



TEAC

Theological Education in the Anglican Communion

Resources Bulletin

July 2021

Editorial

The COVID19 pandemic continues to affect theological education in major ways. In a recent meeting of Canadian heads of Anglican theological colleges some of the lessons were helpfully described as follows: using Zoom for classes works wonderfully for some but not for others; access is easier, with students joining from all over the country, which is removing the sense of colleges being 'ivory towers'; lay education courses have bigger uptake when offered online; training and orientation for tutors and students requires an enormous amount of extra work; zooming works best if tutor and students already know each other; the mental health and wellbeing of students needs careful monitoring and support; building informal mentoring relationships into the regular routine is very helpful; it is easier for some students to hide in online learning and then not to experience the kind of interpersonal challenges which can lead to growth; being online makes it more difficult to resolve harassment and bullying; teaching is different when delivered online and good pedagogy is needed eg. there needs to be

time to linger and engage in conversation during tutorials; technical support is crucial; worship is much better attended; after worship, time for lingering in small groups is very worthwhile; many older students are not interested in returning to the campus...

If you have other comments and suggestions for online learning please let me know and I can include them in the next edition of this bulletin. (stephen.spencer@anglicancommunion.org)

With environmental challenges becoming ever more serious, and with the UN's COP26 conference taking place in November, this edition of the Bulletin is giving special attention to a valuable ecological resource already available in English through the Anglican Communion website. Bishop Humberto Gonçalves introduces the Anglican-Orthodox text *Stewards of Creation* below. TEAC has commissioned translations into Spanish and Portuguese and these are [available at this link](#).

Stewards of Creation: Introducing an Inspiring Anglican-Orthodox text

*Bishop Humberto Gonçalves
Porto Alegre, Brazil*

This agreed text published in 2020^[1] arises from the whole trajectory of theological construction carried out by the Anglican-Orthodox Commission (ICAODT), but especially from their statement published in 2015, *In the Image and Likeness of God: A Hope-Filled Anthropology*. After that statement was published the commission, of which I was a member, took on the task of developing specific themes within it. As they wrote in 2015, 'In the second part, yet to be drafted and agreed, we intend to indicate the practical consequences that follow from these theological presuppositions.' (ICAODT 2015, p. ix)

The theme of ecology soon emerged as the most urgent and one where there would be great communion of thought and action between the Anglicans and the Orthodox. Inspired by prayer that accompanied the commission's meetings, the expression 'And it was good' emerged as a key note and we quoted it in the preface of the 2020 agreement. It is also the antiphon of the liturgy of creation that opens the Bible (Gen 1.10,12,18,21,25,31).

The development of the theme was guided by two axioms: that the human person is the 'image' (*tselen, eikon*) and likeness of God, in the sense of being participants in the creative action (ICAODT, 2020, p.7); and that the *Divine Logos* and the vital energy or 'logos' (p. 8) emanates from this. From this emerges the theo-anthropological-ecological vision of human persons as 'co-workers with God (...) in the ongoing, dynamic process of divine revelation and creation' (p.9). This leads to the insight that 'the biblical narrative reveals that God has committed the stewardship of creation to humankind (Gen 1.28-29); which in turn commits us to the care of all created things (Gen 2.15,19,26,29; Ps 121.7-8; Jer 2.7). Because the meaning of human life is to collaborate with creation this also reveals humanity's responsibility towards the environment. We find, then, that while we have often interpreted 'dominion' (Gen 1.28) as 'arbitrary and tyrannical domination' we should really understand it as 'humility in self-giving service' (p.16; cf. ICAODT 2015, p.28).

In Christ we receive the mission of reconciliation with God, as *stewardship and priesthood* (see Chapter 3). This understanding, that also derives from previously agreed texts (eg. *The Church of the Triune God*, 2006), allows us to again see the Holy Eucharist as an experience where we can experience 'the sacredness and giftedness of creation' as we participate as 'persons created according to the divine image when exercising our royal priesthood (I Pe 2.9)' (2020, pp.23-25).

Among the fathers and mothers of the Church we highlight Gregory of Nyssa who proposes that humanity and nature should live in peace (2020, p.30). Similarly we highlight the *Philokalia* which challenges us to achieve 'the knowledge of the speech of all creatures' (2020, p.32; cf. *The Way of a Pilgrim*, pp.31-32).

Both Anglicans and Orthodox have come to highlight a call and commitment to the integrity of creation. Since the 1980s this collaborative action has been shared ecumenically through the World Council of Churches, which proposes to 'preserve the integrity of the whole creation order' (2020, p. 34). Different documents and actions that have marked the trajectory of our churches on this issue are also recovered, concluding that 'the moral crisis of climate change is an opportunity to find purpose in joy, and to respond to our creator's charge' (2020, p.45).

