



Secretary General's Report

Outline

1. This report aims to inform ACC members of key matters related to the internal workings of the Anglican Communion Office (ACO) as well as wider matters related to the Communion itself. It covers my activities since I began my role as Secretary General on 1 September 2022, my priorities for 2023, and those matters that are on my heart for the Anglican Communion.

Handover

2. I was grateful to Archbishop Josiah for the time that we were able to spend together before I assumed office. I learned a lot from his knowledge and wisdom, with his many years as Secretary General of the Anglican Communion.

3. I am grateful to the ACC Chairperson, Archbishop Paul Kwong and Vice Chair, Maggie Swinson for their support as I continue to settle into my role as Secretary General. The members of the Management team and other colleagues at the ACO have been supportive during these past few months. I am ever grateful for their cooperation and team work.

4. During my first few months in post, one of my key priorities was getting to know the staff of the Anglican Communion Office. Their knowledge, professionalism and hard work is a key reason why it continues to achieve all it does. I placed particular emphasis on meeting with the Directors who are directly accountable to me, alongside the CEO of the Lambeth Conference Company and the Executive Director of the Anglican Alliance. The aim was to better understand their role, the responsibilities they hold, the main challenges they face, the opportunities that exist, their priorities for the coming season, and their long-term vision for what might be achieved. I learnt a great deal and look forward to continuing to support them in their work. I also spent time gaining a fuller understanding of the key international relationships and processes, from human resource management to the financial workings of the organisation.

Updates on Staff at the ACO

5. 2023 will see the commencement of some new Directors on our leadership team. A new Director of Unity Faith and Order, Dr Christopher Wells, was appointed and took up his role on 1 November 2022. Ms Grace Barlow was appointed Director of Administration and Logistics and took up her role in October 2022. The new Permanent Representative to the United Nations has been appointed and will be taking up the role on 13 March 2023. I look forward to the important roles that they will play as the Anglican Communion Office works to serve the Communion.

6. Within the Secretary General's office, three new appointments have also been made: Ms. Caroline Thompson as Private Secretary to the Secretary General, Mr. Tyler Jordan as Events and Travel Officer, and Ms. Daniella Donkor as Governance Officer. Bishop Jo Bailey Wells was appointed Bishop for Episcopal Ministry in the Anglican Communion, and Mrs. Kari Loureiro as the Episcopal Ministry Support Officer. Mrs. Janet Miles will work to support the Communications work of Phase 3 of the Lambeth Conference. Revd Canon Dr Stephen Spencer will also be supporting the Lambeth Conference Implementation Phase. They all assumed their duties in January 2023. A Senior Communications Manager has also been appointed, and subject to relevant pre-employment checks will begin on 1 March 2023. We look forward to working together with these new recruits, as committed and gifted professionals now a part of the ACO.

7. I am conscious that, as a small organisation, staff retention can be difficult. We have therefore explored how we might be more intentional about developing staff and reflecting their increasing experience in their roles and salaries. The annual cost of living salary increase will be discussed by the IAFAC in February with a recommendation put to Standing Committee for approval. This will take into account current UK inflation rates, salary growth in the UK and particular benchmarking with similar organisations to the ACC. A review of individual job descriptions and corresponding salaries has also begun and will continue throughout 2023 with recommended changes submitted to Standing Committee. Staff development and training has been built into this year's Personal Development Review to identify where we can support staff in their professional growth. We also continue to review our working culture and practices to provide an environment in which staff are happy to work while also maintaining a good work life balance. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, this now includes a hybrid working model between the office and home.

Strategic Plan and ACC Resolutions

8. The Anglican Communion Office Strategic Plan was very helpful for me to understand more of the strategic direction and priorities. I am now seeing several important matters from a new perspective, and others with a greater degree of nuance. I have been reflecting on how we continue to take this strategic plan forward over the coming years. This will continue to involve many discussions with colleagues, both internal and external, as I seek counsel from others, and it will entail much prayer as I reflect personally on the calls God has placed on my heart.

9. The outcomes of the Lambeth Conference will also be incorporated into the development and roll out of the Strategic Plan. I look forward to charting the way ahead with the guidance and support of the Standing Committee over the coming months and years. We continue to implement resolutions of ACC-17 and will keep the Standing Committee of progress. One example of this is a baseline survey of the implementation of ACC resolutions on gender justice revealed that there was some significant barriers and work needed still to be done to achieve gender justice across the Anglican Communion.

