



ANGLICAN ALLIANCE REPORT TO ACC18 - GHANA 2023

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update ACC on the work of the Anglican Alliance since ACC17 and to request ACC Members' guidance for the Anglican Alliance on emerging priorities.

MISSION OF THE ANGLICAN ALLIANCE

2. The Anglican Alliance serves to connect, equip and inspire the Anglican family to work together for a world free of poverty and injustice and to safeguard creation, as envisioned in the Anglican Marks of Mission. Its vision is grounded in, and shaped by, our shared understanding of God's holistic mission in the world and our call to whole-life discipleship, in light of God's special concern for the poor and vulnerable. The Anglican Alliance's three interconnected areas of work support the Communion in:

- **Sustainable Development** – identifying examples of good practice, building the evidence base, sharing expertise and capacity for holistic mission and sustainable development, convening communities of practice on priority issues.
- **Relief and Resilience** – strengthening capacity in disaster resilience and response; providing a convening platform at times of humanitarian crisis for the local church to connect with agencies and churches across the Communion for prayer and practical support.

"Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven"
Matthew 6:10



- **Advocacy and Influencing** – connecting and resourcing Anglican leadership, both existing and emerging leaders, along with affected communities to speak out on advocacy issues. This includes developing shared policy positions and brokering partnerships with global ecumenical structures, the UN and others, often in collaboration with the Anglican UN Office.

3. The Anglican Alliance's work is grounded in an asset-based approach, whether at community level, or in gathering the assets of the whole Communion. Based on our regional consultations, ACC resolutions and the Lambeth Conference, with guidance from our Board, our strategic focus is summarised in this diagram, with our vision at the centre, surrounded by our ways of working, and, in the outer circle, our current thematic priorities.

ANGLICAN ALLIANCE STRUCTURES

4. The Anglican Alliance was formed in 2011 on the recommendation of the 2008 Lambeth Conference, as an initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion. Its distinguished Board of Trustees, drawn from across the Communion, is chaired by the Archbishop of Central Africa and includes, ex officio, the AC Secretary General. The Anglican Alliance is ultimately owned by the ACC Standing Committee who are the Members of its charitable company. Standing Committee receives its annual audit and confirms trustee nominations. Participants in the Alliance are all the churches, agencies and networks around the Communion sharing its vision and mission.

5. The Anglican Alliance team is dispersed across the Communion, with Regional Facilitators in the Pacific, Asia, Middle East, Caribbean and Latin America, and in Africa working in close partnership with CAPA. The Alliance has a Senior Adviser based in Uganda, and three staff based at the ACO, including the Executive Director. Experience during the pandemic has enhanced the effectiveness of dispersed online working. The Anglican Alliance works closely with other departments at the ACO in our shared role to serve and support the Anglican Communion as it responds to God's mission. The ExDir is part of the ACO Management Team. We also work with Communion Networks and

Commissions, as well as the Lambeth Conference team. We collaborate with Lambeth Palace staff on international issues and reconciliation initiatives. As reported below, the Alliance was significantly involved in the 2022 Lambeth Conference.

ANGLICAN ALLIANCE HIGHLIGHTS: 2019-2023

6. Alliance support to Communion's Covid-19 Response

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, the Anglican Alliance immediately reoriented all its work to focus on supporting the Communion through the crisis. It worked with national churches and local dioceses to promote the most effective actions in responding to Covid-19 and its economic and social impact. With the shift online with interpretation potential, the Alliance now aims to hold its meetings, where necessary, in multiple languages. Key areas of our Covid-19 response included:

- **Our Covid-19 global task force:** This met fortnightly then monthly to identify emerging issues globally and to guide the Alliance's strategic response. It was a very effective and sustained platform to convene the Communion and to analyse the pandemic from a global perspective.
- **Creating an online [Covid-19 resource hub](#):** This covered a wide range of topics including health information, case studies on sustaining worship, pastoral care, humanitarian responses, as well as faith resources, including a range of bible studies. The resource hub is in four languages.
- **Ongoing regional consultations:** Our regional facilitators continued to share learning regionally and maintain our global overview through online meetings with our regional forums. Emerging issues included mental health, impact on young people's education and livelihoods, and vaccine equity and confidence.
- **Partnership with World Health Organisation:** We engaged with WHO's team working with faith communities. The Alliance spoke on two WHO webinar panels on faith advocacy on vaccine issues. Through this, the Anglican Alliance helped facilitate the (re)launch of the Anglican Health and Community Network.
- **Advocacy on vaccine equity:** working with various provinces, in collaboration with the Anglican Health and Community Network. Following our initial [position paper on global vaccine equity](#) which informed advocacy and coordinated action towards the G7 Summit, we supported advocacy to challenge high-income countries to release their [surplus vaccine stockpiles](#). We also advocated for equity in access to new Covid treatments.
- **Promoting vaccine confidence – information and national conversations:** a further major obstacle to global vaccine coverage was widespread vaccine hesitancy, caused by genuine concerns, mistrust and misinformation. The roots of this hesitancy were deep and complex and required dialogue that built trust. Alongside our online resources that answered key concerns and exposed fake news, we promoted national level vaccine conversations, bringing together bishops and others with vaccine scientists who are Christians.
- **Supporting Anglican Communion Primates:** We were invited to brief the Primates' Meeting in late 2021 on the Communion's response to the pandemic. In 2021 we

