

Theological Education in the Anglican Communion (TEAC)

Resources Bulletin - March 2021

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Editorial

Welcome to this new format for TEAC's Resources Bulletin. It is a response to your feedback from the survey TEAC conducted at the end of last year. Thank you for all the responses which were overwhelmingly positive.

TEAC's current programme of international webinars (details below) aims to encourage partnerships between seminaries and with local church training and education. Thank you to everyone who joined the first TEAC webinar on February 23rd and 25th. It was lovely to welcome over 100 participants from five continents over the two days. The technology presented some challenges, especially on the second day, but the webinar was not disrupted and the sense of collaboration and inclusiveness was strong. Thank you to all the contributors. The papers are now available in four languages at <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/theology/theological-education/theological-education-webinars.aspx>

The main article below develops this theme in a rich way, with a description of a number of programmes run by Tamilnadu Theological Seminary in South India. Thank you to Dr Kalaiselvi for opening a window onto what is possible. Please contact her for more details on any of the programmes (ttsprincipal1969@gmail.com).

There are also some news announcements and a book review. If you have items you would like included in the July edition please email them to stephen.spencer@anglicancommunion.org

A SEMINARY SERVING THE LOCAL CHURCH

Revd Dr P. R. Margret Kalaiselvi, Principal and Secretary
Tamilnadu Theological Seminary, India

In-service Training Programme for experienced pastors

My starting point is the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary's In-service Training Programme (ITP), which is innovative. The purpose is to update pastors with ten or fifteen years' service with new theological concepts and new challenges so that they can speak meaningful and relevant messages to their congregations.

Bringing together a small group of pastors and exposing them to new theological concepts helps them to develop their critical faculties on various issues. It also helps to bridge the gap between the senior pastors and newly trained pastors in terms of understanding God and God's involvement in human history.

Fundamentally, theology emerges out of contextual need and the experience of individuals and the masses. Examples of this are public theology, people's theology, dalit theology, eco-theology, praxis theology, contextual theology and so on. It is our belief that God who was revealed in Jesus Christ is experienced in various contexts.

In response to the COVID-19 situation most of the younger pastors took responsibility for conducting worship services, enabling the senior pastors to stay at home. Contextual issues are highlighted through this kind of experience: we see such spontaneous action of younger pastors bringing the diaconal nature of church life to the fore.

Revival of Rural Congregations

A second programme is about the revival of rural congregations (RRC). This is also a unique programme initiated by the seminary which came out of the realization that many rural congregations were abandoned by their churches and their members have become scattered in other denominations such as Pentecostal churches, Seventh Day Adventist churches, the Roman Catholic Church, Salvation Army churches, etc.

We negotiated with the local bishop to permit our students to reach out to affected areas. They then visited and conducted worship service on Sundays. This has helped to bring back members of the scattered congregations and also for students to gain more experience in meaningful church ministry.

In major lockdown situations resulting from COVID-19 only the smaller congregations have been allowed to gather, because they could arrange worship with social distancing. However, communion was not allowed until 2nd December 2020. These small congregations need to be tended all the time especially in the context of the pandemic.

Theological Education for Christian Commitment and Action

Theological Education for Christian Commitment and Action (TECCA) is a laity training programme. A small group of the seminary's faculty go to various dioceses and interact with God's people. A series of meetings and seminars on many theological topics are conducted. A certificate of participation is issued after a year. This has helped participants to improve their self esteem as partners in the theological journey. It also contributes enthusiasm and a proper perspective to the church and its various ministries.

In response to COVID-19 many lay people took many initiatives to reach out to those in need by organizing small prayer groups and conducting worship services. Through these a lot has been learnt. Most of the leaders were trained by TECCA. Many lay people made efforts to meet the unreached masses who live on the periphery, supported by sharing the resources provided by the church. This has helped us to realize that working for people is working for God.

Church Women Programme

CWP is a programme for the empowering of women of various categories. They are brought together to meet each other and a space is created to share their views and news about the role of women in the church. Women such as deaconesses, ordained ministers, theologically trained persons, women workers, womens' fellowship leaders, church elders, and bible women are all encouraged to come on various occasions. The early church in the Christian tradition encouraged women's participation greatly and this programme continues that.

