

The Mission Department: Report to ACC17

Introduction

The Mission Department, working with other departments at the Anglican Communion Office, continues to foster and promote (w)holistic vision of mission as espoused in the Five Marks, and supports Anglican/Episcopalian leaders in developing practical mission centred vision and initiatives, including encouraging mutual interdependent relationships through Diocesan Companion Links.

This report is a summary of activities and updates on the work done following the mandates given to the Mission Department by ACC-16 and other initiatives. The areas covered in this report include, the Season of Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-making; Youth Network; Companion Links; and Diaspora Community & Cross-cultural Mission engagement.

Season of Intentional Discipleship

1. Reflecting on its theme: *Intentional discipleship in a World of Differences*, and noting that discipleship underpins all effective mission and evangelism, ACC-16 recognised 'the need for every province, diocese and parish in the Anglican Communion to adopt a clear focus on intentional discipleship and to produce resources to equip and enable the whole church to be effective in making new disciples of Jesus Christ' and called for a 9 year period of the Season of Intentional Discipleship (SIDD) from 2016.¹
2. Since then the Discipleship Co-ordinating Group, led by Archbishop Moon Hing, to spearhead the SIDD was appointed. This has been progressing this work across the Anglican Communion as call for all Anglicans/Episcopalians to be equipped and equip others to Live and Share a *Jesus Shaped Life* that encompasses every aspect of life, from Sunday through to next Sunday, embodies the continuing mission of Christ's love in and for the world through his disciples, the Church, and reflects the (w)holistic mission expressed in the Five Marks of Mission in individual and corporate life.
3. So far, many Provinces and Dioceses have reflected on and adopted the theme of Intentional Discipleship: Jesus-Shaped Life, as a priority and central for their mission vision; Consultations and Workshops to facilitate engagement and support response in Provinces and Dioceses have been and continue to take place²; Creation of an online presence and Discipleship Resource Hub; and Mapping and sharing of good practice and experience has started, and videos stories are to be a key way of capturing and sharing experience. Some of the resources centrally produced in multiple languages include a Brochure, Booklet, Study Life Guide and a Catechetical Framework, all available at ACC17.
4. There is a growing interest and excitement in Provinces and among dioceses across the Anglican Communion. The former Primate of West Africa and Archbishop of the Internal Province of Ghana recently remarked that "This Intentional Discipleship is God sent in the Anglican Communion." Due to increased work a Coordinator for the Season of Intentional Discipleship was appointed in September 2018.

¹ See the full ACC-16 Resolution 16.01

² See Appendix 1, a schedule of the Provinces and Dioceses that have and due to engaged with the theme of *Intentional Discipleship: Living a Jesus-Shaped Life*

Youth Network

1. ACC16 Resolution 16:34 called for the renewal of the Anglican Communion Youth Network and requested the Secretary General to work with youth members of ACC 16 to give effect to the resolution.
2. Subsequent to ACC 16, supported by the Mission Department and the Secretary General, the members began meeting and invited youth workers from across the communion to join the inception team.
3. Over the last 2 years, through online meetings and consultation with Mission Office and other ACO staff, a draft way forward/strategic plan has been prepared.³
4. This document seeks to ensure that the network is grassroots-based. For this reason and purpose of representation, the Communion is divided into regions with each region having a coordinating committee comprised of people representing provinces or dioceses who are elected by young people in the provinces or dioceses they represent. It is expected that the regional committees will elect an international steering group with representation from each region. Youth workers will be part of the network only in an advisory/non-voting capacity. All decisions will be made by young people themselves.
5. The structure is a bit more formal than that used for other networks. However, because the Network will be engaging young people a more formal structure is needed to ensure that there is a clear line of authority through which those involved can have accountability and to facilitate the implementation of a mechanism for safeguarding which will develop in 2019.
6. One of the concerns has been that ACC youth members currently do not have a platform to truly connect with and gather the voices and experience of the young people they purportedly represent. It is hoped that this network structure will resolve this challenge and enable the network to truly gather the voices of the young people and then share them across the communion and the appropriate Communion structures.
7. The next step is to convene meetings by region in 2019 with a view to establishing interim coordinating committees which will facilitate transition to elections. These elected representatives will develop and expand on the strategic plan, focusing on activities and programmes to give life to the Network and shape their vision for youth in the Communion. Work with other networks to develop the safeguarding mechanism is planned for 2019
8. The Standing Committee meeting of 28th January 2019 welcomed the development of the Anglican Communion Youth Network and confirmed that it is an authorised network of the Anglican Communion to operate within the Guidelines for the Networks of the Anglican Communion agreed by Standing Committee in May 2018.

