



Anglican Peace and Justice Network Report to ACC 18

Meeting

The Anglican Peace and Justice Network (APJN) Steering Group met in England, from December 2nd – 5th 2019. In a spirit of prayerful reflection and sharing, those present affirmed and strengthened the network's mission, which is based on the 4th Mark of Mission: 'To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation'.

The APJN Steering Group affirmed the aim of the network as: to enable and encourage Anglicans working for peace with justice by

- walking alongside those who contribute to peacebuilding
- connecting people with common interests
- standing in solidarity with those working to make a difference to the lives of the oppressed in every society.

The focus of the ongoing work was to be the up-coming Lambeth Conference and Steering Group members committed themselves to gathering bishops for online conversations prior to the Conference. These were to include migration, gender, environmental Justice; reconciliation; advocacy; economic justice; the arms trade, Safe Church, the Church's role in ministering to those who have been traumatized by conflict.

Covid

Covid 19 forced a change of plan.

- It became clear that the Lambeth Conference would not go ahead in 2020
- The Lambeth Conference staff switched their focus to convening the kind of online meetings we had been planning.

Our Steering Committee continued to meet online and we continued to pray for one another and for our troubled world, but we lost the energy and focus we had gained at our in-person strategy meeting.

Sharing Information

- APJN has a dedicated website www.anglicanpeacejustice.net with articles and news.
- Facebook – Our community reached a peak of over 1,000 before it was shut down by Facebook without explanation or opportunity to object. We have relaunched and have a small but growing community.

Lambeth Conference 2022

The Bishops at the Lambeth Conference issued ten 'Calls', including Call 5 Reconciliation. This states:

5.5 We invite the Peace-building function of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Reconciliation team, working with the Anglican Communion Fund and Anglican Peace and Justice Network, to report on ways to develop peace-building response and support for individual peace builders in Provinces experiencing acute conflict at ACC2023.

The call is very important. The APJN has significant links to lay and ordained Anglicans working as human rights advocates and peace builders in the context of acute conflict.

We can provide insights into best practice and find common ground. We can link in initiatives from Provinces in the Global North – for example the Transition Pathway Initiative, and activists on the ground. Local concerns can be heard on places of power and patterns of global oppression monitored. We can offer insights into reconciliation process and theology to inspire hope.

However, we do not have the infrastructure to deliver on this call.

What is needed?

1. The recruitment of a new Convenor for APJN

A new convenor will need to dedicate time to rejuvenating the network and support to run it. Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves does not have the time to dedicate to leading APJN and will step down within three months of ACC 18. He is willing to support the emerging team.

2. A dedicated Staff Link at director level at the ACO

Networks flourish when they have director level support. Reconciliation continues to be a key priority for the Anglican Communion and a dedicated member of staff supported by an enthusiastic APJN team from across the Communion will be needed to work with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Reconciliation team and the Anglican Communion Fund.

3. A budget to work with.

Significant money will need to be allocated in order to support individual peace builders in Provinces experiencing acute conflict. This would not be in direct and immediate support, but the task of networking, that is building relationships, across the breadth of the Communion requires paid people who are able to visit in order to link campaigns and people.

Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves - APJN