ACC-15 - The official Networks of the Anglican Communion

The Networks have continued to enhance the life and witness of the Anglican Communion and make their own contribution towards its unity and its vibrancy. Since ACC-14 met in Jamaica in 2009, several of the Networks have convened meetings and face-to-face consultations that have redefined priorities and generated fresh vision and energy for future work and mission. They have produced reports and newsletters and gathered resources on their websites for the use of all Anglicans. Network members have supported and prayed for each other, fostered new relationships, and joined together in advocacy within the Communion and in the broader international community.

The Networks share common challenges such as exploring new ways of communicating and conferencing, understanding how to make space for voices and insights not yet coming to the fore, and finding the funds they need to support any activities beyond electronic networking. Each Network of the Communion operates slightly differently and a revised set of Guidelines for Networks is now needed in order to promote accountability; outline frameworks for setting up sustainable and renewable teams responsible for keeping each Network moving; enhance a common understanding of the nature and value of the Networks, and encourage the Churches of the Communion to support and benefit from their existence. Some Networks also share areas of concern, for example, environmental degradation and climate change displace people and often have a disproportionate impact on Indigenous communities and women and children. There is therefore potential for the Environmental, Refugee and Migrant, Indigenous, Women's and Family Networks to collaborate and share local insights.

For these reasons, the Network representatives present in Auckland for the first part of the ACC-15 programme will meet in consultation over the two days prior to the ACC meeting itself.

I commend the reports of the Networks to you as snapshots of inter-Communion cooperation and relationship, and as evidence of the increasing potential of the Networks to shape and inform Anglican engagement in God's mission in the world.

Below are the reports of the following Networks:

- Anglican Communion Environmental Network
- International Anglican Family Network
- Anglican Communion Safe Church Consultation
- International Anglican Women's Network
- Réseau Francophone de la Communion Anglicane
- Anglican Health Network

Reports will follow separately for:

- Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion
- International Anglican Youth Network
- Anglican Indigenous People's Network

- Anglican Refugee and Migrant Network
- Anglican Peace and Justice Network.

Revd Terrie Robinson, Networks' Coordinator

Anglican Communion Environmental Network (ACEN)

Grace, justice and peace to all as you gather to review the mission and ministry of the Anglican Communion. We are pleased to provide a summary of the work of ACEN since ACC-14. We do so with the full knowledge that creation is in crisis, in fact increasingly in crisis. Extreme weather events in North America, rising waters in the Indian Ocean and Polynesia, melting polar ice caps, the increasing acidification of the oceans, drought in sub-Saharan Africa and the continental United States, rampant de-forestation in South America, loss of global biodiversity, and threats to agricultural due to groundwater depletion are only some of the devastating effects fuelled by the human induced climate change which surround us. The fifth report of the United Nations Environment Programme published on 6 June 2012 is forthright in its assessment:

'If current trends continue, if current patterns of production and consumption of natural resources prevail and cannot be reversed and 'decoupled', then governments will preside over unprecedented levels of damage and degradation . . . Under current models, greenhouse gas emissions could double over the next 50 years, leading to rise in global temperature of 3°C or more by the end of the century . . . Four independent analyses show that 2000-2009 was the warmest decade on record and in 2010, the rate of emissions from fossil fuel burning and cement production was the highest ever recorded'

Such concerns echo those expressed by Anglican provincial representatives who attended the ACEN Meeting in Lima, Peru, 4 to 10 August 2011.

In his introduction to the report, former ACEN chair, Bishop George Browning wrote:

'The relentless drive for exponential growth will prove undeliverable this century; the beginnings of its impossibility are already clear, in the meantime, its consequences for human and non-human life alike are becoming unbearable. Participants vividly described 'various forms of environmental degradation on all continents of the globe: too much water, too little water, loss of bio-diversity, loss of agricultural land to desertification, and to non-productive forms of human activity; pollution of the air, pollution of the land, acidification of the sea, loss of ice and frozen landscapes at both poles, sickness in human life as food becomes scarce and diseases once thought to be confined to the tropics now spread north and south.'

Bishop George continued: 'The twenty-first century calls the whole global community to a level of collaboration, not competition, that we have never previously attained. Because what is called for is at the heart of what it means to be Christian, then the Church as an institution, as well as individuals, must find the courage to move out of the private world of personal faith,

gender and morality into which we have increasingly retreated since the Reformation and Enlightenment and reclaim a voice in the public world of human endeavour.'

In such words lies the essence of an Anglican global witness to care for the environment which sustains all life including that of the church. The church is in a unique position to manage its own facilities and affairs within a sound ecological stewardship. Through its global presence it is able to view creation and our use/abuse of it globally. We join in communal discussions with an understanding of creation as gift to be nurtured well beyond the commercial view where resources are to be exploited for profit alone. Economics intersect with the environment at all times. Creation care is less a technical strategy as a moral imperative. Additionally we celebrate legitimate sustainable development and the right of developing nations to develop their own economies without repeating the historical and contemporary errors of many in the global north.

ACEN acknowledges with gratitude the welcome extended to us by Bishop Bill Godfrey of the Diocese of Peru. We were offered wonderful hospitality and a profound immersion into the life of this vibrant church. We were introduced to many local and national activists and to this end enjoyed the company of Dr Andrew Leake, a leading authority on the effects of deforestation and indigenous community disempowerment in Northern Argentina. We were moved by the stories of struggle for justice in the high Andes and of challenges affecting the poor of Lima and rural parts of the diocese.

Arising out of our time together is The Lima Statement and Action Plan which states concerns and specific actions around Environmental Justice, Deforestation, Mining, Water, Agriculture and Food, Environmental Refugees, Corporate and Consumer Responsibility, Theological Education and Liturgical Resources. Discussion included strategy around global meetings such as the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP) meeting held in Durban, South Africa in December of 2012. We were delighted to include the Interfaith Statement of African Faith Leaders within our report as evidence of a strong interfaith voice in Africa and elsewhere in the Communion.

Our conference theme was Sabbath, for which Bishop Browning prepared a special theological paper. We will publish at ACC-15 seven Sabbath Studies prepared by Bishop Browning which we hope will be used in Colleges, Seminaries, and in parishes. We sense that sabbath is only minimally understood, appreciated and practised in our churches and communities. Sabbath is a prime theological concept and practice which restores order to communities under stress. Sabbath is the confident assertion that all life is not striving for but resting in God. Sabbath both requires faith and stimulates faith simultaneously. Implementation of sabbath principles will change the way we relate to each other, to creation and to God.

If the above themes suggest some of ACEN's priorities and direction, you may rightly ask 'how do we function?' Regardless of size, each province is asked to provide one representative. Sadly, many provinces remain unrepresented. We communicate primarily electronically through a listserv hosted by the Anglican Communion Office in London. Usually the conversation is brief and quiet, but recently when a question around genetic modification was

posed, the conversation immediately livened up, and the varied expertise of our members was immediately evident.

The network currently provides support and encouragement for 20 provincial representatives and over 100 Anglican activists, scholars, and parish and diocesan ministers worldwide. Almost without exception, provincial representatives are volunteers who combine ACEN work with other duties. There are few if any salaried positions devoted to environmental stewardship or advocacy within the Churches of the Communion, which continues to puzzle us given the priority of creation care.

ACEN is blessed with the resources and support of the Anglican United Nations Office and specially its Program Associate for Environment and Sustainable Development, Canon Jeffrey Golliher, PhD. Dr Golliher provides stimulus to the network through research, presentations and information about UN related initiatives and dialogues. He regularly responds to requests from ACEN members and other global Anglican leaders. Through the Anglican Alliance he recently produced a briefing pack in preparation for the Rio+20 Conference held in Brazil in June 2012. Dr Golliher also leads a number of initiatives around the practice of fracking. He will be a featured presenter in an ACEN webinar about fracking to be launched in early 2013.

