



CUAC ACC-18 Network Report

Report to ACC 18 - Ghana

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PURPOSE:

The Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC) is a world-wide network of Anglican colleges and universities which exists for the mutual flourishing of its members through engaging with each other, their society, and their churches, as they seek to enable their students and faculties to become active and responsive citizens in God's world.

Organizing anything Anglican into a network takes energy, patience and prayer. While we have identified 165 Anglican Higher Education institutions globally, currently only 66 pay dues, as an index of participation. There still is much to do. CUAC's operational treasure is the 12 trustees listed above from five continents who meet eight times a year online. Just finding the timeframe of 13:00 GMT was complex as it spans from 07:00 in Sewanee in the USA to 23:00 in Melbourne, Australia!

Market forces touch everything, and in Higher Education there is a rush to commodification and economic pressure for teaching only skills leading to higher paying first jobs. The Anglican goal, by contrast, is to form a whole person -- one capable of critical thinking, which includes not only expressing oneself, but engaging in conversations that can lead to consensus and to the social commitments of the Marks of Mission. Finally, as much as we encourage the institutions themselves to embrace their heritage, it is critical that dioceses, bishops, priests and laity recognize their responsibility to work, give and pray for their well-being as well.

Relation to the Five Marks of Mission:

A student's journey in Anglican Higher Education is challenged by the opportunity of becoming. Discovering the new autonomy of independent living, the student is exposed to a range of disciplines and topics that offers young adults new perspectives and possibilities as they are preparing for careers and life.

Parallel to this journey is the recognition that life is not just about securing one's own wellbeing, but recognizing that helping neighbors is integral to one's own becoming as well. The special charism of Anglican Higher Education unfolds in the 3rd Mark of Mission, responding to human need through loving service. Our members provide this in pursuits of Community Engagement, assigning students to communities of need to serve and make a difference. One of our members states: "Community Engagement works to cultivate knowledge, resources and relationships to advance the economic, social, and environmental well-being of our communities." This is a global phenomenon, with many colleges requiring a requisite number of service hours to graduate, while others may take a more voluntary approach. In fact, CUAC annually hosts a signature two-week Service-Learning Program in the Philippines, currently drawing students from five countries.

Discovering the human dimensions of social inequities in society often opens youthful eyes to the need to transform unjust structures of society, and to challenge violence of every kind, the 4th Mark of Mission. Unlike Community Engagement, joining movements and protests is organized by the students themselves, rather than by their institutions.

A final emphasis in higher education is students' sensing the state of the world around them in the terms of our Identity and Character Declaration, striving to safeguard the integrity of creation, sustaining and renewing the life of the earth and the diverse communities it supports, upholding the 5th Mark of Mission. The CUAC Climate Crisis Working Party, following the COP meetings, is collecting reports of activities from our members globally.

Activities since ACC-17:

The pandemic was devastating to Anglican Higher Education Institutions' model of transformation through community based education, as well as to their finances. Having to cancel our successfully registered London Triennial in July 2020, CUAC followed our members in pivoting online, offering quarterly Online Seminars. While we started with topics around managing the pandemic, the themes have broadened out, with last November's Seminar VIII on The Promise of Teamwork: Making Teams Work, and they have proved to be rich. While the Online Seminars garnered greater numbers than our traditional in-person Triennial Conferences, like online learning they didn't have the community building potential of the week-long Triennials.

Goals and Plans for the coming three years until ACC-19 in 2026:

Foremost, this July, after a six-year hiatus, we are resuming our Triennial Conferences with our 11th International Conference: **Rediscovering Community: Discerning Truth, Deepening Learning and Enhancing Community** in Melbourne, Australia. The theme addresses the complexities of being back to normal, but with a greatly diminished capacity. In addition to the higher education and community issues, being in Australia requires understanding the Aboriginals' struggle for collective land justice, as well as becoming acquainted with the splendor of creation found there. As the Triennial experience builds our community for networking in the coming years, we are aiming for a Triennial Conference with 90 delegates. Despite ongoing Covid anxieties and the greater cost of travel to Oceania, we are counting on the pent-up desire for building global community to prevail. This conference marks our 30th year, since the Canterbury Conference in 1993, continuing the legacy of the Association of Episcopal Colleges' own 30 years, since its founding in 1962, which thus makes this CUAC's 60th Anniversary.

A principal lesson from my time as General Secretary is that for the CUAC network to proactively address needs and opportunities in Anglican Higher Education requires significantly greater resources than our dues and other income provide, requiring both annual operating income and endowment capital as well. Thus, we have launched a Sustainability Initiative seeking such support. I have consistently found that it is far easier for us to raise funds for colleges and universities in distress than for the network itself. We have been reorienting our publications and outreach from primarily talking to our members to telling our story to a wider world. While most of the church isn't yet particularly aware that there are Anglican colleges, demonstrating the importance and value of the network itself takes nuance and careful tending. Yet, telling our story is so crucial in building a better future for the enterprise of Anglican Higher Education in particular, and for the Communion's unifying role in general.

One highlight to celebrate from the last three years:

Despite a somewhat mixed record, a wonderful legacy of the Episcopal Church's positive contributions to building racial justice has been its supporting black colleges that were founded after the American Civil War to educate children of former slaves. The ministries continue to the two remaining Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Voorhees University in Denmark, South Carolina. Supporting these two of the seven Episcopal

colleges and universities is a primary mission of CUAC. It is deeply challenging, as educating students from low-income families is not easy, and there just aren't enough resources available. The tide turned about seven years ago, when we were instrumental in establishing a church-wide commission dedicated to our HBCUs. One offshoot of this commission has been an annual dedicated offering on their behalf, named for the first black Episcopal priest, Absalom Jones. With the ringing endorsement of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, last year this fund raised over \$200,000, essentially doubling the church's support of the two universities, and it is still growing. This is an example of marshalling outside assistance in a challenge that was simply beyond our own means to accomplish. While there is still much, much more to be done, the Absalom Jones Fund has made the existence and needs of these two universities known more broadly in a game-changing way.

One question for the ACC to discuss:

The Climate Crisis is the foremost challenge of our time, to protect the integrity of creation. As such, it touches on everything Christians are doing and should do. When CUAC addressed COP 26 with an Online Seminar on the Climate Crisis, we discovered that while there were multiple climate initiatives on our campuses, they were generally isolated and disconnected. Perhaps the same is true across the Communion. It would be productive for ACC-18 to explore how all our efforts to address preserving the integrity of creation can be deepened and drawn together.

Jamie Callaway
General Secretary