



TEAC

Theological Education in the Anglican Communion

Resources Bulletin

November 2022

The main focus of this bulletin is the Lambeth Conference and it is good to welcome a new group of readers who attended two seminars on theological education at the conference and who signed up for further communications. There are also pieces that look ahead to what is coming up over the coming months, not least the launch of the new Commission for Theological Education in the Anglican Communion (CTEAC). Please pray that this commission, with commissioners from every region of the Anglican Communion, will bring fresh vision and energy to the education, training and formation of all God's people in Anglican provinces and beyond.

The Future of Theological Education in Africa

Summit in Botswana 7th-11th November 2022

TEAC is supporting a forthcoming summit in Botswana on the future of theological education in Africa, convened by USPG. At a time when many theological colleges across Africa are facing sharp challenges connected with recruitment, resourcing and staffing it is vital that stakeholders come together to share wisdom and plan for the future. This consultation is attracting around 50 church leaders and theological educators from the seven provinces which have connections with USPG and the summit's programme led by a wide group led by CAPA (Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa), Stephen Spencer and Paulo Ueti will be attending on behalf of TEAC and look forward to helping to disseminate the outcomes of this summit.

Looking ahead: Commission for Theological Education

TEAC's work has been generously funded by St Augustine's Foundation for the last few years. This is time limited and finishes in early 2023. In its place the Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council, on behalf of the Anglican Communion, has approved the setting up of a new Commission for Theological Education in the Anglican Communion (CTEAC). It will have the following aims:

- To give the Anglican Communion ownership and oversight of this work, demonstrating its commitment to support the learning of the whole people of God, a key component of the Season of Intentional Discipleship;
- To invite each member Church (Province) to nominate a commissioner, who could be a church leader and/or theological educator, to bring energy and enthusiasm to the work and help to extend its reach and impact;
- To help resource online theological education especially in those provinces where good-quality resources for Anglican formation are in short supply;
- To be able to raise funds for the work, including through colleges and seminaries becoming associate members of the Commission and allowing their staff to contribute to its work;
- Not to be based in London but to be run from wherever its commissioners are living and working, though it will be supported in organisational ways by the Anglican Communion Office.

The Commission will be chaired by Archbishop Howard Gregory of the West Indies. It will extend and enrich TEAC's work in years ahead through its commissioners representing every region of the Anglican Communion and through convening working groups for specific projects. An introductory meeting will take place in late November and the Commission will look forward to being officially launched at the next meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in Ghana in February 2023.

Canterbury Cathedral course for seminarians and new clergy

New clergy and seminarians are invited to attend a course at Canterbury Cathedral early next year. More information is [found here](#). The course is richly rewarding and well worth attending if you can find support for flights and accommodation costs.

Looking Ahead: Staff Changes

With CTEAC taking over the work of the department of Theological Education at the Anglican Communion Office the job descriptions of Stephen Spencer and Paulo Ueti are changing. Both are becoming advisers and will help to facilitate the work of the Commission while Stephen will also advise on Lambeth Conference implementation and Paulo will advise on interpretation and translation matters.

What happened at the Lambeth Conference?

Stephen Spencer

The last TEAC bulletin suggested that theological education was going to be at the heart of the Lambeth Conference. This turned out to be the case but in an unexpected way. What happened?

Many who arrived in Canterbury came expecting a row. The mention of Resolution 1.10 from the Lambeth Conference of 1978 in one of the draft Call documents raised the tension. While most aspects of the conference, such as the retreat, worship, bible studies, spouses programme, seminars and visits ran very well there was foreboding about what would happen on the conference floor: would there be sharp disagreement, a split and even a walk out? But as is well known the Archbishop of Canterbury was emphatic that all points of view around the table were based on serious theological reflection and needed to be respected. Also as the host he could not and would not exclude anyone from the conference or any other meeting for which he was responsible. Furthermore any type of voting on the Calls had been abandoned early on in the week and, instead, bishops in their study groups were invited to send in their feedback on the Calls by email, feedback which would then be incorporated in the texts. Updated texts would then be sent to the member Churches of the Anglican Communion to do with as they pleased. Provincial and diocesan synods could decide to adopt or amend them, depending on the needs of their own context. The Calls, then, having been drafted by teams with expert knowledge in their respective fields, would therefore have the benefit of being peer reviewed and improved by the bishops at Lambeth without trying to claim some kind of final or legal status for them. They would remain Calls, though increasingly authoritative as a result of all this consultation, inviting contextually appropriate responses in different places.

