

“As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

Matt 14:15-16

Education for Discipleship

In 2016 the Anglican Consultative Council, the Communion’s most representative body, issued a ‘Call to a 9 Year Season of Intentional Discipleship’. This recognised the need for every province, diocese and church 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’.

Moreover the report which underpinned this call, was described by Archbishop Justin Welby as ‘the best report of its kind I have ever read’. It was *commended for study* across the communion. It is called *Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making: An Anglican Guide to Christian Life and Formation*, downloadable from the www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/intentional-discipleship.aspx

The report shows how across the Anglican Communion Christ is calling us back to making disciples of the whole people of God.

This is well illustrated by the experience of Lusaka Diocese in Zambia where Bishop David Njovu explains how a large conference for all church groups in 2014 experienced a collective transfiguration: ‘We recognised that our people make an emotional response to the gospel, but have no deep roots or deep relationship with God. We decided we needed to disciple our people and to do so intentionally’.

It is this need and imperative that the report articulates prophetically as a movement of God in his Church with the potential to renew the whole people of God, in our mission to the whole world.

This raises immediate questions for theological educators and trainers:

1. How are we undertaking and facilitating such study within our colleges, seminaries and courses?
2. What are the implications that flow from a communion-wide focus upon Intentional Discipleship, for our work as training institutions, our approaches and our curriculum?



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Bishop David Njovu

For more information on TEAC go to <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/theology/>

1. How are we undertaking and facilitating such study within our colleges, seminaries and courses?

Richard Tiplady, Director of Mixed Mode Training in the Scottish Episcopal Institute recently facilitated a study week focussed upon Intentional Discipleship. He led all their ordinands in studying the report and related materials about the Five Marks of Mission and a Jesus-shaped-life. He asked them to consider how this focus might shape their future ministry. His programme is available as a template for others to use & adapt.

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Maybe you are already doing something similar? Let the TEAC staff know and we will gladly share any resources that you wish to make available.

2. What are the implications that flow from a communion-wide focus upon Intentional Discipleship for our work as training institutions, our curriculum and our accreditation?

Here TEAC offers a few initial reflections and challenges with which you are invited to engage:

1st The first relates to the Great Commission and the vital importance of formation: ‘Teaching them to *obey* everything I have commanded you’ (Matthew 28.19). It is not sufficient to know about, learn or understand the Christian faith: the goal and acid test of all discipleship is obedience, an active following of Jesus that leads to a transformed life. How then, do we deliver theological training that effectively forms disciples in living transformed lives that others can imitate?

2nd A related issue is how we assess this kind of formation within current accreditation structures in our training institutions. This may be particularly difficult where

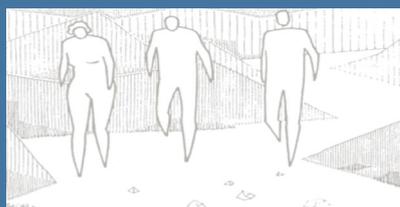
accreditation bodies have a secular mind-set that leans towards ‘objective’ head knowledge, rather than transformation of ways of living.

Vocational training courses such as nursing sometimes provide better models of accreditation for this kind of learning.

3rd
4th How do we make the theological resources of our institutions directly available to the whole people of God?... And how might we better equip our students with the tools and skills to disciple and empower the whole people of God for a whole-life discipleship? ...

“They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together” (Luke 24:32-33)



Here are some of the best tools and approaches that are being used around the world which encourage living a whole-life discipleship:

Theological Education by Extension (TEE) is widely used in varied forms worldwide. One popular and growing version offers local group-based learning, to form people for mission and ministry. These resources, originally written by Anglicans in South America, are available in over 70 languages through seaninternational.com

An excellent overview is the book *TEE in Asia: Empowering Churches, Equipping Disciples* (edited by Hanna-Ruth van Wingerden, Tim Green and Graham Aylett) showing the use and potential of these ‘Tools that Equip and Empower’ (ISBN 978-1-5272-3054-5 and available to order through Lulu at tiny.cc/utcx4y)

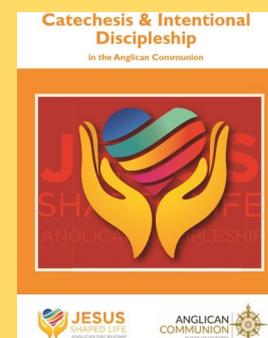
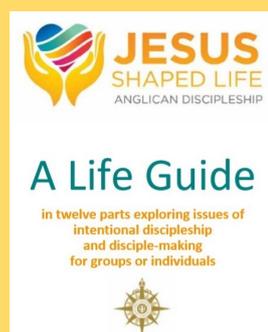
The Possible World (CMS) is a practical, mission focused course designed to challenge, equip and make disciples. This seven week course explores what prophetic mission means and delves into vital issues such as hospitality, care for the environment and injustice. It has an international flavour. The study includes videos as well as practical suggestions on group or individual actions. www.churchmissionsociety.org/resources/possible-world