From time to time ACEN supports the witness of Primates such as Archbishop Fred Hiltz (Canada) who gave a video interview specifically on ecological justice challenges from his own Canadian perspective. Speaking of Primates, and upon the retirement of Bishop George Browning as our first ACEN chair, we are thrilled to welcome Archbishop Thabo Makgoba as our second chair and spokesperson. Archbishop Thabo's willingness to engage in environmental conversations, his intellectual and social abilities, his good connections with environmental groups in Africa and elsewhere, bode well for the leadership of ACEN in the years to come.

In conclusion we invite ACC members to consider the status of their own provincial representation. With respect to our forthcoming resolution, please consider what language will best support and encourage practical and discernible action at provincial levels. How might the church in your respective provinces advocate for climate justice and support sustainable agriculture and the protection of water? Finally, let us all be diligent in prayer and expressive in our worship. Let us pray that the blessing of creation will remain life-giving for all and a testimony to the Glory of God, proclaimed in Christ.

Canon Kenneth Gray, ACEN Secretary
Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, ACEN Chair

International Anglican Family Network (IAFN)

For 24 years, since the 1988 Lambeth Conference, IAFN has encouraged and stimulated workers in family ministries across the Communion. It has promoted the creative and often

courageous work being done in tackling the difficulties that affect families and has shown how this work is rooted in our gospel calling as the people of God.

In the last year the Network has reflected on its work, and how it works, and established a new vision for the future. It is particularly concerned to take advantage of new means of communication and circulates its newsletters electronically as well as in paper form. IAFN also has a blog on the issue of birth registration to which people can add their own experiences and comments.

Newsletters

The newsletters draw on the practical experience of contributors from a wide range of countries many of whom are working at grass-roots level. The printed newsletters are distributed free of charge and we receive reports that they are widely circulated or copied and are valued by those involved in family ministries. For those who have easy access to the internet, copies of the newsletters are also available online at http://iafn.anglicancommunion.org.

Over the past three years our newsletters have continued to cover a wide range of topics including the following:

The family and trafficking, July 2010

Trafficking is a world-wide problem, driven by the same forces that drive the globalisation of markets, with no lack of demand and supply. This Newsletter looks at Anglican and other Christian initiatives across the world such as the Anglican Church of Southern Africa's response to increased trafficking around the Football World Cup.

Reconciliation and the family, Easter 2010

The Church preaches a Gospel of reconciliation. But what work does it do to help alleviate breakdown in relationships and discord within families and society? This newsletter helps to answer this question. There are amazing stories of forgiveness from people who have suffered horrific violence; of patient work to help parents whose relationship is breaking down and of efforts to help child soldiers to re-integrate into their families and society.

Death and the family, November 2009

This is a difficult subject and one often ignored. There are stories of almost unbearable grief and loss, both on a personal scale within families and where large-scale disaster through war or hurricane brings tragedy to whole communities. But the newsletter also tells of Christian faith and hope as people work to bring healing to devastated communities.

Valuing our elders, July 2009

This newsletter celebrates the value that age can bring while also highlighting the importance of facing the realities of age and ageing and describing projects which work to provide support for those who need it.

Investing in childhood, February 2009

The year 2009 saw the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. The articles in this newsletter, drawn from many countries, present a sombre picture. Our investment in children remains woefully inadequate. But many of the stories also tell of resilience and courage; of projects starting from very small seeds which have grown to bring encouragement, support and education to many - girls as well as boys; and of work being done by followers of Jesus who, despite the odds, have not lost hope.

Oceania Consultation on Violence and the Family

In October 2010 IAFN held its third regional consultation on violence and the family, in Aotearoa New Zealand in partnership with the Family Centre, Lower Hutt, which brought together participants involved in Anglican family ministries across Oceania. A major outcome of this consultation was an Action Plan for the Churches which set out the six steps taken by the participants to prepare themselves to tackle violence and the family.

The Action Plan, published in February 2011, contributed to the Primates' deliberations in their meeting in Dublin in January 2010 and to their subsequent Letter to the Churches of the Anglican Communion in which they set out their commitment to combat the global problem of gender-based violence and encouraged all the churches to engage.

The Action Plan has been widely circulated across the Anglican Communion as a tool for provinces, dioceses and parishes to use in their own family ministries. Two further newsletters, published in December 2010 and June 2011, gave examples of how churches and Anglican organisations are already tackling the issue of violence in the family. This important issue will continue to be a focus of IAFN's work.

Birth Registration

IAFN's main focus currently is to highlight the issue of universal birth registration. IAFN is calling on the Anglican Communion world-wide to make overcoming obstacles to birth registration an integral part of its ministry.

Birth registration is not just a legal formality. It opens the door to education and healthcare; it allows people to obtain a passport, to own a house or land and to marry. Yet across the world one-third of children never have their births registered and so miss out on the entitlement to the protection and benefits of citizenship. They are also especially vulnerable to trafficking and abuse.

A newsletter 'Count Every Child', published in November 2011, set out the problem of under-registration and Anglican contributors in Malawi, Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Australia, Philippines, Pakistan, Peru and the UK described ways in which obstacles to birth registration are already being tackled by the churches. IAFN now has a blog at

www.registerbirths.blogspot.co.uk where people across the Communion are encouraged to add their local experiences around birth registration.

IAFN is providing ACC-15 with a briefing pack on birth registration and our plan is to continue to promote this issue and to monitor developments so that we can encourage and support members of the Communion in engaging with this issue.

Dr Sally Thompson, IAFN Coordinator

Anglican Communion Safe Church Consultation

'The abuse of power is an extraordinarily complex multi-layered issue and involves the individual, the group, the community, the institution, is intensely personal, unavoidably political and has far-reaching consequences. If clerical authority is abused or exercised without restraint, humility or respect, the betrayal for all concerned is profound. Challenged to reclaim the gospel truth of the dignity of the human person the Conference affirmed the need for special care to be taken so that power would always be life-giving.'

Lambeth Indaba: Capturing Conversations and Reflections, paragraph 50

What is the Anglican Communion Safe Church Consultation?

The Anglican Communion Safe Church Consultation emerged because a number of Anglican Provinces have seen highly publicised lapses in behaviour by some clergy and church workers with tragic consequences for those who have been abused. The breadth of these concerns came to light at *Creating a Safer Church*, an international Anglican conference held July 18-20, 2008, at Woking in the United Kingdom.

This Consultation was recognised by the Standing Committee in May 2009. This growing international group is committed to the physical, emotional, and spiritual welfare of all people involved in churches throughout the Anglican Communion. Its members have shared resources to educate about the issue of abuse and misconduct in churches, and have equipped and supported people working to make their churches safe.

The Mission Statement of the Consultation is published on its website at http://safechurch.anglicancommunion.org/index.cfm. The Consultation's mission gives expression to the biblical mandate to protect the vulnerable, and seeks to eliminate gender based violence as discussed in the Primates' Letter to the Churches of January 2011.

Second International Conference, June 23-36, 2011
Partnering for Prevention: Addressing Abuse in Our Communion and Communities

Fifty-five people from eight provinces of the Anglican Communion travelled to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, June 23-26, 2011, for the second international Anglican Communion Safe Church Conference, *Partnering for Prevention: Addressing Abuse in Our Communion and Communities*. The gathering was considerably enhanced by the presence of aboriginal leaders

from Canada and Australia who enriched the conference with ceremony as well as selfless discussion of the multi-generational anguish caused by enforced assimilation and abuse in residential schools. The conference commenced with a welcome by two representatives of the Coast Salish people. At the opening Eucharist eight candles representing each of the Anglican Provinces present were lit, using a candle that was lit for the first time at the 2008 Woking conference. The candles burned brightly throughout the conference and were taken back to each Province to remind the participants of our ongoing work together.