Companion Links

1. Interest to form new and renew existing Diocesan links continues to grow. Since 2016, several requests have been made and new links have developed and are developing, including Coventry Diocese (England) and Kapsabet Diocese (Kenya), Peterborough Diocese (England) and the Anglican Church of Korea, Sheffield Diocese (England) and Bondo Diocese (Kenya), Diocese of Kapsabet (Kenya) and Bunbury Diocese (Australia).

³ See separate document for reference.

2. With the Lambeth Conference in view and the associated hospitality initiative, more diocesan companion links are envisaged for mutual learning and mutual discipleship.

Diaspora Project

1. This project is an appreciative Comparative Evaluation of Multicultural Ministries in the Diocese of Melbourne, Diocese of Toronto and the Church of England with a view to develop lessons for the Communion of this important ministry in an increasingly globalised world.
2. This work developed a few years ago and its importance was recognised by the Standing Committee especially because it determines the nature of Christian communities in a globalised society and shapes the world mission context in this century. Progress with this stalled due to lack of capacity in the Mission Department. With increased capacity this work is beginning again with plans to report on it in 2020.

Concept Background

3. Global people movement is as historical as the existence of humanity, a growing phenomenon that continues to shape the global landscape – culturally, socially, politically, economically, and including the shape of mission and world Christianity.
4. There are many factors associated with migration but one common trend for all migrants is that they travel with their culture, faith or religion, which form their identity and therefore often strive to live out these aspects of life in their new ‘home’ and lands. Nonetheless, these features and “their being different” have a bearing on the relationship with their ‘hosts’, including the Church.
5. In a number of cases the media and some politicians present migration and immigrants as challenges and problems to the host communities, not as a benefit or an important resource to the recipient nations.

Scope and Purpose

6. This sample survey is to assess how the churches of Anglican Communion in three countries engage with people movement and specifically the Christian migrant/diaspora Christians and churches in their midst, the nature and significance of these relationships to local mission.
7. Specifically this comparative study will explore and evaluate the ministries among the diaspora communities in England (ethnic minority including chaplaincy), in Melbourne Diocese (multicultural ministry), and in Toronto Diocese (Cross-cultural ministry), with a view to draw lessons that would inform and enhance local and global mission in the Communion.

Staff:

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Appendix 1 Intentional Discipleship Regional Overview – February 2019

The ACC-16.01 resolution called “*every province, diocese and parish in the Anglican Communion to adopt a clear focus on intentional discipleship and to produce resources to equip and enable the whole church to be effective in making new disciples of Jesus Christ*” and “to effect a *Season of Intentional Discipleship*”

The following Provinces and Dioceses have either discussed the resolution in their synods or have hosted envisioning consultations. N.B. *Those planned for 2019 are offered in italics:*

Americas Region

Provinces

- **Canada**
 - **Rupert's Land Diocese**
 - Synod adopted through Discipleship under Discover, Develop & Deploy
 - **Diocese of Edmonton**
 - **Synod Engage, Nurture, Encounter, Grow** - Nov 2017
 - **Rupert's Land Internal Province**
 - Internal Provincial Synod discussed Intentional Discipleship theme – May 18
 - *General Synod to discussed Intentional Discipleship – July 2019*
- **The Episcopal Church (TEC)**
 - Adopted the theme “The Jesus Movement” and “Reclaiming Jesus” as their focus of Intentional Discipleship
- **Central America**
 - **Costa Rica**
 - Intentional Discipleship workshop - April 2018
 - *Panama Whole Life Discipleship Workshop April 2019 (Bishop Nick leading)*
 - *Dominican Republic Whole Life Discipleship Workshop April 2019 (Bp Nick)*
- **Mexico**
 - June 2018
 - *Mexico hosting - March 2019 Whole Life Discipleship Workshop for Latin America*
- **South America**
 - Provincial Synod affirmed **Season Intentional Discipleship** - Nov 2016
 - Diocese of Peru hosted an Envisioning Consultation - September 2017
- **West Indies**
 - **Jamaica and the Cayman Islands** - November 2017
 - Envisioning Consultation
 - Launched SID
 - Diocesan Synod discussed Intentional Discipleship theme – March 2018
 - Produced Lent Resource for 2018
 - **Diocese of Belize** -
 - Synod discussed Intentional Discipleship theme and adopted 2018 as the Year of Intentional Discipleship