A paradigm shift
Once this had become clear the whole atmosphere at the conference changed. The Archbishop received a standing ovation for his intervention and the bishops settled into their working groups to listen, discuss and offer feedback on the Calls. This feedback has now been sent back to the drafting teams and when they have updated their own Calls these will be sent to provinces, as gifts for the life and mission of their churches.

All of this shows how there was something of a paradigm shift in the way the Lambeth Conference was understood to operate. Many participants had come expecting to engage in a kind of council meeting, in which resolutions or their equivalent would be proposed and opposed and voted on to express the mind of the Anglican Communion on a range of issues. Many previous Lambeth Conferences had passed resolutions in this kind of way. But the reality of the Anglican Communion being a set of 42 autonomous churches, with many of them containing a wide range of views on hot topics, could not be ignored. The story of Lambeth 2022 on the conference floor was all about bishops, prompted by the leadership of Archbishop Justin, accepting and welcoming the consultative nature of the conference and feeding their views into the evolving mind of the Communion, a mind also fed by laity and clergy in other ways, so that over time and with faithfulness to scripture and Anglican tradition the *consensus fidelium* (the faithful consent of God's people) could gradually be discerned and embedded in the life of its churches (as has happened on other contentious issues over time).

What, then, of theological education?
All this shows a shift in the place of theological education in the conference, from one of preparing for and informing the activity on the floor of the conference, to one of actually being that activity! This is because the bishops around their 97 small tables were listening and learning from the Bible studies on 1 Peter earlier in the day, from the texts of the Calls drafted by expert teams, and from each other, then reflecting on the subjects in question and forming shared views to pass on through the feedback, an educational learning cycle typical of theological education. Furthermore with the Anglican Communion increasingly committed to discipleship at the heart of its life and mission, and with the essence of discipleship being *learning* as followers of Christ, is this not becoming the case for the Communion as a whole?

Seminars at the Lambeth Conference
There were also two engaging seminars on theological education at the conference, each attended by around 30 bishops and others. The first, chaired by Archbishop Howard Gregory of the West Indies, on theological education in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, considered the recent Guatemala Appeal on Theological Education, an appeal written in the wake of the migration crisis in the Americas ([the Appeal can be read here](#)). See also the TEAC Bulletin July 2022). This was introduced by Paulo Ueti and responses and other reflections were offered by Bishop Sally Hernández of Mexico City, Bishop Ananthu Raj Chelliah of Karnataka Diocese in the Church of South India, Rev Dr Thomas Sharp on behalf of the Young Anglican Theologians Project and Professor Katherine Grieb, Director of the Centre for Anglican Communion Studies at Virginia Theological Seminary. Contributions from the floor ranged far and wide as traditional approaches to theological education were compared and contrasted with the Appeal's call to move theological education 'off the balcony and onto the road' (using John Mackay's phrase). The urgency of the migration crisis alongside the other crises of our time keep this issue very much alive.

The second seminar, on theological education in Africa, was chaired by Bishop Victor Atta-Baffoe of Cape Coast, Ghana, and considered the Statement from the All Africa Council of Churches' consultation in Nairobi in November 2021 which called for theological education 'for sustainable growth in churches and society in relation to the Africa Union's Agenda 2063'. Responses and reflections were heard from the Venerable Kofi deGraft Johnson, General Secretary of CAPA, Professor Esther Mombo of St Paul's University, Kenya, Bishop Vincentia Kgabe of Lesotho Diocese and previously Rector of the College of the Transfiguration, South Africa, and with an external perspective offered by Professor Katherine Grieb. Once again contributions from the floor enriched and broadened the discussion, underlying the urgent need for a coordinated response from dioceses and theological institutions across the African continent. Happily this conversation will be taken further at a major consultation in Botswana later this month (see below).

Grief, Resilience and Hope in the Pandemic

Insights from a Summer Institute in Cambridge

18th-22nd July

Muthuraj Swamy

TEAC, in collaboration with the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide and the Rose Castle Foundation, organised a residential World Christianity Summer Institute in Cambridge, 18-22 July 2022. The theme of the Institute was 'Grief, Resilience and Hope'. It took place in the Henry Martyn Hall, a historic mission building in central Cambridge.

The Summer Institute, which CCCW hopes to make an annual summer event, is an opportunity for Christians from different parts of the world to come together and learn from each other in fellowship. The inaugural Institute went well with over 50 people involved. It was a huge encouragement.