Keynote speakers were Revd Dr Marie Fortune, founder of the Faith Trust Institute, a pioneer and leader in the prevention of abuse in churches, and Bishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, Anglican Church of Canada.

Marie Fortune's message focused on a number of factors contributing to the perpetuation of sexually abusive behaviour and to the failure of those in authority to protect vulnerable children and adults. These included the absence of a critical and robust sexual ethic grounded in concern for the well-being of our people. She emphasized that any inclination to protect the institution of the church needed to be transfigured into an approach that protects its people and serves justice and healing. Justice-making needs several elements to be in place, she said, from making safe space where truth could be told, through to accountability, restitution and vindication. She inspired the conference with her confidence that 'with imagination, empathy and will, our churches can be places of safety and healing'.

Bishop Mark MacDonald, the National Anglican Indigenous Bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada, and other First Nations delegates spoke of the abuse suffered by First Nations children and families when Canada's Parliament forced the children from their homes and placed them in Indian residential schools. This devastating tragedy continued in Canada from the mid 19th century until the last schools closed in the 1990s. The unhealed legacy of abuse continues to fester to this day in Canadian First Nations communities where there are staggering levels of family dysfunction, deprivation and depression, including a high rate of suicide amongst the young people. Patricia Vickers, MEd, PhD, therapist and educator of the Ts'msyen First Nation, in dialogue with Bishop MacDonald, enlightened the conference with her account of how the Church has aggravated rather than helped First Nations people in trauma recovery. A major focus of Bishop MacDonald's ministry is the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which is seeking to address this legacy.

In addition to the keynote lectures, reports on Global Responses: Millennium Development Goals, Abuse & Anglicans were presented by Lydia Nabukenya of Uganda and Revd Dr Isaac Kawuki Mukasa, Coordinator for Dialogue (Ethics, Interfaith Relations and Congregational Development), Faith, Worship and Ministry, Anglican Church of Canada.

The conference's closing liturgy was held with the people of Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria. Bishop MacDonald preached at the Holy Eucharist, noting that 'John the Baptist, whose birth we celebrate today, is a perfect patron for this conference… The message of John speaks to systemic evil. …. the people who interact with John are representatives of very important aspects of the oppressive systems that were a part of contemporary life …Today, we

could identify this as the capacity of societies to look away from the global scale of the poverty and suffering of women, or the widespread toleration of the abuse of children and elders.'

Conference Workshops

The practical aspects of making our churches safer were explored in 15 workshops led by conference delegates. These illustrated the growing expertise in the Church on issues of abuse including: Healing Parishes; Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent Communication; Pornography, Mass Media, Social Networking; Human Trafficking; Pastoral Ethics; Professional Supervision; Bullying; Truth and Reconciliation; Domestic Violence; Policies and Procedures; Management of Offenders; Prevention Education: Safeguarding God's Children; Healing Persons; Canadian Red Cross, RespectEd presentation 'Ten Steps to Creating Safe Environments'.

Workshop information and videos of the keynote presentations are available on the Consultation's website at http://safechurch.anglicancommunion.org/resources/index.cfm. Ongoing communication among the consultation participants is facilitated through an email listserv network.

Learning, Reflections, and Future Directions

Where does abuse happen?

Abuse happens in all the churches and communities represented at the conference. Abuse is not limited to physical and sexual violence but includes other violent behaviour such as bullying. Abuse in all its forms is not simply a western problem.

The victims are predominantly adult women and children, both boys and girls. The perpetrators are predominantly men and include both ordained and lay church leaders. In some churches the occurrence of abuse has become known publicly in the last two decades as victims have spoken out. In other churches the occurrence of abuse is hidden as victims are afraid to speak out.

Two colleagues who attended the Canadian conference spoke of their situations in Eastern and Central Africa and challenged the ACSCC to share with African churches in responding to the Safe Church vision. The other delegates, who were mainly from Australia, Canada and the UK, with representation from the US and also one delegate from the Philippines, recognised that 'Safe Church' concerns extend beyond the confines of the Western churches. They commissioned a working group to seek ways of broadening the focus and participation in ACSCC, so that the striving for safe church can become more truly international whilst still benefitting from expertise which has already been brought to the consultation.

We have also learned that it is a difficult challenge for the Church when it is our own pastors and leaders have abused or are accused of having abused. Church communities struggle to understand what has happened; there can be denial and blaming of the victims. Church leaders who tackle the subject have had their own ministry threatened. We have learned that it is very important for us to work together and support each other, not just in tracking individuals who

pose a risk, but for the sharing of new ideas, training resources and other learning, and for emotional support when addressing such difficult subjects, of knowing that people across the whole church are working together to address them.

What are the lessons of the Partnering for Prevention conference?

We face challenges:

In any human community, including the Church, there are interpersonal and institutional structures that hinder Safe Church initiatives, including:

- isolation of victims, lack of resources and support
- denial or minimization of the occurrence of abuse, and 'issue fatigue'
- institutional culture that may include patriarchy, rigid procedures, and a misplaced priority on protection of the institution
- Inadequate legislation, and insufficient resources, to protect vulnerable people.

But we also have great potential:

Our Church holds dynamic potential for the creation of safer churches, for example:

- We a have a profound tradition for justice and for witness.
- We have rich capacity for leveraging technology for better communication.
- Church communities can have enormous healing potential when they acknowledge the existence of abuse, and listen to victims.
- Through deep resources for theological reflection on abuse we can inform and educate
- We have structures that can coordinate systems to prevent abuse.
- We can use our voice as Church to advocate for social policy and legislative reform, and provision of sufficient resources to protect vulnerable people.

What are the plans of the Consultation?

The Anglican Communion Safe Church Consultation will be seeking to fulfil its mission by completing the following steps in the period leading up to Anglican Consultative Council – 15, scheduled for October and November 2012:

- by developing resources to prevent abuse and to respond to victims of abuse that can be adapted for use in different Provinces of the Communion
- by exploring the possibility of assisting regions in the Communion to address the occurrence of abuse, misconduct and the misuse of power in churches
- by collaborating with CAPA to implement this vision, recognising that the African churches have already taken a lead in this work. For example, the Conference Statement of the All Africa Bishops' Conference II held in August 2010 included this commitment:

  We call for and actively work to bring about an end to all forms of abuse and forms of slavery. We demand the protection of our people, particularly our women and children from human trafficking, sexual immorality, abuse and violence, and structural, cultural and domestic violence.

  Securing The Future, Unlocking our Potential: A Report on the All Africa Bishops' Conference II, CAPA 2010, page 49.

CAPA's Strategic Plan 2011-2015 also refers to this work. For example, there is the recognition of the 'increased vulnerability of women, children and orphans'(page 11). The CAPA Mission Statement says:

The issue of empowering the vulnerable especially with regards to gender injustices in order to bring an end to all forms of gender based violence, exploitation, child trafficking and assisting displaced families and communities is crucial to our mandate. (Page 15)

In August this year CAPA decided to hold an Anglican Communion safe ministry conference in Kenya in March 2014. The Anglican Communion Safe Church Consultation will be working in partnership with CAPA in the planning for this conference.

Safeguarding Sanctuary in our Anglican Communion

Churches are only sanctuaries if we conscientiously make them reliably safe places for every person who crosses our thresholds, especially our most vulnerable community members. The 2011 Partnering for Prevention Conference confirmed there is a growing determination throughout the Anglican Communion to make our Church a safe place. We were heartened by the emergent body of experience and expertise that is growing throughout the Communion. The participants revealed a commitment to ensuring incorporation of not only an ethos of personal safety, but also the development of infrastructures, including further education and community development to sustain this.