worked with the Anglican UN Representative to brief the Primates on the proposed WHO global pandemic treaty to prepare for future pandemics.

- **Mental Health:** We convened a global group to discuss the mental health situation and identify what churches are doing and can do to respond in different resource contexts. We supported AHCN to convene a regional consultation for the Asia Pacific region and to facilitate a seminar on this topic at LC2022.
- **Sharing news and maintaining hope:** We maintained communication work throughout the pandemic. See here for an example [briefing](#) on the Alliance and Communion's pandemic response.

7. Environmental and Climate Justice: The Anglican Alliance has sustained a significant work in this area since ACC17. We collaborate closely with the Anglican UN team (ACOUN), Anglican Communion Environmental Network (ACEN) and the group of Environmental ('Eco') bishops. We also connect with the Anglican Indigenous Network (AIN) and Anglican Youth Network (AYN).

- **Climate COPs:** We have played a key role in the COP26 (2021) and COP27 (2022) working groups, convened by ACOUN and chaired by ++Julio Murray. The engagement plan had three priorities: i. Equip and enthuse Anglican leadership; ii. Amplify and accompany young and Indigenous Anglicans' participation (including as part of the delegations); and iii. Promote 'resilience' and 'just financing' for loss and damage due to climate change as key policy issues. With the UN Representative on long leave, the Anglican Alliance played a central role in developing the [policy position paper](#) and supporting the delegation at COP26 and 27 (see [here](#)).
- **One key policy outcome:** establishing an international Loss and Damage Funding Facility – was achieved at COP27 and builds on this work and the Lambeth Call on the Environment. The next challenge will be to ensure that this facility is funded and well implemented.
- **Webinars for Anglican leadership:** We teamed up with the COP26 working group to provide a series of webinars titled: "Anglican leadership for successful climate change negotiations at COP26 and beyond". 3 webinars in 4 languages were held, totalling over 100 participants including 50 bishops and 9 primates.
- **Environment resources:** We continue to expand our online climate crisis hub.
- We support and amplify **grass roots environmental activities** across the Communion. The Alliance facilitators are also involved in **regional initiatives**. Globally we support the work of two **global ecumenical initiatives**: Renew our World and Season of Creation.
- We are inspired by the theological insights from the Anglican Indigenous Network, and welcomed their theological paper and videos on the *Prophetic Indigenous Voices on the Environmental Crisis*.
- **Environment at LC2022:** We helped to shape the Environment thematic strand at the Lambeth Conference including the launch of the Communion Forest (see below).

8. Safe Migration and Human Trafficking

- **Regional consultations:** Since 2018 we have continued to build our work on safe migration and tackling human trafficking, synthesising learning from our 7 regional consultations, held mostly in collaboration with the Salvation Army. This has resulted in a series of resources on faith responses based on our strategic Freedom Framework. This work continued during the pandemic, with a particular focus on vulnerable migrant workers.
- **Online training series:** In 2022 we delivered a 4-part course - Freedom Fridays in February – with over 120 participants in Asia and Africa, convened in partnership with CAPA.
- Our **Regional Communities of Practice** continued meeting online. We have developed work with CAPA in Africa and in the Middle East to develop joint strategies on promoting safe migration and preventing human trafficking, including supporting the roll out of an innovative app.
- We participate in the Communion's online **Working Group on Migration**. The Alliance supported leadership in Latin America to convene two global webinars on migration issues in the Americas.

9. Asset-Based Church and Community Transformation (ABCCT)

- **Major Asia Regional consultation:** In 2019, in collaboration with Tearfund, we convened practitioners from across Asia in Myanmar for in depth reflection on ABCCT approaches.
- **Communities of practice:** We hosted online meetings online throughout the pandemic, lifting up the examples of how churches already imbued with these approaches were coping better with the impact of Covid-19.
- **Contextualisation:** We are supporting churches in the Middle East and East Asia to adapt ABCCT approaches.
- **Anglican Youth Network:** Our staff have supported the re-establishment of the Anglican Youth Network. We are working with them on ABCCT and youth livelihoods and on climate advocacy.