The document then comes to a list of tasks to which churches and people are called in their life and mission, with the dramatic question, 'How Then Shall We Live?' (Chapter 6). There are eight lines of action, each of which will require further study, reflection and strategic planning. In brief they are: (a) to protect and conserve diversity and ecosystems; (b) to restrain destructive powers and promote the preservation of our planet; (c) to prevent pollution and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, use of plastic and nuclear power; (d) to cherish the gift of creation for future generations; (e) to recognise ourselves as priests of creation in our Eucharistic liturgies; (f) to listen to the voices of those affected by climate change, pollution, and loss of biodiversity; (g) to reclaim the insights of asceticism as support for overcoming consumerism; (h) to bear witness that care for the environment is part of a ministry of reconciliation and restoration; (i) to work to review how economic systems treat nature's resources and promote sustainability for all people (2020, pp. 47-49).

The document ends in prayer where, despite the adverse reality and the difficulties we encounter, we are called to carry out God's Mission and feel the joy and fullness of communion with everything created:

Go out into the world rejoicing and encounter the Creator who waits to meet you there; rejoice in its richness and diversity and live as those who praise God for its bounty. (2020, p.51)

[Click here to download Stewards of Creations](#)

[1] The Canterbury Statement [available here](#)

NEWS

TEAC webinar papers now available

The current series of TEAC webinars concluded on May 25th and 27th with 70 participants from around the world discussing the role of women in leadership in theological education. Papers came from women principals and deans in Mexico, Kenya and the Philippines, with interpretation into Spanish and Portuguese. There were participants from the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia. Archbishop Linda Nicholls of Canada chaired the webinar on May 25th and Professor Esther Mombro of St Paul's University in Kenya chaired the webinar on May 27th. Prof Mombro summed it all up by saying that women had crossed many rivers but still needed to cross oceans.

Papers on 'Women in Leadership in Theological Education: Challenges and Opportunities' were given by

- The Very Revd Sally Hernández, Dean of the Cathedral of San Jose de Gracia and professor at the San Andrew Seminary, Anglican Church of Mexico
- The Very Revd Gloria Mapangdol, Principal, St Andrew's Seminary, Manila, Episcopal Church in the Philippines
- The Revd Diana Iris Cabello, Director of the Centro de Estudios Teologicos San Andres, Diocese of Western Mexico
- The Revd Dr Lydia Mwaniki, Director for Gender and Women, All Africa Conference of Churches, Nairobi, Kenya

The papers are now available in [English, French, Spanish and Portuguese at this link](#).

Leading Seminaries and Theological Colleges

Wide ranging papers from different continents on the context and challenges of leading seminaries and colleges are now available on the TEAC website. They are from the second TEAC webinar in April and are available in [English, French, Spanish and Portuguese](#). The papers are by:

- The Revd Dr Pedro Triana of the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil
- The Revd Canon Dr Vicentia Kgabe, Rector, College of Transfiguration, South Africa
- The Revd Dr Sunil Caleb, Principal, Bishop's College, Kolkata in the Church of North India

[Click here to view the papers.](#)

Collaboration between Seminaries and Church-based Theological Education

The first of the TEAC webinars, in February, was attended by over 100 participants from North and South America, Africa, Europe, Asia and Australasia, with proceedings interpreted into Spanish, Portuguese, French and English. The papers are available in [English, French, Spanish and Portuguese](#):

- 'Social Location and Theological Education' by Professor Yak-hwee Tan of Tainan Theological College, Taiwan
- 'On taking context and community seriously' by Bishop Humberto Gonçalves Porto Alegre, Brazil
- 'TEE as a significant educational tool for church-based theological education' by Dr Tim Green, Dr Graham Aylett and Dr Lyn Pearson of the Increase Association, Asia

[Click here to view the papers.](#)

Looking Ahead – TEAC Webinars 2021-22

The next set of theological education webinars will look at pressing issues for theological education in different regions of the world. One will look at pressing issues in Africa, another in Asia, another in the Americas, and another in Oceania and another in Europe and the Middle East. The webinars will be arranged at times convenient for each region, beginning in October 2021. They will be open to all (pre-registration required).

Call for Papers – if you would like to offer a paper of 1200 words for one of these webinars please send an email to stephen.spencer@anglicancommunion.org with a short description of the content of your paper. Suggested topics – the content of the curriculum; models of learning that blend online learning with context-based learning; partnerships between colleges and church-based education.