A Safe Church Network for the Anglican Communion

From its inception in 2008, the Anglican Communion Safe Church Consultation has evolved into an increasingly international network. Its members regularly confer which each other, exchange information, share resources, and benefit from one another's experience and expertise. The Consultation will request recognition as an official Network of the Anglican Communion at ACC-15 with a view to gaining impetus for its key objectives. This is an important step towards ensuring that our Communion is experienced, and perceived, as a true place of sanctuary.

Mr Garth Blake, Anglican Communion Safe Church Consultation convenor

International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN)

'Anglican Women: Speaking globally, Acting locally!'

From Priscilla Julie (Seychelles, Indian Ocean), IAWN Coordinator, 2006-2012

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, from the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN).

During the period 2009 – 2012, IAWN has continued its advocacy work on issues of concern to Anglican women across the Communion. The Network looks to provide a prophetic voice in response to our faith in Jesus Christ and the Gospel as it is echoed in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – with particular reference to MDG 3: Gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA).

The IAWN website at www.iawn.org and the email listserv are resourceful and informative tools in the sharing of reports, resources, stories and matters of concern from Anglican women across the Communion.

IAWN provides reports to meetings of the Standing Committee and the Anglican Consultative Council, highlighting matters of concern to women, while members of IAWN have led and participated in numerous activities regionally and internationally to ensure women are influential and equal participants throughout the Anglican Communion.

However, IAWN is yet to receive full representation from all Anglican provinces, with a few Primates yet to nominate their Provincial Link to IAWN.

The Provincial Links have recently elected, via email, a new Steering Group for 2012-2015: Ann Skamp (Australia) as Coordinator, Elenor Lawrence (West Indies) as Secretary, Elaine Cameron (Scotland), Meenakshi Das (North India), Margaret Dempster (Canada), Kim Robey (TEC) and Pumla Titus (Southern Africa). I trust that Ann and her team will be accorded the same support, prayers and encouragement that the retiring Steering Group has enjoyed.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Primates for their time, prayers, support and understanding granted to me whilst in office; to Taimalelagi Matalavea (our IAWN Patron) for her continuing encouragement and wisdom; to the Revd Terrie Robinson, Anglican Communion Networks' Coordinator, for all her assistance; and to all members of the Steering Group, the Provincial Links and all Anglican sisters and brothers for their prayers, encouragement, support and fellowship.

From Ann Skamp (Australia), IAWN Coordinator, 2012-2015

The new Steering Group deeply appreciates the faithfulness and commitment of so many as IAWN continues to encourage and strengthen Anglican women's mission and ministry in God's world. On behalf of IAWN we give thanks for and especially recognise all that Priscilla Julie and Alice Medcof (Canada) have contributed to the strong and vibrant Network of today.

This report to ACC-15 highlights achievements of Anglican women through the grace of God and brings for notice gospel justice issues which particularly concern women and girls, from gender sensitization and equal representation in the decision-making bodies of the Church, to violence against women, human trafficking and extreme poverty – all matters raised in the Reports of the IAWN Provincial Links across the Communion. For more information please refer to the website where the full text of each Provincial Link Report are published.

Once again, IAWN welcomes the decision to include the presence of the Anglican Networks at the ACC meeting, giving us the opportunity to share our work and concerns. IAWN will offer draft resolutions to ACC-15, including in conjunction with other Networks, and with briefing papers that will be available at the Networks' display and presentations.

Activities of IAWN 2009 – 2012: Speaking globally!

IAWN contributions within the Anglican Communion and wider world include:

- Upgrading of the IAWN website www.iawn.org including uploading of resources and information, issues and stories on provincial pages and a downloadable brochure.
- Regular reporting from IAWN to meetings of the Standing Committee.
- Annual participation at UNCSW and sponsoring of parallel events by the Anglican women attendees.
- Encouragement and resourcing of participation in the White Ribbon Day programme and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence each year, 25 November – 10 December.
- International Women's Day marked and celebrated as a time of reflection on the role and place of women in our societies, each year on 8 March.
- IAWN representation at the Consultation on Trafficking in Hong Kong, November 2009.
- Commencement in December 2009 of the production of a twice yearly IAWN Newsletter, emailed to members and available online.
- IAWN representation at the meeting of the Anglican Peace and Justice Network, Geneva, March 2010.
- IAWN representation at the International Anglican Family Network Oceania Consultation, Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand, November, 2010.
- Submission to the proposal for the Global Anglican Relief and Development Alliance, February 2010.
- IAWN Statement issued on the matter of injustice of blasphemy laws and encouragement for the Statement to be sent to Church and community leaders, November 2010.
- Distribution of Primates' Letter to the Churches on Gender-based Violence, January, 2011.
- Submission to the review of the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations led by Bishop Michael Doe, November 2011.
- Meeting of members of retiring and current IAWN Steering Groups, Auckland, October 2012.

Activities of IAWN 2009 – 2012: Acting locally!

The many activities and events at provincial level included:

- Follow up, data collection and presentation of gender audits to provincial synods on gender representation on decision-making bodies (Ireland, Philippines, Scotland).
- Formation of a Women's Issues Forum which meets regularly and provides advice and training to the wider Church (England).
- IAWN representation at the Women's World Triennial International Feminist Conference, including hosting a parallel event on homelessness (Canada, 2011).

- Highlighting matters of concern to Anglican women in presentations to meetings of provincial synods (Canada, England, Ireland, Japan, Scotland).
- Tenth anniversary of the ordination of women (Korea, 2011).
- Involvement with the 'Called to Serve' report to The Episcopal Church.
- Provision of employment and integration programme for women defecting from North Korea (Korea).
- An International Women's Day Conference held by the Episcopal Women of the Province of Jerusalem & The Middle East.
- Promotion of resolutions to eliminate gender based violence and address the issue of trafficking at provincial synod (TEC, 2012).
- Twentieth anniversary of the ordination of women as priests (Australia, 2012).

Priority issues

The following are considered by IAWN to be most pressing and current matters of concern for Anglican women and for the whole Communion as we seek to witness to the Christ among us.

Gender-based violence

The universality of gender-based violence has caused IAWN to prioritise this issue. Violence which targets women and girls is present in all our communities whether we are part of a developing or developed nation, in some places as a weapon of war, in others taking the form of domestic or family violence. It can be physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual or economic. It can be obvious or hidden; recognised or unrecognised; rationalised on cultural grounds or simply denied. Factors such as illiteracy and access to education and economic security have been identified as exacerbating factors for women remaining in vulnerable positions.

The Church's response has been varied. Esperanza Beleo (Philippines) writes: 'Unfortunately the church is not considered as a haven as the local priest is known to the family, especially the perpetrators of such violence.' Some provinces have developed programmes of gender awareness and sensitivity for their church leaders and how better to respond to gender and home-based violence in their own churches and communities. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Anglican Church has been instrumental in addressing gender-based violence as a weapon of war. The Diocese of Liverpool (England) has a designated Domestic Abuse Advisor providing advice and awareness training.

A first step in seriously addressing the issue is the further promotion of and participation in White Ribbon Day (25 November) and the 16 Days of Activism (25 November-10 December) by every Province, Diocese and church. Such programmes afford us as Christian people the opportunity to speak to what is necessary for healthy and wholesome relationships. Resources are posted on the IAWN website.

