



Lambeth Conference Report

ACC – Ghana, 2023

God's Church for God's World: The Lambeth Conference in Canterbury

635 bishops and 464 spouses travelled to the UK in 2022 for the fifteenth Lambeth Conference in Canterbury. A few were unable to travel, so attended online. It was a special time when bishops and spouses were able to meet, enjoy fellowship, pray and study together. The theme of the conference was 'God's Church for God's World – Walking, listening and witnessing together.'

The Lambeth Conference – A journey of 3 phases

As Convenor of the conference, the Archbishop of Canterbury had always intended a process for continuing the Lambeth Conference conversation after the event. When the 2020 conference was postponed due to COVID-19, there was more time and space for a series of pre-conference meetings online too. The Lambeth Conference became an event with three important phases.

The 3 phases of the Lambeth Conference:

- **Phase 1 - 'listening together' (2022):** - Bishops met online for a series of 'Bishops Conversations' and spouses for 'Global Conversations', featuring Bible study and prayer on themes relevant to the conference. Bishops also took part in the online series 'Ministry in a Conflicted World' which focused on peace and reconciliation. These online groups played an important role in helping bishops and spouses prepare and get to know one another before arriving in Canterbury.
- **Phase 2 – 'walking together' (July-August 2022):** The Lambeth Conference met in Canterbury. The conference studied the book of 1 Peter and discussed important themes, including mission and evangelism, safe church, Anglican identity, human dignity, environment and sustainable development, peace and reconciliation, science and faith, discipleship, Christian unity and inter-faith relations. Lambeth Calls were shared in relation to each theme.
- **Phase 3 – 'witnessing together' (2023-2026):** This phase is designed to take forward outcomes from the conference and build on the Lambeth Calls.

This report provides ACC members with an outline of plans for Phase 3.



Phase 3 – Building on Lambeth Conference outcomes

The Phase 3 Group Planning Group

A group has been set up to support the work of Phase 3, chaired by Bishop Julio Murray (Bishop of Panama). It has a diverse membership from the Anglican Communion. There is also a resource and staff group, which is listed on the last page. Phase 3 is planned to run for three years, and the group will continue to update the Primates. The group has already met in January and will meet residentially in February.

The objectives of Phase 3 are to:

- Continue to build on the relationships between bishops and explore together what it means to be a bishop in the Anglican Communion.
- Consider the nature and status of the Lambeth Calls, continue the consideration of the topics they cover, and discern the way to keep communicating them to the churches of the Anglican Communion.

Lambeth Calls

The Lambeth Calls each had a drafting group. Since the event, feedback from the conference on the Lambeth Calls has been given to each of the respective drafting groups. Many of them have already sent revised texts of their calls. The Phase 3 group in consultation with the Archbishop of Canterbury will decide when and how the Lambeth Calls are sent out to the Churches of the Communion. The plan is also that the topics of the Calls will be further discussed by the Bible Study groups.

Theological and Ecclesiological Input

Bishop Julio has asked the chair of IASCUFO (Inter Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith and Order), Bishop Graham Tomlin, and the secretary Dr Christopher Wells, to do some theological and ecclesiological work on issues relating to the Lambeth Calls. For example, what status do they have within the Communion and how are they 'received' by the constituent Anglican Churches? They have agreed to this request and will give the Phase 3 group advice for their February meeting.

Bishops' Bible Study Groups: Continuing Conversations

Since the Lambeth Conference, many bishops have expressed how much they valued meeting in their Bible Study groups. This is a strong outcome of the Lambeth Conference. Phase 3 work will focus on encouraging and resourcing these groups. The plan is to have three or four meetings of the Bible Study groups this year. Some Bible Study groups will need interpretation and help with IT and connectivity.

A team of facilitators will work with us to support Phase 3, many of whom worked as Bible Study facilitators at the Lambeth Conference. The Phase 3 Planning Group have met online with many of the facilitators. They were encouraged to discover that many of them have kept in touch with their groups since the conference.



Resourcing Phase 3

The Lambeth Conference Company has agreed to give some resources to the Phase 3 Group for its work in the coming year. Given that Phase 3 is a core part of the Lambeth Conference and has always been understood as such by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference Company is clear that this is an appropriate way forward. Bishop Jo Bailey Wells will take the lead on managing Phase 3 working in close liaison with Bishop Julio Murray and Bishop Anthony Poggo. Kari Loureiro has been appointed as Episcopal Ministry Support Officer to the Anglican Consultative Council.

The Phase 3 Group

- Bishop Julio Murray (Bishop of Panama) – Chair
- Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy (Archbishop of Perth)
- Bishop Jorge Cabral (Bishop of the Lusitanian Church of Portugal)
- Bishop Danald Jute (Bishop of Kuching)
- Bishop Paul Swarup (Bishop of Delhi)
- Bishop Vicentia Kgabe (Bishop of Lesotho)
- Bishop Anthony Poggo – Secretary to the Group and Secretary General of the Anglican Communion.
- Representative(s) from the Spouses Group (Network)

Resource and Staff Team

- Bishop Jo Bailey Wells – Bishop for Episcopal Ministry at the Anglican Communion
- Stephen Spencer
- Janet Miles (until June 2023)
- Kari Loureiro
- Phil George (until February 2023)
- Bishop Tim Thornton (Church of England) – Resource Team
- Dr Agnes Abuom (Anglican Church of Kenya) – Resource Team

Spouses' Groups: Continuing Conversations

Building on the positive experience for many bishops' spouses at the conference, an interim steering group will begin to work on the planning of a Network for Bishops' Spouses, which was approved by the ACC in December 2022. Caroline Welby is currently in the process of writing to all Primates and their spouses to update them. In February, there will be a consultation with the facilitators that worked at the conference for the Spouses' bible study groups on how the Spouses' Network could work in their provinces.

Keep up with news about Phase 3 of the Lambeth Conference:

Web site: <https://www.lambethconference.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LambethConference>

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/LambethConf>

Instagram: LambethConference