The Institute began with a keynote address by Revd Dr Jooseop Keum, General Secretary of the Council for World Mission, Singapore. The speakers during the sessions (in person and online) came from or had specialist knowledge of Hong Kong, the UK, India, the West Indies, Nigeria, Brazil and Korea so we had a rich mix of how the world had been affected and responded to the pandemic, how the Christian church had helped (or hindered) efforts and how this experience can be shared and improved. The lectures followed a well-planned journey through the Institute's title. Prof Charlotte Summers, Professor of Intensive Care Medicine at the University of Cambridge and had led the city hospital and university's response to the pandemic, delivered a public lecture offering a personal and fascinating perspective.

TEAC brought in three theological educators from the Global South – Brazil, Zimbabwe and India. (Three more couldn't join due to their visas not arriving in time). As well as participating in the sessions and having conversations with other participants from different parts of the world, each of the TEAC participants produced a reflection on the theme of the Institute, in the light of their experiences of the pandemic in their respective local contexts. These will be published online in due course.

Many Cambridge institutions welcomed this important initiative and supported it. Pembroke College and St John's College offered their chapels for opening and closing services respectively, and the University of Cambridge Library organised an exclusive exhibition of rare books and Bibles for the Summer Institute participants. King's College offered a tour of the College and the Chapel.

The Summer Institute papers including the reflections from the TEAC participants are to be published soon, with an aim to make this document available to the worldwide Anglican Communion and to the wider churches.

The second Summer Institute will take place in Westminster College, Cambridge 3-7 July 2023 and will focus on the Bible and Environment Care.

Looking ahead: Consultation for South and South East Asia

TEAC is pleased to announce an online consultation for South and South-East Asia on the theme, 'Ecumenical Theological Education for the Anglican Communion'. This will take place at the United Theological College in Bangalore from 11th to 14th April 2023. It will be a hybrid meeting, with local participants meeting in person and others joining online. Dr Muthuraj Swamy and Professor Israel David will be leading the consultation. More details to follow.

New Resource for Gender Justice

God's Justice: Theology and Gender based Violence is a new study resource which can help Anglicans everywhere live together in mutually loving relationships free of violence and abuse, as Jesus Christ had taught. Written by scholars, clergy, and laity from different parts of the Anglican Communion, the purpose of *God's Justice* is to show how the Bible and Christian teachings can support just, loving, and mutually respectful relationships, and to offer ways that churches can and should respond to gender-based injustice, abuse, and violence. *God's Justice* is rooted in Resolution 16.02, passed by the Anglican Consultative Council in 2015, which encourages all provinces to help girls and boys, women and men to participate in relationships 'that reflect Christian values of love, dignity, and justice'.

[The English edition is available here.](#)
[The Portuguese edition is available here.](#)
[The Spanish edition is available here.](#)

Support from St Augustine's Foundation

Stephen Lyons

The St Augustine's Foundation is an Anglican Communion fund that has, at its heart, a desire to support the deepening and development of theological education across the Communion. It does so by offering financial assistance to both institutions and individuals.

The Foundation's **Innovation Fund** supports institutions (theological colleges, dioceses and provinces) in innovative theological educational projects offering grants for either one-year (up to a maximum of £15,000) or over two years (up to a maximum of £20,000). The closing date for applications to the Innovation Fund is September 15th each year with the outcome known by the end of the following October.

The Scholarship and Fellowship awards are for individuals. The Foundation offers a limited number of each of these annually. **Scholarships** to support applicants undertaking doctoral studies and can be up to a maximum of £50,000 over the three year study period; **Fellowships** to offer a one-off maximum of £2,500 towards projects such as funding of professional development for a church leader in the Majority World; funding of a theologian/theological educator from one Province to spend time teaching at a TEI in another Province; a contribution towards the funding for a licensed minister (lay or ordained) undertaking a specific course of study with a defined outcome or output; funding towards study leave with clearly defined outcomes; or a period of focused work consultancy, a mentoring project; or to aid writing a publication.

The closing date for Scholarship or Fellowship applications is **December 1st** each year with the outcome known by the end of May the following year.

Fuller details of these awards and the work of the Foundation can be found on the [website](#). Also on the website are details of the kind of initiatives previous grants have been awarded for and access to the relevant application forms. For further information or enquiries beyond the website: staugustinef@gmail.com

TEAC Resources Bulletin

Available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese

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March 2021	<i>A Seminary Serving the Local Church</i>
November 2020	<i>Education for Discipleship in a COVID World</i>
June 2020	<i>Studying Anglican Doctrine</i>
March 2020	<i>Reading the Bible in Context</i>
November 2019	<i>Education for Discipleship</i>
July 2019	<i>Introducing TEAC</i>

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

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