Despite reporting a growing trend in gender-based violence in their communities, many Provincial Links noted a growing awareness and preparedness to speak out by church leaders across the Communion. There is clearly a challenge for us all to continue to develop some clear

thinking and teaching and modelling of right relationships under God, including the work of providing worship resources which, for example, embrace inclusive language. Liturgical resources that embrace the experiences of women as well as men, of girls as well as boys are needed. We can never underestimate the power of language when we meet in worship.

The Primates' Letter to the Churches, January 2011

Anglican women across the Communion have strongly welcomed the Primates' Letter to the Churches, sent from their 2011 meeting in Dublin, concerning the nature and prevalence of gender-based violence and their commitment for the Church to be active in its elimination. In particular, the acknowledgement of the Church's 'own part in perpetuating oppressive attitudes to women' has been welcomed, as have the commitments by the Primates to work together with other groups in the Anglican Communion to eliminate violence – especially violence which targets women and girls.

IAWN sees this Letter and the areas identified for action as priority work not only for the Network but for the whole Communion. We look forward to working in partnership with the all the Churches to implement the stated commitments. In doing so, our hope is that the Anglican Communion will be recognised widely as being serious in exhibiting best practice in the elimination of violence that is gender-based as part of the transformative and restorative Gospel we preach.

IAWN also recognises that in taking up this major work, we will need continually to monitor and correct our own thinking, our own speaking and our own practices which can contribute to the perpetuation of violence against women and children.

See http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/resources/documents.cfm#s3 for the text of the Primates' Letter in English, French and Spanish.

Trafficking

Trafficking also is a universal issue, whether our communities are sources of victims or sources of perpetrators. It is the second most lucrative illegal activity across the world. Trafficking can be rural or urban based and takes many different forms, such as drug carrying recruitment, overseas domestic workers, and false employment offers masking sex trafficking. It often only comes to light when a victim has escaped and reported to authorities.

Many IAWN Provincial Links request an effective response from the Churches. As a receiving country for victims of trafficking the Anglican women of Japan ask that the Communion be involved with the wider community in awareness raising and actively seeking the end of such practices. Elaine Cameron (Scotland) suggests the need for the Communion to make a theological response to trafficking and associated activities.

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines has participated in government awareness programmes and IAWN Canada provides specific support to those who work to assist women who have been trafficked. Resources to raise awareness and find ways of addressing the issue of trafficking have been developed by The Episcopal Church and also by the Diocese of

Melbourne (Australia). Information about these and other resources can be found on the IAWN website.

IAWN is working with the Revd Catherine Graham, Coordinator of the Anglican Refugee and Migrant Network (ARMN) to bring a joint resolution to ACC-15.

Equal representation in decision-making bodies in the Churches

Resolutions ACC-13/31 and ACC-14/33 already indicate the commitment of the Anglican Communion to equal representation of women and men in decision-making bodies across the Communion. Provincial Links reported a noticeable, albeit slow, improvement in achieving this, and the need for continued monitoring. Many Links reported rates of around 30 per cent representation by women in provincial councils and synods. Other provinces where there exist strong cultural barriers to having women on decision-making bodies reported rates below 20 per cent, and for some women they have a seat and voice but no voting authority. Rates of full, equal participation are higher at parish and diocesan levels in most provinces.

Leadership training and development, gender awareness, and sensitivity programmes have been developed in some provinces as resources to assist more representative membership on councils and other bodies. Even where equal representation has increased in some decision-making bodies of a province, Provincial Links reported that the stereotyping of certain roles in church structures – particularly finance – were still barriers to women and showed the need to challenge outmoded perceptions of women's abilities and leadership styles. Provinces may also need to address the working model of church workers at all levels to include a level of flexibility in expectations and demands in order not to preclude women from roles. Consideration may need to be given to a quota system that is supported by the above strategies.

Ruth Choi (Korea) has signalled that the way the role and place of women is seen within the church may need to change, for example, more appointments of women in paid staff leadership positions in provincial offices, theological colleges, etc. Encouraging women to apply for positions and resourcing them to do so have been named by Provincial Links as issues in Canada, Central Africa, and Japan.

Provinces such as Bangladesh, Japan and Korea have developed 'women's desks' at provincial level, while others, such as The Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Church of the Philippines, have lost these facilities.

IAWN strongly suggests that a regular reporting system on equal representation in provincial and ACC decision-making bodies form an integral part of provincial reporting to each meeting of the ACC.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)

2014 will mark the 10th anniversary of Anglican women from every province being invited by the Anglican Communion Office at the UN (New York) to form the Anglican Communion

delegation to UNCSW. The ongoing effect on ministry and mission by those who have attended cannot be underestimated.

Provincial Links all reported on the attendees' experience of a new confidence in, and understanding of the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the ministry and role of the Churches of the Anglican Communion in every part of the world; a new insight into the universality of our situations, concerns, hopes and responsibilities; and a new appreciation of the connectedness and partnership opportunities between Christian women and government entities and other civil society groups.

In a lasting and continuous way, attendance at UNCSW has been powerful and important in developing voice and leadership, giving women confidence in our faith and understanding the capacity for the Gospel to bring real transformation to the world and the communities in which we live. As attendees have brought back to their communities examples of best practice and knowledge to develop practical strategies, they have also been able to take up opportunities to pursue partnerships with other organisations.

Faith-based non-governmental groups such as the Anglican Communion delegation bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the UN and have become highly valued contributors and sought after and respected partners in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as set out in MDG 3 and the BPfA.

Church leaders who have followed up the attendance of women from their province have seen the continuing worth of the experience and the engagement of these women in local programmes. Our IAWN Newsletters highlight these outcomes. IAWN Provincial Links and the Steering Group ask this meeting of the ACC to consider the value of Anglican women's continuing attendance at UNCSW with all its missional and ministry implications and consider how the Communion can help financially resource the programme.

Gender budgeting

In many ways a reading of a budget will illustrate where the priority lies for an organisation. This was the message of UNCSW 52 in 2008 where the theme was 'Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women'. Anglican women attending UNCSW 52 stated:

We believe that the Church has a moral imperative to join with the United Nations by committing to the equitable distribution of resources between men and women within our church community. It can then become a model which the private business sector, governments and other institutions might follow.

Maud Patten, Provincial Link for the Indian Ocean, met with her Archbishop after attending UNCSW 52 and now reports how the church has responded by employing principles of gender budgeting. Such gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) can be achieved by careful and intentional planning and programming in the budget processes of provinces, dioceses, parishes and other church entities. In seeking gender equality in distribution of financial and other

resources, churches can display a proactive commitment to gender equality and an end to economic discrimination.

IAWN encourages all church bodies to implement gender-responsive budgeting and has sourced further information and resources which will be available at ACC-15 at the Network's display as well as on the IAWN website.

Indigenous women

IAWN wishes to record its full support of the Anglican Indigenous Network (AIN) and especially issues of concern for Indigenous women. We fully support the building of relationships which acknowledge and honour the 'otherness' of people from different backgrounds, and which recognise and incorporate positive practices from other cultures.

Provincial Links from Australia and Canada have raised concerns about the isolation of many Indigenous women and the lack of facilities and services especially in the areas of violence and health. IAWN looks forward to working with AIN to find more effective ways to address those matters and others of concern for Indigenous women.

Regional priority issues

In addition to the above, IAWN Provincial Links have identified the following urgent and emerging issues in their regions.

Christians minorities living in non-Christian societies

Provincial Links from Bangladesh, North India and Pakistan increasingly report on the every day struggles and fear faced by Christian minorities in their countries. Women are especially vulnerable to harassment and violence in these situations.

The Anglican Communion has been blessed by the courage and journalistic work of Ayra Inderyas of the Church of Pakistan.