CAPA Region

Provinces

- **Church of the Province of Central Africa (CPCA)**
 - adopted **Season Intentional Discipleship** - Nov 2016
 - hosted a consultation for 104 clergy from all four Dioceses in Malawi - March 2018
- **Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA)**
 - Launched a **Decade of Intentional Discipleship** - Oct 2016
 - **Mozambique Three Dioceses** to host *Intentional Discipleship Envisioning Consultation workshops* - August 2019
- **D R Congo**
 - **Diocese of Katanga**

- *Planning for Intentional Discipleship Consultation – 2019*
 - **Diocese of Goma**
 - *Planning for Intentional Discipleship Consultation – 2019*
- **Indian Ocean**
 - Provincial Strategic Plan with Intentional Discipleship as a key themes - 2018
 - **Diocese of Seychelles** hosted Envisioning workshops and adopted the theme - April 2017
 - *Madagascar Six Dioceses to host a Discipleship Training - April 2019*
- **Jerusalem and the Middle East**
 - **The Diocese of Cyprus & the Gulf** discussed Intentional Discipleship at 2017 and have since been working with the theme spearheaded by Barnabas Team.
- **Kenya**
 - **Mbeere Diocese**
 - Intentional Discipleship Envisioning Consultation - December 2017
 - Discipleship Training – February 2018
- **Rwanda**
 - **Byumba Diocese**
 - Hosted an Envisioning Consultation - Feb 2018
- **Tanzania**
 - **Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro**
 - Rooted in Jesus – confirmation tool
 - *Four Dioceses Planning Intentional Discipleship Consultation – 2019*
- **South Sudan**
 - *All Bishops to attend an Intentional Discipleship Consultation – November 2019*
- **West Africa**
 - **Ghana - Kumasi Diocese**
 - Hosted Envisioning Consultation of Intentional Discipleship - 20-24 Nov2018
 - **Diocese of Cape Coast**
 - Hosted a two orientation workshops – 26-27 November 2018
 - *Planning for a full Consultation in 2019*
 - **Diocese of Accra**
 - Hosted an orientation workshop – 28 November 2018

CCEA Region

Provinces

- **East Asia**
 - **Council of Churches of East Asia (CCEA)** discussed Intentional Discipleship - October 2017 & September 2018
 - **Diocese of West Malaysia** has focussed on Intentional Discipleship since 2011
- **Philippines**
 - **Northern Philippines**
 - Conducted discipleship training for clergy 2018
 - **North Central Philippines**
 - Conducted discipleship training for clergy 2018

- **Central Philippines**
 - *Archbishop Moon Hing to lead in Intentional Discipleship 12 - 15 March 2019*
- **Diocese of Northern Luzon**
 - *Intentional Discipleship 15 - 22 January 2019 (to be facilitated by Archbishop Moon Hing)*
- **Diocese of Santiago**
 - *Intentional Discipleship 15 - 22 January 2019 (to be facilitated by Archbishop Moon Hing)*
- **Hong Kong**
 - Discipleship is part of the Mission Strategy in the Province of Hong Kong

Pacific Region

Provinces

- **Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM)**
 - Launched Decade of Evangelism and Renewal and special focus on Intentional Discipleship on Pentecost day, May 2018
- **New Zealand**
 - *National Conference on Intentional Discipleship - October 2019*

Europe Region

Provinces

- **Church of England**
 - **General Synod** discussed the theme of Reform & Renewal and various dioceses have since embraced Discipleship theme: Chelmsford Diocese, Leicester Diocese, Oxford Diocese, Guildford Diocese, Southwell and Nottingham, etc
 - Archbishops' Council created a Discipleship Department at national level
- ACO Convening a UK & Europe gathering of Provincial & Discipleship Process Partners

South Asia Region

- **Church of North India (CNI)**
 - Hosted Intentional Discipleship Envisioning Consultation workshops - July 2017 & November 2018
- **Church of South India**
 - Hosted an envisioning consultation facilitated by Faith2Share

Extra Provincial

- **Portugal - Lusitanian Church**
 - Synod Discussed and adopted theme of Intentional Discipleship 30 May-1 June 2018
- **Sri Lanka**

Hosted Envisioning Consultation workshops for both Diocese in Sri Lanka- Ju