Asset-Based Church and Community

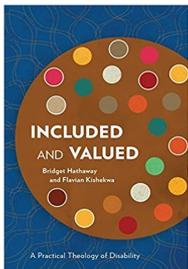
Transformation (ABCCT) is a family of approaches that encourage churches to work *in* and *with* communities. The goal is to see poverty reduced holistically and sustainably - to bring life in all its fullness. All involve the church working *with* the community rather than *for* the community. The process begins with Bible studies which help local churches discern how they can be part of God’s mission in the world, of bringing *in* and living *out* the Good News of the Kingdom. They are now used in many Anglican provinces. www.anglicanalliance.org/development/church-community-mobilisation

African Pastors Fellowship (APF) have produced a mobile app that places an entire library of resources into the hands of rural pastors for the first time, including many resources on discipleship. www.africanpastors.org/evitabu

Living and Sharing a Jesus-Shaped-Life (JSL) is a range of seminal resources produced by the Anglican Communion Office to encourage intentional discipleship and help people explore the implications of this focus for themselves. These include a JSL brochure, JSL booklet, JSL Catechetical Framework rooted in the 5 Marks of Mission and a set of 12 JSL Life Guides. These resources, like the original report, are being made available in a range of languages (Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish). A five session Training PowerPoint of the JSL booklet is also available in English. This and the full twelve session course available at anglicanwestmalaysia.org.my/resources-and-publications/



London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (LICC), originally founded by Revd Dr John Stott, offers a range of ideas and resources to envision and equip ordinary Christians in a whole-life Discipleship. Their dream is that every Christian would go into their neighbourhood confident that God can work through them, confident that Jesus is good news for the people they meet, good news for the things they do, good news for the organisations they engage with. Videos and online resources include www.licc.org.uk/



Disability Training

An excellent guide to disability awareness and training for theological education institutions by Bridget Hathaway and Flavian Kishekwa is available from here:

www.barnesandnoble.com/w/included-and-valued-bridget-hathaway



God's Justice: Just Relationships between Women and Men, Girls & Boys

[www.anglicancommunion.org/
media/348551/TEAC-Just-relationships-
women-men.pdf](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/348551/TEAC-Just-relationships-women-men.pdf)

Portuguese, Spanish & French from paulo.ueti@anglicancommunion.org

Theological Education *Journal* of the Scottish Episcopal Institute

The Scottish Episcopal Institute's *Journal*, which is peer-reviewed, electronic and free-of-cost, seeks contributions – articles or book reviews – on the theological life of the church on any level. The *Journal* is a vehicle for debate on current issues in the Anglican Communion and beyond, including what it means to think as an Episcopalian in Scotland. www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/sei/sei-journal/

International Ecclesiology Seminars preparing for the Lambeth Conference 2020 Westminster Abbey, London

Between 8th November 2019 and April 2020 international panels of speakers will come to Westminster Abbey to reflect on specific themes related to Anglican identity and the nature and mission of the Anglican Communion in the twenty-first century. More details available from tiggy.sawbridge@westminster-abbey.org

Anglican Churches in Post-War Nation-Building Conference on Saturday 4 April 2020, 9.30-5.00 Prior's Hall, Durham Cathedral, UK

Papers on 'reconciliation after World War Two'; 'social reconstruction in Britain after 1945'; 'a theology of restitution as embodied reconciliation in a community in post-apartheid South Africa'; 'the coherence of Middle Eastern societies today: Anglican and Islamic political thought'. To book a place please contact Prof. Michael Snape michael.snape@durham.ac.uk Bed and breakfast accommodation available in Durham.

Invitations to Kolkata and Kerala in India

If faculty of theological institutions of the Anglican Communion would like to visit Bishop's College Kolkata (previously Calcutta) or Kerala United Theological Seminary for an experience of Anglicanism in a different context then the colleges are open to receive visitors. They have comfortable guest rooms and if needed can provide subsidised rent and meals. For Bishop's College contact Rev Dr Sunil Caleb, Principal, smcaleb@gmail.com See also www.bishopscollege.ac.in For Kerala please contact Rev Dr David Joy kutseminary@gmail.com See www.kuts.edu.in

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