Wellbeing and Healthcare programmes

Joy Mumbi, Provincial Link for Central Africa, has reported on poverty elimination projects in Zambia. She also reports on diocesan-based training programmes for care givers in HIV/AIDS, TB primary health care and the prevention and treatment of malaria to ensure better health outcomes.

In the Philippines, where the rate of HIV infection has been increasing, in part because of larger numbers of Filipino citizens working overseas in jobs or in regions with high rates of infection, the Church has formed partnerships with government programmes. The development of theological resources for use in parishes is addressing awareness raising, supporting people living with HIV/AIDS, and working towards elimination of discrimination of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Many regions report the need for education for sexual health targeted at adolescent girls and boys as a way to reduce unwanted pregnancy in girls.

Women in rural areas

Rural women everywhere bear an extra level of disempowerment. This includes rural women in developed countries – even if their disempowerment is more subtle and unnoticed than in developing countries.

Women in disasters

The Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011 have highlighted the high level of hardship experienced by women in the aftermath of such disasters.

Ageing issues

Ageing populations, particularly in the more developed countries, have highlighted an added burden on older women with regard to economic disadvantage including increased poverty and in some cases an increase in vulnerability to violence.

2012 – 2015: Moving into the future

As IAWN and its Steering Group move into the next triennium our priority work will be based on the issues already highlighted above:

- Ensuring that IAWN is an effective voice for the encouragement and strengthening of women's ministries, and that women are influential and equal participants throughout the Anglican Communion and the world.
- Advocating for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in our homes, communities and nations, including trafficking.
- Working with the whole church to facilitate the development, implementation and monitoring of the commitments for training, advocacy and resourcing as set out in the Primates' Letter to the Churches on Gender-based violence.
- Promoting and monitoring the fulfilment of Resolutions ACC-13/31 and ACC-14/33.
- Encouraging the use of gender budgeting principles throughout the Anglican Communion.
- Continuing to ensure and explore resourcing for a significant Anglican presence at UNCSW.
- Developing financial strategies to support IAWN.
- Exploring ways for IAWN Provincial Links to meet together and members of IAWN to meet face to face regionally.

IAWN will also look to the development of:

- relationships with the Anglican Alliance, other Anglican Networks and groups in the Communion and in our own communities to form partnerships to advance gospel-based justice for all
- theological and liturgical resources to keep us focused on God's call on all of us in bringing forth the Reign of God across this world.

Réseau francophone de la Communion anglicane

(For English translation, see below.)

Le Réseau existe afin de relier ensemble les anglicans francophones du monde entier, quelques 4 millions en tout. Nous œuvrons pour partager et créer des ressources en langue française afin d'aider nos provinces membres avec leur mission.

Depuis la dernière réunion du Conseil consultatif anglican, le travail du Réseau a été fortement touché par des évènements sérieux dans plusieurs provinces :

- le séisme en Haïti (le plus grand diocèse de l'Église Épiscopale)
- le soulèvement en Guinée-Conakry (Afrique de l'Ouest)
- la révolution au Madagascar (cinq diocèses ; Océan indien)
- problèmes politiques au Burundi, séquelles de sa guerre civile
- la guerre entre la République démocratique du Congo et le Rwanda ; élection difficile du president.

Ces difficultés ont fait que la réunion triennale du Réseau a dû être reportée deux fois. Le Bureau du Réseau était résolu de la tenir en Afrique francophone pour la première fois. Elle aura lieu à Douala, Cameroun, du 6 au 11 septembre 2012.

Pourtant, les membres du Réseau ont pu utiliser l'Internet pour se connecter et se soutenir. Grâce au don de la Society of Archbishop Justus, qui publie le fameux site Anglicans Online (www.anglicansonline.org), nous avons accès à une liste courriel performante. Nous avons aussi un site web, www.francophonesanglicans.org, ainsi qu'une page sur www.anglicancommunion.org.

Nous n'avons pas pu mettre en œuvre plusieurs projets envisagés à la réunion d'Aylesford, Angleterre, en juillet 2008. En particulier, le projet de faire une nouvelle traduction du Livre de prière commune de l'Église Épiscopale (largement utilisé par les provinces francophones) est toujours en cours de réalisation. Nous avons dû aussi reporter le projet d'une Bible anglicane française, malgré le soutien de l'Alliance biblique. Nous espérons pouvoir fixer des dates limites pour ces deux projets à la réunion de Douala.

Le séisme haïtien et la guerre du Congo ont coupé court notre projet de liaison entre les trois séminaires francophones de Montréal, Port-au-Prince, et Bunia, ainsi que l'utilisation standardisée des « grilles » développées par Theological Education in the Anglican Communion (TEAC). Pourtant, le Réseau préconise l'usage de cette ressource précieuse pour la formation du clergé dans toutes nos provinces.

Finalement en cours est le projet de faire traduire en français moderne une sélection des Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity de Richard Hooker. Il n'y en a eu aucune traduction jusqu'à nos jours.

Par contre, le Réseau a pu apporter un précieux soutien spirituel et matériel aux diocèses affectés mentionnés ci-dessus. Le Haïti a tout de suite reçu un apport financier, meme des membres les plus pauvres, et une présence physique. La Cathédrale Sainte-Trinité à Paris a lancé une levée de fonds pour la reconstruction de sa sœur à Port-au-Prince. En mai 2012, le diocèse a fait un pas en avant en consacrant son premier évêque suffragan, Mgr Ogé Beauvoir, ancien président du Réseau.

Mgr Albert Gomez, Évêque de Guinée-Conakry, a fait un travail extraordinaire dans la vie politique de son pays pour ramener celle-ci à la paix et l'ordre social. Le diocèse a un évêque-élu, le Rév. Jacques Boston, qui prendra ses fonctions à la fin de cette année.

La paix est revenue au Madagascar, Dieu soit loué, ainsi qu'au Burundi. Par contre, des problèmes importants subsistent pour les diocèses de l'est de la RDC, où se trouvent encore d'importantes milices rwandaises. Le rapport de l'ONU sur la complicité du régime de Rwanda est accablant, et il est à espérer que la communauté internationale réagira de façon encore plus sévère à son égard. Entre temps, les anglicans font de leur mieux, notamment avec un fonds de micro-crédit destiné aux femmes victimes de violences sexuelles, aide aux réfugiés, etc. Un développement important pour cette province et le Réseau est l'établissement de l'Université anglicane du Congo, une excroissance du séminaire de Bunia.

En terme d'aide aux personnes, le Réseau a appuyé la demande du diocèse de Kisangani de faire construire un barrage hydroélectrique sur un tributaire du Congo. Ceci fournirait de l'électricité à toute la région, y compris l'Université de Kisangani, l'école agroalimentaire la plus importante du pays.

À la demande de Sue Parks, gérante de la Anglican Communion Emergency Fund, le Réseau a aidé Mgr Jean Molanga, secrétaire provincial du Congo, à recevoir des soins à Paris qui ne sont pas disponibles à Kinshasa, ce qui lui a sauvé la vie.

Le Réseau francophone souhaiterait rappeler au Conseil consultatif anglican de son approbation de la résolution d'Aylesford, qui requiert que tout document d'importance à la Communion toute entière soit traduite en espagnol, swahili, mandarin, portugais, et bien sûr, le français.

Finalement, nous tenons à remercier la Révde Terrie Robinson pour tous ses efforts et dévouement envers nous et tous les Réseaux de la Communion.

Acceptez, sœurs et frères du Conseil, l'expression de nos salutations respectueuses et fraternelles en Christ.

Francophone Network of the Anglican Communion

The Network exists to tie together francophone Anglicans from around the world, numbering some 4 million altogether. We work to share and create resources in the French language in order to further the mission of our member provinces.

