

# **REPORT OF THE 139<sup>TH</sup> SYNOD (2009) OF THE CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS IN THE PROVINCE OF THE WEST INDIES**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 139<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Anglican Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in the Province of the West Indies was held over the period April 14 – 17 2009 under the theme “Faith Responding to Crisis as a Call to Stewardship”. The Synod started with the Service of Evensong at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday April 14 in the St. Peter’s Church, (The Trelawny Parish Church) Falmouth, with the Very Rev. Michael M. Brown, Rector and Rural Dean, officiating. Mr. Audley Davidson was the organist. The Church was filled to capacity, and the dignitaries in attendance included His Excellency The Most Hon. Dr. Patrick Allen, Governor General of Jamaica, and Her Excellency the Most Hon. Mrs. Allen, Senator Dennis Meadows, representing the Prime Minister of Jamaica, The Hon. Mrs. Justice Zalia McCalla, Chief Justice of Jamaica and Mr. McCalla, The Custodies of Trelawny, St. Ann and St. Mary and the acting Custos of St. James, Major General Stewart Saunders, Chief of Staff of the Jamaica Defence Force, The Rev. Dr. Leslie Anderson, President of the United Theological College of the West Indies, The Most Rev. Donald Reece, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Kingston, The Rev. Byron Chambers of the Methodist Church, Jamaica District, the Rev. Stephen Jennings, President of the Jamaica Baptist Union and The Principals of the Anglican High Schools.

## **THE BISHOP'S CHARGE**

### **LORD BISHOP'S CHARGE (PART 1)**

The Lord Bishop based his sermon on the theme “Faith Responding To Crisis As A Call To Stewardship”. The text was from 1 Cor.4:1 & 2 “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the Mysteries of God. Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.”

The Bishop defined a Steward as a servant who administers the affairs of an owner. He referred to verse 4 of Psalm 8 in which the pertinent question “What is man” is asked and the answer is given “Man is a Steward”. Stewardship, he said, is motivated by thanksgiving, and if, in faith, we embrace the mandate and the stewardship designed by God to bring out the best in us, we can overcome the

present deep crisis that has sent individuals, families, businesses and nations into a tailspin.

A full summary of the Bishop's Charge was already provided to the congregation in our newsletters three Sundays immediately following Synod in April, as such, we will not repeat in this report. However, further details can also be obtained from the Church Office and the Anglican Diocese website.

## **LORD BISHOP'S CHARGE (PART 2)**

Before presenting Part 2 of his charge, the Lord Bishop delivered a pre-recorded taped message from the Archbishop of Canterbury regarding the upcoming Anglican Consultative Conference to be held in Jamaica from May 2 – 12, 2009. He announced that a service would be held at the National Arena on May 3 and announced plans for that service, as well as visits from the delegates attending the Conference, to various designated churches on May 10. Also on May 10, St. Johns, Portland Cottage, which was completely destroyed by hurricane Ivan and had been rebuilt, would be dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

He also advised that the Savanna-la-Mar Parish Church which had been destroyed had been beautifully restored.

The Lord Bishop in the second part of his charge, instead of dealing with news from the Province and the wider Anglican Communion as is customary, informed the Synod that there would be a departure from reading the list of notices, and instead these would be taken as printed and tabled. Instead he would be giving a report on the state of the Anglican Communion in the world today.

The Bishop then gave a detailed overview of the relationships existing across and throughout the Communion, to the extent where some were even prepared to propose a breakup of the Anglican Communion. The rift between north and south – US and Europe and Nigeria and Uganda had become a reality as a result of the appointment of Rev. Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire. Although a resolution vetoing same sex marriages had been proposed, it was approved nonetheless.

In spite of apologies from the American Church, the African Churches in the Southern cone refused to accept the apologies, and turned their anger against the Archbishop of Canterbury, who they wanted to exercise discipline, including expulsion, on the churches involved. This led to a boycott of the Lambeth Conference by the African Bishops, who instead held their own conference in

Jerusalem, which was attended by 200 Bishops. The Church in Nigeria has broken away completely from the Communion by changing its Constitution.

In continuing to present the state of the Communion, the Bishop touched on many topics which are the cause of disagreement, e.g. opposing views on Baptism; transformation of Eucharistic elements; inclusivity of all baptized members, including those who are gay among other matters. He expressed the view that there could be disagreement without breaking up the communion, but said that there has always been tension and division between the Episcopal and Anglican churches which have posed great challenge to our Church. To be trying to break up the Church over homosexuality, He said, is a tragedy.