The emancipation of women and children and awareness of the benefits of education helps them to identify issues related to women. It also creates a sense of solidarity between them. Women and children are great supporters of the Indian churches. We believe that Jesus Christ initiated women's participation throughout his ministry. They stood with him from his birth to his resurrection. Jesus trusted them to tell the good news to the world.

Finally, friends, God created humans and breathed God's breath into them. Therefore the life that we have is a gift from God. I greet each and every one of you, and pray that you may have fuller life in this New Year.

NEWS

Webinars on Theological Education

For faculty and staff of institutions and courses and church leaders and educators, with key note speakers and discussion

NEW TOPICS for the second and third set of webinars

1. Collaboration between Seminaries and Church-based Theological Education - Opportunities and Challenges

with Prof. Yak-hwee Tan, Dr Tim Green and team from the Increase Association and Bishop Gonçalves of Brazil

The papers from this webinar are now available in four languages by [clicking here](#).

2. Leading Seminaries and Theological Colleges – a forum on the challenges and opportunities

with Revd Canon Dr. Vicentia Kgabe, Rector, College of Transfiguration, South Africa, Rev. Dr. Sunil Caleb, Principal of Bishop's College, Kolkata, India and Rev Dr Pedro Triana of the Episcopal Church of Brazil

April 20th - 3pm GMT

Register in advance for this meeting [here](#).

Interpretation available (Spanish, Portuguese)

April 22nd – 7am GMT

Register in advance for this meeting [here](#).

Interpretation available (French)

3. Women in Theological Education - a forum on the challenges and opportunities

with Rev. Dr Gloria Mapangdol, Principal, St Andrew's Seminary, Manila, Episcopal Church in the Philippines; and others

May 25th - 2pm GMT

Register in advance for this meeting [here](#).

Interpretation available (Spanish, Portuguese)

May 27th - 7am GMT

Register in advance for this meeting [here](#).

Interpretation available (French)

Being Anglican forthcoming online study materials

Being Anglican Part 1: Learning from Our Roots

An introductory course on Anglican spirituality, church life and mission, for study groups at Certificate level (in 20 sessions) in English, Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish and French.

Online publication mid-2021.

Being Anglican Part 2: Learning from Global Perspectives

Video testimonies and commentaries with study notes.

The working group is currently collecting short video testimonies and commentaries from across the Communion and editing the collection for uploading to UTube.

To be published in English, Portuguese, Spanish and French

Online publication at end of 2021.

Preparing for Lambeth books

The three books, with a range of informative papers from across the Anglican Communion, are now available to order from Amazon

[Walking Together: Global Anglican Perspectives on Reconciliation](#)

[Witnessing Together: Global Anglican Perspectives on Evangelism and Witness](#)

[Listening Together: Global Anglican Perspectives on Renewal of Prayer and the Religious Life](#)

Study guides are also in preparation. Online seminars on the books also being planned in partnership with the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide.

Young Theologian's Network

An invitation to join the Young Anglican Theologians Project

'We are a group of young (18-39) Anglican theology students, practitioners and writers looking to start a project to support and encourage the ministry of young Anglican theologians. This will raise the profiles of young Anglican theological talent and also offer a networking opportunity for the next generation of theologians across the communion.

At present we envisage a blog to include short pieces by early-career theologians, particularly those who have good theological ideas, but who might not be able for many reasons to get their theological work into formal theological journals. Whatever we do get up and running will be self-consciously broad in its Anglicanism, including different points of view which exist within the communion. It will include theology in a variety of media, probably involving video interviews with the contributors in order to facilitate inclusivity and accessibility.

We are at the stage of exploring who our possible partners might be, and also of assembling a core group to discern the way forward, to get us to launch. We are also looking to assemble a pool of people willing to do some editorial work (no previous experience required, though previous experience of writing or sharing your ideas in other media will be valuable).

Does this project sound like something God is calling you to take on, or one you would like to be part of in a contributing capacity? If so, please consider joining us - we are really excited to connect with our siblings in Christ across the Anglican Church and plan the project together. If you would like to learn more, please get in touch, providing a short paragraph introducing yourself and telling us why you'd like to be involved. This will help us get to know each other better. We look forward to hearing from you!