Since the last meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council, the Network's work has been hard-hit by serious developments in several provinces:

- the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, largest diocese of The Episcopal Church
- the uprising in Guinea-Conakry (Province of West Africa)
- the revolution in Madagascar (five dioceses of the Province of the Indian Ocean)
- political problems in Burundi, sequellæ of its long civil war
- the war between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda ; the recent difficult election of the president of the DRC.

These difficulties have required that the triennial meeting of the Network be postponed twice. The Network's Board was determined to hold it in francophone Africa for the first time ever. It will be held in Douala, Cameroon, from 6 to 11 September 2012.

Nevertheless, members of the Network have used the internet to connect and support each other. Thanks to the gift of the Society of Archbishop Justus, publishers of the famous website www.anglicansonline.org, we have access to an email server. We also have a website, www.francophonesanglicans.org, as well as a page on www.anglicancommunion.org.

We have not been able to put into action several projects that were planned at the Aylesford, England, meeting in July 2008. In particular, the project to make a fresh translation of the Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer (widely used in the francophone provinces) is still in process. We also had to postpone the project of a French Anglican Bible, despite the support of the Bible Alliance. We hope to set deadlines for these at the Douala meeting.

The Haiti earthquake and the war in Congo cut short our project to tie together the three francophone seminaries of Montreal, Port-au-Prince, and Bunia, as well as standardizing the use of the TEAC 'grids'. However, the Network has been urging the use of this precious resource for the formation of clergy in all our provinces.

Finally on track is the project to translate into French selections of Richard Hooker's Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity. There has never been a translation into French of any part of this masterpiece.

The Network was able to provide helpful spiritual and material support to those affected dioceses mentioned above. Haiti received immediate aid, both financial and in physical presence. The Holy Trinity Cathedral in Paris led fundraising for the reconstruction of its sister, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Port-au-Prince. In May 2012, the diocese made a step forward in consecrating their first bishop suffragan, the Rt Revd Ogé Beauvoir, former president of the Network.

Bishop Albert Gomez of Guinea-Conakry did extraordinary work in the political life of his country to bring it back to peace and good order. The diocese has a bishop-elect, the Revd Jacques Boston, who will take over at year's end.

Peace has also returned to Madagascar, thank God, as well as to Burundi. On the other hand, serious problems remain for the eastern dioceses in the DRC, where large Rwandan militia are active. The UN report on the complicity of the Rwanda government is devastating, and it is to be hoped that the international community will react in even more severe terms. Meanwhile, the Anglicans are doing their best, notably with a microcredit loan fund for women victims of sexual violence, aid to refugees, etc. One important development both for the province and the Network is the establishment of the Anglican University of Congo, an outgrowth of the Bunia seminary.

In terms of aid to persons, the Network supported the request of the Diocese of Kisangani to build a hydroelectric dam on a tributary of the Congo River. This would furnish electricity to the whole region, including the largest agricultural school in the country, the Université de Kisangani.

At the request of Sue Parks, manager of the Anglican Communion Emergency Fund, the Network helped the Rt Revd Jean Molanga, provincial secretary of Congo, to receive treatment in Paris not available in Kinshasa, which saved his life..

The Francophone Network would like to remind the Council of its approval of the Aylesford resolution requiring all documents of importance to the Communion to be translated into Spanish, Swahili, Mandarin, Portuguese, and of course, French.

Finally, we would like to thank the Revd Terrie Robison for all her efforts and devotion to us and all the Networks of the Communion.

Bishop Pierre Whalon, President, Francophone Network of the Anglican Communion

Anglican Health Network (AHN)

Summary
Since its inception in 2009, the Anglican Health Network has grown into a network of over 500 members representing each of the Anglican Communion's 38 provinces. It has a well-established communications platform, with quarterly newsletters, regular blogs, occasional press releases and web updates. It is engaged with a wide range of organisations including the World Health Organization, the World Council of Churches, faith based health organisations, Anglican mission agencies and ecumenical healing organisations. It works in consultation with the Anglican Communion Office, Lambeth Palace and the Anglican Alliance, and emerged originally from the Anglican UN representation in Geneva. It is currently mapping a wide range of Anglican health and healing activities on its web-based Google Earth interface to provide a more detailed account of their nature and extent.

Having identified key strategic challenges in the health mission of Anglican provinces in low-income countries, AHN established programmes to tackle the financial sustainability of Anglican health facilities. It piloted a health microinsurance programme in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and is currently managing the supply of medical equipment to the Anglican Church of Tanzania. It has identified the design and delivery of maternal health systems as a key priority, and established partnerships through which this might be tackled. It has established a pilot programme for the training of provincial and diocesan health coordinators. In 2013, it will give particular focus to leadership in the development of community-based health care.

AHN believes that collaboration to support health mission within the Communion could be more effective if there was a greater degree of collegial action between agencies, provinces and programmes. Much progress has been made in its first 3 years, but there are clear challenges to be overcome before strategic collaborative work can meet its potential. However, AHN is struggling with financial sustainability, and may have to scale back its programmatic work.

Networking and communications

AHN issues quarterly electronic newsletters that bring attention to the range of health and healing ministries active throughout the Communion. Its website (www.anglicanhealth.org) was originally launched in 2010, and was redesigned during the first half of 2012. Printed and electronic brochures and case statements have been available to promote the network throughout this time. The coordinator offers a monthly blog and collates a range of reports and other resources on the website for members to download.

The mapping page of the website holds a growing database of the location and nature of health facilities and programmes. This allows the Communion to gain a greater understanding of its mission, and allows external agencies to evaluate the contribution made by the Churches of the Anglican Communion to global health care.

The AHN coordinator has visited a range of Anglican provinces in order to better understand the nature of their strengths and challenges. These include Uganda, Tanzania, West Africa, South India, United States, Canada, England, Scotland, Wales, and Jerusalem and the Middle East. The AHN programme coordinator has made numerous visits to Tanzania to implement and monitor the health microinsurance programme and to explore other avenues of support for its hospitals. He made a presentation to a CAPA primates' meeting in Nairobi and has travelled extensively in the United States and to Puerto Rico to generate support for the network. AHN board member, Dr Alan Crouch, is currently exploring interest in AHN from within the Anglican Church of Australia on the invitation of its General Synod.

AHN works closely with St Luke's Episcopal Health System, Houston, to implement the medical equipment supply programme. It is in partnership with USPG to develop the maternal health programme and the leadership development programme. It has convened a planning group from amongst many of the Anglican related health and healing agencies of the UK to plan a conference in 2013.

Having emerged from the health related interests of the Anglican UN representation in Geneva, AHN has longstanding relationships with the World Health Organization, UNAIDS and the Global Fund. The AHN coordinator attends meetings and maintains contacts in these agencies, and was able to help set up and accompany the Archbishop of Canterbury to his meeting with WHO Director General, Dr Margaret Chan, in February 2012. The coordinator has taken part in ongoing meetings on mapping the role of faith-based health facilities and on the role of civil society groups in tackling Tuberculosis. He has attended two meetings on global health at Chatham House, London. Awareness and understanding of Anglican health services is thus growing in the agencies that coordinate global health.

AHN's programmatic work has benefitted from partnerships with external agencies, including MicroEnsure, NHS Northwest, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Our Mobile Health, People's-Uni and Medical Bridges.

Ecumenically, the network has worked with the World Council of Churches, World Vision, the Church of Norway, Difaem (German Medical Mission), International Religious Health Assets Programme, IMA World Health, Africa Christian Health Associations Platform and the Salvation Army International office.