The Bishop stated categorically that all baptized members of the Church are full and equal and deserve respect and support. He made it very clear that same sex relationships and marriages were contrary to Scripture. The Lord Bishop ended this part of his charge by reminding that it is the Lord of the Church who leads us and in whom we must put our trust.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **DIocese OF JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS** **STRATEGIC PLAN**

A short update was given by Mrs. Kennedy from PriceWaterhouseCoopers, who continues to work on the implementation of the development plan which had its challenges due to the current economic environment and the availability of funding. While the implementation progress had been slow, meetings continue to be held with various groupings, with the major work being done on designing job descriptions and a performance assessment system for Clergy and Staff of the Diocese. The implementation date for this exercise is slated for 2010 - 2011.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The financial report for the year 2008 and estimates of receipts and expenditure for the year 2009 were presented by Mr. Mike Fennell, Chairman of the Diocesan Financial Board (DFB). In his preliminary remarks the Chairman noted the decline in membership over the past 4 years as follows:

<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
35,782	35,792	33,273	31,680

The Budget for the Diocese for 2009 was:

## RECURRENT BUDGET

Details	Budget 2009	Actual 2008	Change (%)	Budget 2008	Variance 2007 (%)
Recurrent Expenditure	\$ 142,392,000	\$ 130,481,000	9.1%	\$ 133,883,000	14.2%
<b>Financed by:</b>					
Income earned by the Diocese & other Diocese Resources	\$ 25,137,000	\$ 30,038,000	(16.3%)	\$ 29,445,000	(26.7%)
Assessment	\$ 113,433,000	\$ 95,570,000	18.5%	\$ 95,570,000	25%
Unutilized Budget Funds from previous year	\$3,821,590	\$8,867,244	(56%)	967,108	816.9%

No budgetary gap was anticipated thus reinforcing the importance of each Church fulfilling the contributions required under assessment.

Highlights of the financials were as follows:

- Variances in 2008 primarily due to:
  - Savings in salaries resulting from vacancies not filled
  - Certain planned programmes not implemented

- Projections for 2009 based primarily on:
  - Difficult economic environment – Global economic recession, inflation, crime, high level of unemployment
  - No increase in stipend and salaries of Clergy and Full-time Church workers
  - No increase in salaries of Administrative and Ancillary Staff
  - Appointment of Communications Director and Training Officer
  - Filling vacancies for new positions and other clerical and lay workers
  - Provision for three (3) Suffragan Bishops and four (4) Regions
  - Average 18.7% increase in Assessments on Churches and Missions down from 25.9% in 2008

## CAPITAL BUDGET

It was noted that Churches and Missions do not contribute to the capital expenditure which for 2009 was proposed at \$12.75 million (\$11.46m for 2008). This represents:

- Replacement of Motor Vehicle - sinking fund
- Upgrading and renovation to Diocesan properties
- Equipment and repairs to Church House
- Other Diocesan programmes

Another area of concern raised by the Chairman was the level of compliance for all Financial Returns by each Church. Of 274 congregations in the Diocese which are subject to assessments, returns were only received for 2008 for 237 congregations, while 29 remain outstanding for 2007 and 18 still outstanding for 2006. The reasons and applicable sanctions for non-compliance was discussed at great length and it is hoped that the sessions to be held over the next 3-6 months with each Church to go through the process would assist in reducing this level of non-compliance.

A long and spirited debate followed the presentation and it was firstly agreed that the method of computation of assessments needed to be further reviewed and it was noted that a Sub- committee of the Council and the Financial Board had started this review. Secondly the estimates as presented were approved.

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009
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<b>Amount ( \$Ja)</b>	7,374,271	8,702,904	11,320.016	13,021,949
<b>Percentage</b>	12.21%	18.02%	30.07%	18.7%

Based on the above St. Andrew Parish Church would be required to pay \$13,021,949 in assessments for the year 2009, which reflects a 18.12% increase over 2008 total of \$11,320.016. Kindly see below SAPC increasing assessments over the past 4 years.

The audited accounts for 2008 were presented and after discussions the report was adopted and Auditors Messers Paul Goldson and Company was re-elected as Auditors for the Diocese. An update on the schedule of all the properties owned by the Diocese which was requested last Synod was not presented however, a Group led by Dr. Vin. Lawrence gave an update on work that was being done to have this ready for the next Synod.