St Andrew's House

10. The lease for St Andrew's house from the Community of St Andrew's at a peppercorn rent has been renewed for a further 10 years, until 2032. We continue to be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the building. A review of the building use and guest house was requested by the Standing Committee. Interim findings were reported in February 2022, and I will now be working with colleagues to complete this review and produce a series of recommendations for the Standing Committee's consideration. I am particularly aware that, with the increase in activity and large meetings such as Standing Committee and the Compass Rose Society returning to St Andrew's House, it is becoming difficult for the warden to cope alone, and we have started discussions on the best way forward.

Calls with Primates

11. I am fortunate to have the background of working as Archbishop Justin Welby's Adviser on Anglican Communion Affairs and knowing many primates through this role. Due to the nature of my changed role, the nature of my relationship with primates has also changed. Over the past months, I have been holding one-to-one meetings with Primates, to better understand their provinces. Learning the challenges that they face, and the hope that they hold for the future of the Anglican Church has been very eye-opening and helpful. I have also been seeking to ascertain what key events may be taking place in the life of their provinces over the coming months and years for which my support and/or my physical presence would be helpful. This information is helping me to prioritise my work and travel over the coming months and years.

Provincial Contributions

12. I have raised the issue of Provincial contributions to the Inter-Anglican budget during my calls with Primates. Some have expressed concerns at their ability to provide their contributions given the financial strain on their Provinces during the Covid-19 pandemic. In light of this, we may need to review the allocations of contributions from each Province to reflect these concerns. It is important for us to have a solid financial position to meet some of the needs within the Anglican Communion.

The Lambeth Conference

13. Exploring the theme 'God's Church for God's World' and inspired by 1 Peter, the fifteenth Lambeth Conference challenged us to look outward, to the needs of the world, with the hope of the Gospel. I am delighted that 635 bishops and 464 spouses travelled

to the UK in 2022 to take part in this important gathering. After two years of lockdowns and COVID restrictions, the opportunity to meet face-to-face was very special. It provided space for prayer, fellowship and conversation. Many bishops have shared with me their joy about the conference and are speaking of a rejuvenated Anglican Communion.

14. The Lambeth Conference was designed to run in three phases as follows: Phase 1: 'listening together' (2021/2022) featuring online gatherings and conversations, Phase 2: 'walking together' (July-August 2022) for the event in Canterbury and Phase 3: 'witnessing together' (2023-2026) which will take forward outcomes from the conference and build on the Lambeth Calls. Feedback from the Lambeth Calls sessions at the conference are being taken to the Phase 3 group. They will be shared back as a gift to the Anglican Communion, inviting provinces and dioceses to consider them.

15. Two reports are due about the Lambeth Conference. Firstly, the Lambeth Conference Resources Guide – captures key moments from the event and links to relevant materials and films of sessions at the conference. Secondly, the official conference report, being compiled by Stephen Spencer at the ACO. This will cover Phase 1 and 2, with reports and addresses, from the Bishops' conversations and the conference itself.

16. Bishop Julio Murray chairs a group to work on Phase 3 of the Lambeth Conference, not least on the Calls which relate to key areas of the ACO's work. Bishop Jo Bailey Wells will also shape this work, as part of her role as Bishop for Episcopal Ministry in the Anglican Communion Office. The aim is to enrich the life of the Anglican Communion as we seek to be God's Church for God's World. A Phase 3 report has been compiled to inform the Anglican Consultative Council, which will be presented during the week of ACC.

17. Many bishops appreciated their Bible study groups from the conference. Bishops also met in these same groups for Lambeth Call sessions. They provided space for relationships and at times, some hard conversations to be had in a safe space. Following the conference, many groups are continuing to meet online. Phase 3 work will focus on encouraging and resourcing these groups. A team of facilitators has been set up to support this.

Primates Meetings

18. Primates' Meetings are held at varying intervals around the world. The most recent in-person meeting was a hybrid meeting at Lambeth Palace, London, in March 2022. A virtual Primates' Meeting was held in December 2022. The next in-person Primates' Meeting is scheduled to take place in Rome in the spring of 2024.

Provinces of the Anglican Communion

19. The new province of Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola (IAMA) has now been inaugurated as the 42nd province of the Anglican Communion. This follows the constitutional review and observations made by the ACC legal adviser in liaison with the

senior leadership of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and the proposed province. The inauguration took place on September 24th, 2021, marking the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the ceremony was virtual. I had the privilege of joining the Archbishop of Canterbury to attend the Provincial celebration in Mozambique in November 2022. We visited the northern Capo Delgado region to see the work of the Anglican Church in Mozambique with ecumenical, interfaith and UN partners in peacebuilding.

