

Support and Training for the DR

The AFP Executive Committee holds a training consultation every other year where a DR can network and attend informative workshops to help them in their ministry.

The DR Handbook has simple, specific instructions for getting started as a new DR, as well as how-to chapters on many diverse topics such as how to:

- Make a Diocesan AFP banner;
- Start a prayer group;
- Develop a prayer chain;
- Organize a silent retreat;
- Hold a prayer vigil;
- Hold a prayer workshop;
- etc.

There are also numerous booklets of various sizes, books, tapes, and workshop guides available from the AFP resource person to help answer more questions.

More information about AFP and its resources can be found on our website: www.anglicanprayer.org. The website contains the contact information for the National Director and members of the Executive Committee on the “Contact AFP” page.

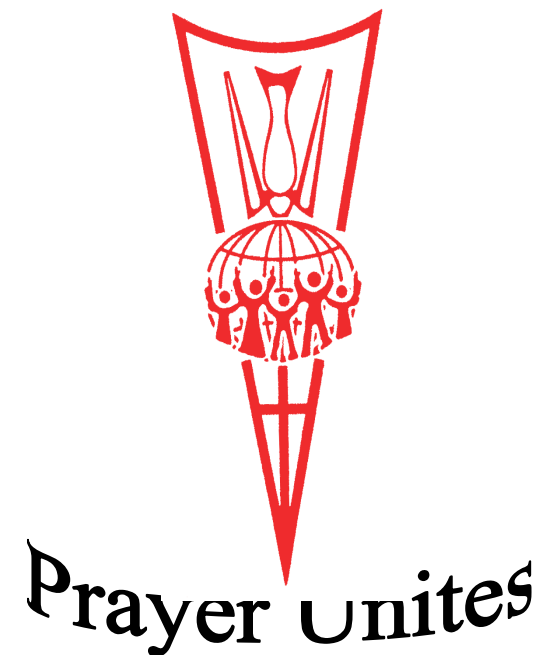
The mailing address for AFP is:

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)
P.O. Box 78084 Meriline
Nepean, ON K2E 1B1

AFP Diocesan Representative P-45-2012
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The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)

The Diocesan Representative (DR) (The Vital Component of Carrying Out Our Mission)



Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)
www.anglicanprayer.org
Pamphlet P-45 (Sep. 2012)

The Mission of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (AFP)

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer exists:

- to encourage prayer in the life of the Church;
- to be a teaching resource, helping people to grow in the life of prayer; and
- to build links between praying people.

What does AFP do?

Prayer is essential to the vitality and the ongoing life of individuals and the Church. AFP seeks to share with others in the spiritual empowering of the Church by :

- teaching people how to pray
- developing effective prayer groups
- offering opportunities for contemplative prayer through quiet days and retreats
- providing information, education and nurture for those who pray
- calling the Church always to give prayer its rightful priority
- serving as a reliable resource on the life of prayer
- promoting a spirituality based on biblical principles
- supporting, cooperating with, and uniting the Church through prayer

How does AFP fulfil this ministry?

AFP's ministry is fulfilled primarily through its **Diocesan Representatives**, and the committees, parish representatives and others interested in prayer that the DR organizes and coordinates. AFP helps parishes to form prayer groups and sponsors parish, deanery or diocesan schools of prayer, retreats, quiet days and prayer conferences. The national organization provides literature on many aspects of prayer by means of low cost printed and electronic media, including a Newsletter, and a suggested list of topics for prayer entitled Prayer Prompter.

What is the history of AFP?

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer became an officially constituted organization in the U.S. in 1958 under the leadership of Helen Smith Shoemaker, Polly Wiley, Bishop Austin Pardue of Pittsburgh, Bishop Frederick H. Wilkinson of Toronto, and Bishop Cuthbert Bardsley of Coventry (England). The movement which led to the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer began during World War II with a small fellowship of Episcopalians led by Helen Smith Shoemaker and Polly Wiley who met for prayer on the second floor of St. Thomas' Church in New York City. Spontaneous prayer was considered an innovative thing at the time and the original members had to discover their own paths into intercessory prayer. From these beginnings, AFP has been recognized as a pioneer in the small group movement. AFP Canada started in 1983 when Betty Gracie of Toronto was appointed the Canadian Coordinator by the International Executive.

The AFP Diocesan Representative (DR)

The DR is the front-line worker for AFP. The main requirement for an appointment as a DR is a personal commitment to prayer and a desire to see other people grow in their walk with our Lord. DR's are encouraged to form a committee with others who have different experiences and gifts. Regular training consultations are provided by the Canadian Executive to further a DR's experience. A DR's responsibilities include personal prayer, encouraging others to pray, consulting and supporting the Bishop, and communicating the ministry of AFP to clergy. The DR may also build networks in the diocese of prayer contacts, lead or organize prayer workshops in parishes, set up a display table of AFP resources at Diocesan events, encourage and help to arrange parish or diocesan quiet days and retreats, be available to parishes to speak on prayer, enable the setting up of prayer groups, and with the support of the bishop, set up a prayer cycle for the Diocese, arrange a prayer vigil during synod or Episcopal elections, and coordinate prayer conferences.