## SYNOD CLUSTER REVIEWS

Continuing on the format of using Clusters to review reports received, five clusters were established as detailed below. In addition to reviewing the reports within the context of ‘Stewardship’ each cluster was also asked to give an opinion on their position, through voting, with regard to Capital Punishment.

1. Governance, Management and Finance – Chair; Dr. Vincent Lawrence
  - a) Reporter: Miss Greta Bogues
2. Education and Youth - Chair; Mr. Keith Noel
  - a) Reporter: Mrs. Sandra Swyer-Watson
3. Communications – Chair; Mrs. Beverley Josephs
  - a) Reporter: Miss. Beverley Newell
4. Mission – Chair; Dr. Trevor Hope
  - a) Reporter: The Rev. Ralph Parkes
5. Ministry – Chair; Rev. Garth Minott
  - a) Reporter: Rev. Monique Blake

All groups met and presented to Synod reports on each area. Concern was raised in most clusters that recommendations and resolutions agreed from last year from the same Clusters were not implemented. There were spirited discussions on all areas presented. With regard to capital punishment the majority of clusters voted against capital punishment.

## RESOLUTIONS

The Synod for the year 2009 carried on the trend of passing timely resolutions with potentially far-reaching impact. However, prior to the passing of Resolutions the Chancellor reported on the Bill to amend the Canons as noted:

‘Canon VI Article 1 Section 1 to include the Secretary of Synod as an ex officio member of the Diocesan Council’ and this was approved by Synod.

The following resolutions were debated and passed:

### **RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF WORK**

Expression of appreciation and thanks for the work of The Rev. Astley Charles Lindo for faithful, dedicated and energetic service for over 42 years .

### **RESOLUTION ON BANK FACILITIES**

Permission to borrow up to two million dollars (\$2m) as required.

### **RESOLUTION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNSELLING FACILITIES**

This emanated from St. Boniface Church Committee in response to the increased level of bereavement and the need of specialist counselling support in order to cope effectively with their loss and grief; the Diocesan Council should take steps to establish counselling facilities or resources across the Diocese with at least one in each region.

### **RESOLUTION AMENDING CANON IV**

This resolution sought to amend Canon IV to include the Directors of the Department of Education and Youth among the members of Synod, as currently only those who are members of the Clergy or Church Workers holding the Bishop’s Licence can attend and does not include the Laity who do not hold the Bishop’s license but are appointed to serve in these capacities.

### **RESOLUTION ON SUCCESS OF KINGSTON COLLAGE**

This resolution recognised the achievement and success of Kingston Collage in topping the School's Challenge Quiz and the Boys' segment of the Boys and Girls Athletic Championship

## **RESOLUTION ADDRESSING RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ARISING FROM SYNOD**

This governance resolution sought to establish a Committee Chaired by the Secretary of Synod to establish a structured system for following through with all recommendations and resolutions passed at Synod and providing quarterly updates to the Diocesan Council, The Financial Board and the members of Synod in the following year.

## **RESOLUTION ON RESTORING VALUES IN ENTERTAINMENT**

This resolution sought to address the lowering of the moral barometer in the Jamaica society evidenced by the proliferation of degrading and dehumanizing lyrics in songs played on radio and public transport as well as the explicit movement in the music and such lyrics, and requested that Synod record its concern on these trends and make every effort to raise the general standard of music and behaviour in Jamaica to a new level.

## **OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

Other resolutions were brought to Synod; however after much discussion these were not passed.

## **JAMAICA CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY (JCMS)**

The Chairman of the JCMS, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Daniel presented the 2008 report on the Society. The Chairman said that as he reflected on the year 2008, the high point was undoubtedly the Lambeth Conference, which had as its theme 'Equipping Bishops for Mission and Strengthening Anglican Identity'. He said that they were reminded over and over again that the mission is God's mission, and that our understanding of mission cannot be a narrow one, but must be large enough to embrace all situations and contexts in which God is at work today and is inviting the church's co-operation.

Another feature of 2008 was the onset of the global financial crisis into which all nations have been plunged. As the JCMS had centered its work on giving support to mission initiatives, effectively it has been operating as a funding agency, so it



was important for churches and missions to continue to support the Society. He reminded the Synod that God is present with his people in all the crises of life, economic or otherwise.

