a little over one year. The Anglican District of Virginia will become the Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic and consists of 31 congregations and 9 mission fellowships.

In discussing dioceses and the role of the Anglican Church in the life of congregations, Archbishop Duncan told Council attendees, "If we are to 'reach North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ' the principal way we will do this is through the local congregation. We understand that congregations are where disciples are formed and that it is through congregations that surrounding environments are changed. Bishops, archbishops, dioceses, structures, programs all exist in order to make the local congregation strong."

The admission of all four groups into the Anglican Church is emblematic of the growth that has characterized the province since its inception. The growth of the Anglican Church has been furthered through church planting efforts connected with Anglican 1000 and the Greenhouse Forum, two church planting movements within the Anglican Church. Overall, the Anglican Church has grown from 706 congregations to nearly 1,000. You can read Archbishop Bob Duncan's speech here: <http://tinyurl.com/66dkubb>

The Rev. Robert Bowman was in attendance at the ACNA Provincial Council meeting in Long Beach this week and reported the following. "In his address Archbishop Bob Duncan's brought out the following: Since its inception two years ago, there has been 34% growth in the ACNA. There are now 952 parishes and missions in the ACNA. There have been almost 1000 adult baptisms, about 500 baptisms of youth, and about 1600 infant/child baptisms."