Best wishes

Fr Thomas Sharp and Hannah Malcolm (Young Anglican Theologians)

The network aims to be multilingual.

For more information please contact:

Fr Thomas (fr.tomsharp@gmail.com) or Hannah (hannahmmalcolm@gmail.com).

Seminary declares Climate Emergency

St Hild College, an Anglican seminary in the north of England, has formally recognised the climate emergency. It is not only reducing its carbon emissions and working towards carbon neutrality but is seeking to encourage the wider church to wake up to the emergency. In 2017 St Hild became the first theological college in England to be awarded an Eco-Church Bronze Award by the Christian environmental agency A Rocha, and since then environmental concerns have remained high on the college's agenda due to the work of a student-led Eco-Team. The group is now pushing forward with the college's plans to address the climate crisis and to spread an urgent message of change to all its partner organisations.

St Hild hopes to influence not just the churches in which its students serve but also schools, charities and businesses that church members are involved in. Mark Powley, Principal of St Hild, has commented that "recognising a Climate Emergency is crucially important, and I am delighted St Hild is taking this step. As Christians we are responsible for protecting God's creation – and part of this means we must speak out about climate change. The crisis is happening now. Extreme weather patterns, rising sea levels and high levels of atmospheric carbon are resulting in catastrophic suffering for our fellow humans and the animal world."

Free online talks on Anglican history

Talks by Dr Fergus King of Trinity College, University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia, are available from the following links:

Roots of Anglicanism - <https://vimeo.com/346776697>

The Book of Common Prayer - <https://vimeo.com/346776762>

Origins of the Anglican Communion - <https://vimeo.com/505043058>

The Anglican Communion Today - <https://vimeo.com/505053143>

TEAC Resurces Bulletin **in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese**

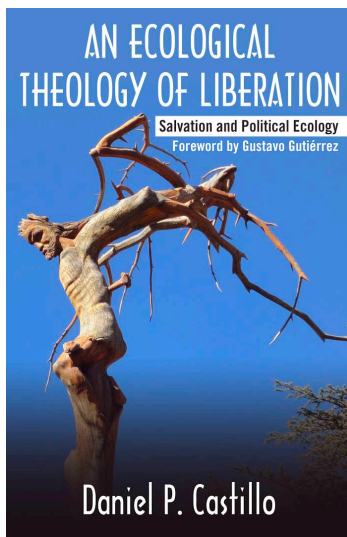
July 2019 - Introducing TEAC
November 2019 - Education for Discipleship

March 2020 - Reading the Bible in Context
June 2020 - Studying Anglican Doctrine
November 2020 - Education for Discipleship in a COVID World

Available at
<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/theology/theological-education.aspx>

Book Review

"An Ecological Theology of Liberation, Salvation and Political Ecology"



It was with great curiosity, joy and enthusiasm that I read the beautiful work "An Ecological Theology of Liberation, Salvation and Political Ecology", written by Daniel P. Castillo, 227 pages, published by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, in New York, United States of America in 2019 with ISBN 978-1-62698-321-2. The book has three parts: I. Structuring an eco-liberationist discourse, II. Interpreting the Word of God and III. Christian Praxis in a Globalised World.

It is a work written from the perspective of integral (liberationist) ecology and liberation theology that draws out practical implications from this. It has been very well written and is absolutely appropriate for the times in which we are living in. It develops an extensive, well-founded and profound reflection on the paths of ecology and eco-theology, broadening and questioning the journey made, and alerting us to the importance of "politics" (the order and care for common good) in this approach.

It does so from the foundations of classical Liberation Theology, very well-articulated by Gustavo Gutierrez and some of his followers. Castillo's reflection includes, as a source, the great work of Pope Francis on integral ecology, from the encyclical *Laudato Si*, which offers complements and extends the work already done by classical liberation theology.

The SEE-JUDGE-ACT methodology is the backbone for the reflection of the book, which is already very dear to the Latin American and South African theological tradition.

Contact the TEAC Team

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