Bishop Daniel invited us to reflect on three principles that remain constant about mission work.

1. The first is that it is Spirit driven and that mission is a divine initiative not a human enterprise.
2. The second principle is that mission is Christ centered, and so is not only Spirit driven, but Christ focused.
3. The third and final principle is that the provision and the protection for mission comes from the Father.

He closed by saying that it is wonderful to know that the work of mission is driven, centered and upheld by the Triune God, and prayed that this may forever inspire us to attempt great things for God in the troubled times in which we live. The Chairman also gave notice of his intention not to offer himself for appointment to that position at the next Synod.

The Society had a projected expenditure of \$4,850,000:00 for 2009.

## **EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEPARTMENT**

The Department of Education and Youth presented 3 papers that addressed the following areas:

1. Sunday School Five Year Plan with major aims:
  - To get congregations enthused and motivated to have a thriving Sunday School that feels loved and supported.
  - To get congregations to develop a pool of teachers who feel energized and committed to the task of Sunday School Ministry and who are prepared to mentor students in their care
  - To increase the average attendance of Sunday School
2. Regional Consultations on the Sunday School Ministry and findings which included the following:
  - Implementation of family education
  - Identify Regional christian educators
  - Hold verandah Sunday schools as a means of engaging the unchurched

- Hold total Sunday School – adults and children together
- Have a pilot project on Total Sunday School before full implementation

3. Youth Ministry Division survey and recommendations as detailed below:

- Different modes of communication required to address this grouping
- Congregations/Deaneries within the Diocese that can afford it should be encouraged to hire full time Youth Ministers
- Youth Ministry is a small banner which covers a large area
  - Young Adult Ministry; 21-35 years old
  - Ministry on College Campus ; 18-21 years old
  - Youth Ministry; 13-17 years
- Increased personnel will be required to effectively straddle all areas.
- All Clergy, Church workers and Synod members have a responsibility to help their Church members know about and participate in Youth programmes.

The Education and Youth Department continues to play a major role in supporting the development of the young people in the Diocese.

## **APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH**

Please note that the following members of our church were appointed to serve on the following Boards and Committees:

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT</b>
Mrs. Marie Isaacs	Jamaica Church Missionary Society
Sister Doris Levien	Church Army Committee
Rev. Monique Blake	Nomination Committee
Mr. Mike Fennell	Diocesan Financial Board & Jamaica Church Pension Scheme
Dr. Vin Lawrence	Member Incorporated Lay Body & Nuttall Trust
Mr. Alvaro Casserly	Member Incorporated Lay Body
Rev. Sirrano Kitson	Diocesan Council (3 years)
Mrs. Andrea Chin See	Diocesan Council (3 years)
Miss. Greta Bogues	Diocesan Financial Board (3 years)

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Each day started with Matins at 6:30 a.m. and the Eucharist at 7:00 a.m. which was led by the Bishop of each Region each day. Each day closed with Evensong at about 5:30 p.m. This helped to set the tone for the Synod and this time spent with the Lord was essential and invaluable.

Friday afternoon the Bishop thanked those who had made the Synod possible and had laboured long hours. At 1:00 p.m. with the singing of the doxology and the blessing by the President, Synod was dissolved on Friday April 17, 2009.

Some final observations:

- Concern continued to be expressed strongly among members regarding the level and structure of assessment being levied on churches and the inability of many churches to pay.
- The appointment of a Communications Officer (Part Time) in the name of Mrs. Beverly Newell for the Diocese. This should assist in further enhancing the public and internal communication of the Anglican Church.
- The continuing decline in membership in most churches is a source of major concern.
- A number of questions were tabled for responses from various members and this included those received from SAPC.

- In Accordance with Canon XXI Article 5 (2) the Diocesan Council requested Of the Diocesan Bishop, The Hon & Rt. Rev. Dr. Alfred C Reid that he remains in office up to the age of 75 years, and the Diocesan Bishop agreed to this request.
- Again this year a significant amount of young people attended Synod and added active and lively participation to the sessions.

Copies of this report and other documents are available through the Church Office.

Sisters and Brothers, once again we have felt honoured and privileged to represent you and our beloved St. Andrew Parish Church at Synod. We feel blessed and truly wish to thank you for the opportunity. In these times of crisis, may we all, in faith, respond to the call of Stewardship.

#### **Lay Representatives to Synod 2009**

**Andrea Chin See**

**Greta Bogues**

July12, 2009