The AHN coordinator has offered the following presentations and articles on behalf of the Network:

- Series of 3 articles in the Anglican Lutheran Society publication, The Window
- Article for the UK journal The Crucible
- Article in the WCC Contact newsletter
- Article in the newsletter of the Africa Christian Health Associations Platform
- Presentation at a conference on faith based health care in Jerusalem
- Presentation at a CAPA conference in Accra, Ghana
- Presentation on microinsurance at St Paul's Institute, London
- Presentation to Religion and Public Health conference, Stellenbosch, South Africa

The programme coordinator produced a detailed evaluation of the health microinsurance programme that can be found on the following link: http://tinyurl.com/bwokgd5.

Programmes

Health microinsurance

The headline programme of AHN has been to develop viable models for implementing health microinsurance with its partner MicroEnsure. The Diocese of Dar es Salaam launched its programme in September 2010. The Coordinating Board of AHN had direct involvement in managing this programme. Having contracted with a range of health service providers throughout the city, this programme focused on the parish as the potential conduit for recruitment. Two sales strategies were employed to test appropriate methods. The service delivery systems worked effectively and remained viable for the 1100 people who were members. However, the membership would need to grow to a significantly larger scale before

such a programme can be counted a success. The programme is now closed, and MicroEnsure has withdrawn from the partnership. AHN is seeking new opportunities to develop this programme.

Medical equipment

The AHN medical supply system is now in operation and a container load of equipment has been dispatched to the Anglican Church of Tanzania. With access to a wide range of surplus equipment in the United States, AHN is looking for partners and recipients to facilitate deliveries. A typical container load of medical equipment costs around $30,000 to collect, package and ship. However, the value of such equipment may be much greater depending upon the contents of a particular container, and the value methodology used.

Maternal and new born health

AHN has been working in partnership with USPG, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, NHS Northwest and Our Mobile Health to institute a programme that will significantly reduce the high rates of maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity in rural districts in Africa. The primary aim of the programme is to increase the number of births supervised by skilled birth attendants. The programme is designed to stimulate both demand and supply for health services, and include communities in the steps taken to improve those services. This will provide a sustainable basis upon which communities can be accompanied and supported in their pursuit of better health, and it will strengthen service delivery by both public and church health facilities. The future of this programme depends on securing funding partnerships.

Training for health coordinators

AHN is working with People's-Uni to support provincial and diocesan health coordinators as they follow a programme of distance learning that will ultimately qualify them with a Manchester Metropolitan University Master of Public Health. This is a key training for those who are involved strategically in improving the health of communities and provides a range of epidemiological and management skills. The course is designed to provide low cost, high quality training for health leaders in low-income countries. If the pilot is successful, then a partnership with People's Uni may provide the capacity for widespread leadership training throughout the Communion.

Conference: 'Faith in Health and Healing: Integrating the church with health services'

This conference is organised by a planning group of health and healing agencies from the UK and is led by the AHN coordinator. It will bring together a wide range of parish and chaplaincy based leaders to consider health related ministries offered by the churches. Whilst predominantly UK focused, speakers and participants from other parts of the world will join the conference to share their experiences. This will take place in Birmingham on April 24/25, 2013. (See www.anglicanhealth.org/ConferenceHome.aspx.)

Governance and finance

The Coordinating Board of AHN is a voluntary association registered in Switzerland. It is formed of the following members: Revd Paul Holley, Network Coordinator, Switzerland; Lee Hogan, Programme Coordinator, United States; Bishop Rayford High, United States; Allison Kelley, programme consultant, France; Geoff Senogles, director of finance, Switzerland; Dr Alan Crouch, AHN Australia; Revd Sarah Hayes, legal consultant, UK.

Lee Hogan, Bishop Mwita Akiri and Japhet Makau are board members of AHN Tanzania.

In October 2010, a meeting of the Advisory Council took place in Switzerland. The following were involved: Dr Bennet Abraham, India; Bishop Mwita Akiri, Tanzania; Dr Maria Akrofi, Ghana; Japhet Makau, Tanzania; Dr Ernest Nwaigbo, Nigeria; Dr Hisham Nassar, Jerusalem.

The AHN coordinator maintains working relationships with Rachel Carnegie at Lambeth Palace, Terrie Robinson at the Anglican Communion Office, Emmanuel Olatunji at CAPA and Sally Keeble of the Anglican Alliance. He also maintains connections with chairs and coordinators of the other Anglican networks.

Funding sources

The following organisations have provided core funding for the work of AHN: St Luke's Episcopal Health System, Houston; The Medical Trust of the Church Pension Fund, The Episcopal Church; San Lucas, Puerto Rico; St Martin's, Houston; Guild of Health, UK.

In addition, AHN has received gifts from individuals, parishes and dioceses. During 2012, the network coordinator has been seconded part time to two Anglican congregations in Switzerland to supplement network revenue. 2012 and 2013 will see significant shortfalls in income, and there is insufficient support in sight for 2014 onwards.

Plans for 2013

AHN is in the process of launching its 2013 initiative that will accompany the continued communications, networking and programmatic work. The title of the initiative is 'Promoting healthy communities: An initiative to inspire and strengthen Anglican leadership in health development'. To complement existing events and projects, the following additional events are proposed:

Provincial health representatives meeting, April 26/27, 2013

This meeting is designed to follow immediately after the 'Faith in Health and Healing' conference in Birmingham and will take place at the Anglican Communion Office in London. This dual opportunity for representatives of each province to attend both the conference and the meeting will provide a wealth of shared experience and encouragement. During the meeting, key specialists will share the emerging principles of community based health development currently in operation through Anglican dioceses. The objective is to look afresh at the nature of health mission from the perspective of community focused primary care and public health strategies. Provincial representatives will share their own experience of

community based health development and will develop a shared platform for further provincial initiative according to these principles.

Bishop/Chief Executive Officer conference

Anglican hospitals are amongst the most substantial institutions of the Communion. This conference is designed to bring together bishops of those dioceses that own major hospitals and health systems with the CEOs of those institutions, in order to address some common issues and to consider the nature of their Anglican identity. The gathering will be well placed to consider how the resources of these institutions contribute to health mission in the Communion. They will also be offered insights into the community based initiatives offered by major US health systems, such as St Luke's Episcopal Health System, Houston, San Lucas, Puerto Rico and Le Bonheur Methodist Health System in Memphis. It will also learn from the experiences of USPG's Hands on Health programme. The conference will thus allow for consideration of stronger links between parish/community and hospital in order to develop community based health initiatives.

Key challenges

The strategic development of health mission in the Anglican Communion is widely recognised as a priority. Anglican health services and programmes are owned and managed at provincial or diocesan level without the benefit of wider strategic support. AHN is designed to promote collaborative work amongst agencies and provinces to meet strategic objectives and is gradually gaining traction. However, the Coordinating Board believes that much could be gained from developing stronger mechanisms within the Communion for a collective approach to supporting health mission. This may improve access to resources for health programmes as well as set these services more prominently in the planning processes of national and global health agencies.

AHN has raised finance from a variety of sources, predominantly from the United States, but also in the UK and Switzerland. The costs of operating from Switzerland are higher than in other countries, but the benefits of proximity to the heartland of global health remain significant. Additional avenues of support are limited by the stressed financial circumstances of the present. In line with current projections, AHN will have to withdraw from its programmatic work within the next 12 months.

The Coordinating Board recognises the significance of its location in Geneva and believes that, along with the Geneva based Anglican UN representation, it could offer more value to the Communion if it was better integrated with and supported by the mission and development functions of Anglican Communion structures.

The Coordinating Board is grateful to Dr Alan Crouch for representing it at ACC and regrets that due to its funding shortfall, neither the network coordinator nor the programme coordinator can be present.

Revd Paul Holley, AHN Coordinator