Being Anglican: Online Study Materials *UPDATE*

Being Anglican Part 1: Learning from Our Roots

This is an introductory course on Anglican spirituality, church life and mission, for study groups at Certificate level (in 20 sessions). English, Portuguese and Spanish editions will be published later this year. An Arabic edition is currently in preparation by PTEE in Jordan. The Relay Trust is working in partnership with TEAC to produce a lay education edition for use in church-based education in the developing world in English, French and other languages.

Being Anglican Part 2: Learning from Global Perspectives.

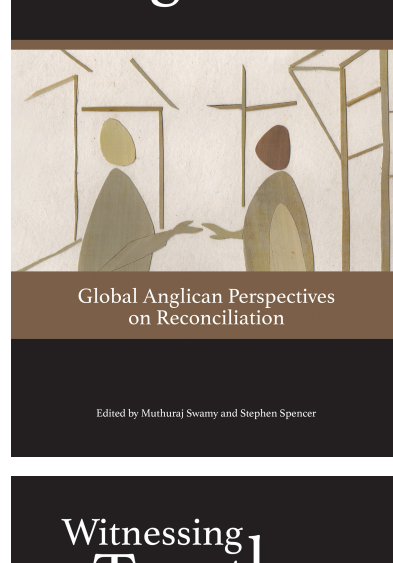
Video testimonies and commentaries for students.
The working group is now engaged in the editing and production stage of this innovative learning resource, to be released on YouTube at the end of 2021, in English, Portuguese, Spanish and French.

Global Anglican Perspectives on Reconciliation, Evangelism and Prayer: Details and Study Guides

Three collections of challenging and enriching papers from across the Anglican Communion are available to order from Amazon, with the option of ordering them from within your own region of the world –

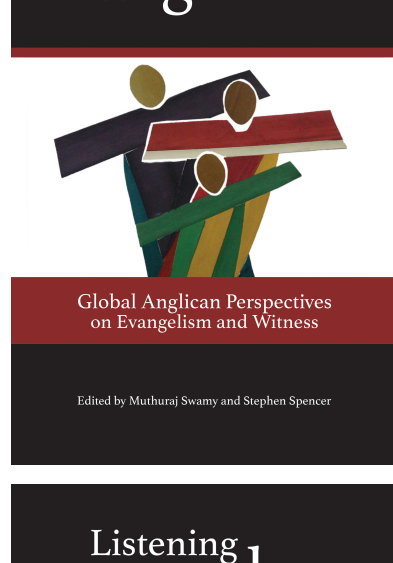
[Walking Together: Global Anglican Perspectives on Reconciliation](#)

In Walking Together, global Anglican leaders share difficult and profound experiences of seeking reconciliation.



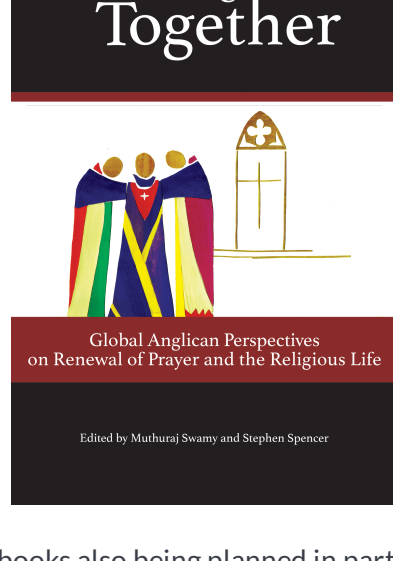
[Witnessing Together: Global Anglican Perspectives on Evangelism and Witness](#)

Witnessing Together focuses on preaching the gospel in different contexts around the world, highlighting practices that are transforming communities of faith.



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

Listening Together focuses on the renewal of prayer and the religious life, with stories and reflections from faithful leaders from across the Communion.



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

Previous Editions of *TEAC Resources Bulletin*

Previous editions of the *TEAC Resources Bulletin* are available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese [at this link](#)

March 2021
November 2020
June 2020
March 2020
November 2019
July 2019

*A Seminary Serving the Local Church
Education for Discipleship in a COVID World
Studying Anglican Doctrine
Reading the Bible in Context
Education for Discipleship
Introducing TEAC*

Contact the TEAC Team

Stephen Spencer

Director for TEAC, based in the Anglican Communion Office in London.
stephen.spencer@anglicancommunion.org

Paulo Ueti

Assistant Director for Lusophone, Francophone and Spanish speaking regions, based in Brazil.
paulo.ueti@anglicancommunion.org

Muthuraj Swamy

Project Manager for Theological Education for Mission, based at the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, UK.
muthuraj.swamy@anglicancommunion.org