10. Anglican Marks of Mission and UN Global Goals

- **Contextual Bible Studies:** We held a global consultation, with the Ujamaa Centre in South Africa, convening theologians, biblical scholars and development practitioners to create a resource – Re-imagining our World - which brings the **Anglican Five Marks of Mission** into conversation with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**. This has been published online in four languages, with support from TEAC (theological education).
- **Advocacy initiative:** We are working with the Anglican UN team towards a new Communion initiative that will amplify this missional engagement with the UN global goals through the lens of the Marks of Mission.

11. Disaster Response and Resilience

- **The Resilience Course** was delivered online with Episcopal Relief & Development, through 12 monthly online global learning exchanges with over 140 registered participants (especially women and youth) from 42 countries – in 6 languages and 4 time zones. See [here](#) for details. The course is now being rolled out regionally.
- **Partners in Resilience and Response:** Our Partners in Resilience and Response (PiRR) team are now establishing a network of ‘accompaniers’: people equipped and deployed to help the local church in its resilience building and disaster response, with in person or online.
- **Humanitarian Relief Responses:** During this period we have convened calls and developed a joint Communion response in solidarity with the churches facing humanitarian disasters (as well as Covid), including in Pakistan, South Sudan, DRC, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar, Tonga, Brazil, Bahamas and St Vincent.
- **Solidarity in prayer:** We provide regular news and a prayer [update](#) on the global situation. This is core to the Alliance’s mission when first conceived – that no part of the Communion should feel alone in a time of crisis.
- **Food Security:** In 2022, climate change and the global financial downturn, connected with the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and fuel prices, have caused severe issues globally in [food security](#). We conducted a series of meetings to monitor the situation in different regions and to share learning on practical responses.

12. Lambeth Conference: Having been conceived at the 2008 Lambeth Conference, the Alliance committed extensively to the planning and delivery of LC2022, including:

- Helping to design and facilitate the pre-conference online conversations for bishops and spouses.
- Co-leading on the Conference pillar on the Environment and Sustainable Development, including staffing the editing group drafting the Lambeth Call.
- Co-directing the London Day with its focus on the Environment, the SDGs and the launch of the Communion Forest, as a key conference legacy.
- Hosting two interactive stalls in the Resource Centre, for the Alliance and the Communion Forest.
- Planning and co-facilitating eight seminars for bishops and spouses on topics relating to our priorities and in partnership with the relevant Communion Networks:
 - SDGs and Asset-based Church & Community Transformation
 - Environment crisis
 - Climate Change and Communion Forest
 - Migration and Human Trafficking
 - Health Information
 - Mental Health

- Youth livelihoods
- Anglican Mission in Schools
- We are following up on these topics with interested bishops, in some cases organising further webinars.

13. Communion Forest: [The Communion Forest](#) is a global initiative comprising local activities of forest protection, tree growing and eco-system restoration undertaken by provinces, dioceses and individual churches across the Anglican Communion to safeguard creation. The Anglican Alliance and the Anglican Environment Network have developed this initiative guided by a working group of Eco-bishops. Key steps include:

- With the successful launch at the London Day of the Lambeth Conference, we now have a small team established, with two part time Communion Forest Facilitators, focusing on different regions in the Communion and supported by staff at the Alliance and the Environment Network.
- [The Communion Forest website](#) has been launched and developed sharing experience from around the Communion. Social media has been developed.
- The Forest Facilitators have been holding conversations with bishops and development leads in their focal regions, with encouraging feedback. Returning from the Lambeth Conference, bishops have shared the concept and we are seeing growing momentum for Anglican dioceses wishing to join the movement.
- We held a webinar, attended by 100+ people, in different languages/time zones to explain the concept.
- There is significant interest from external partners, e.g. UN Environment Programme, World Wildlife Fund.
- The potential is enormous. After six months' concept testing, we are now developing a detailed strategic plan. We would value ACC's guidance on how best to take the Communion Forest forward.

14. Conclusion:

The Anglican Alliance greatly values the continuing guidance and support from ACC Standing Committee and the advice and engagement by many ACC Members both at periodic ACC gatherings and in the intervening times, participating in our various activities at national, regional and global levels. We welcome ACC Members' guidance as we re-orient the priorities of the Anglican Alliance after the intensive Covid-19 period.

The Revd Canon Rachel Carnegie, Executive Director Anglican Alliance