20. The process for inaugurating the Church of Ceylon as a new Province is pending the creation of the third diocese as per the request of Standing Committee. Lambeth Palace and the ACO are in touch with the Church of Ceylon on this matter and will continue to work with and support this progress.

Anglican Communion Commissions and Networks

21. Since ACC-17, three new Commissions have been established. Firstly, the Science Commission, which has received significant funding from the John Templeton Foundation, and which will make a big impact going forward not least through its hub in Kenya. Secondly, the Evangelism and Discipleship Commission, which is supporting and extending significant work in Church Planting across the Communion as well as Intentional Discipleship through the Jesus-shaped life Programme. Finally, the Commission for Theological Education in the Anglican Communion (CTEAC), which will continue the networking and resourcing that it has initiated over the last five years. The launch of these Commissions demonstrates that the aims of the ACO review and re-structure in 2020/2021 are being achieved, as mission work previously done from within the ACO is now owned and extended by these Commissions whose board memberships are nominated by Member Churches of the Anglican Communion.

22. It was a huge privilege to join albeit briefly the newly constituted Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity Faith and Order (IASCUFO) when they met in Nairobi in December 2022. I shared with them my vision for their work and outlined some of the things that came out of the last Lambeth Conference and need to be taken forward.

23. Commissions and Networks have continued to flourish within the global Covid pandemic, maximising the opportunities to engage virtually. It has been a time of fruitful collaborative work between Networks in the form of webinars, newsletters and resources including themes of Covid, Ecological crisis and Gender Justice. The contexts of the last three years have also inspired renewed energies in vital areas of mission which has revived networks such as the new Anglican Health and Community Network and the Anglican Communion Youth Network. Prominence at the Lambeth Conference was given to the work of the Safe Church Commission highlighting the importance of the need for every province to ensure that they have good policies, procedures and processes in place to keep people safe from harm. There is more work to be done in terms of facilitating greater linguistic diversity and ensuring that Commissions and Networks reach all parts of the Communion. The Communion is deeply enriched by and enabled to participate in mission through the commitment, passion and dedication of hundreds of members who give their time, faith, expertise, funds, stories and prayers to the Commissions and

Networks: “The Church exists by mission, just as a fire exists by burning.” (Emil Brunner). I commend to you the inspiring reports of all the Commissions and Networks in the meeting documentation.

24. In order to build on the work done with Bishops’ spouses through the Lambeth Conference journey, the ACC Standing Committee have approved the formation of a Network for Bishops’ Spouses. An interim group is being set up to oversee the establishment of the Network until a Steering Group is identified with representation from the Regions. The Network for Bishops’ Spouses will aim to promote connection between spouses for fellowship, encouragement and equipping.

Anglican Alliance

25. The Anglican Alliance supported the Communion’s global Covid-19 response, which included convening a global task force and regional working groups to identify emerging issues and church models for effective responses as well as sharing this learning through 35+ regional and global webinars. They also developed an online resource hub with health resources and Bible studies (in four languages) and liaised with the World Health Organisation for briefings for church leaders. Finally, they developed policy and facilitated Communion advocacy with national governments and G7 on vaccine equity.

26. The Communion Forest, a Communion-wide movement for ecosystem protection and reforestation, was launched at the 2022 Lambeth Conference. This concept was developed by a working group of Eco-Bishops, the Anglican Communion Environmental Network and the Anglican Alliance. The Alliance agreed to propagate the initiative as a legacy of the Lambeth Conference.

Upcoming visits

27. At the beginning of February I will be accompanying the Archbishop of Canterbury on an Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Peace to South Sudan, which is a joint visit alongside Pope Francis and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

28. I am currently planning my official visits for 2023 and 2024 to support the provinces and the Communion as much as I can. One of the confirmed visits is a visit to Tanzania in August 2023 with members of the Compass Rose Society as part of their yearly visits around the Communion.

Finances

29. I would also like to reiterate my thanks and appreciation to all the provinces who have consistently made their contributions to the Inter Anglican budget. I would like to thank Compass Rose Society for faithful support to the ACO as well as other partners who continue to support us.

Conclusion

30. As Secretary General my role will focus on building relationships and taking forward the outcomes of the 2022 Lambeth Conference as part of the work of the Phase 3 Group. We will continue to serve as a Secretariat of the Instruments of the Anglican Communion facilitating meetings and events of the Communion. All that we do will be done under the guidance of the Standing Committee with financial oversight made by the Inter Anglican Finance and Administration Committee (IAFAC) and will be to serve the extending of God's mission in God's world through the life and work of the Anglican Communion.

The Right Reverend Anthony Poggio
January 2023