

**ST. ANDREW PARISH CHURCH**

**REPORT OF THE 141<sup>ST</sup> SYNOD OF THE  
CHURCH IN  
JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS IN  
THE PROVINCE OF THE  
WEST INDIES**

**MAY 13 – 14, 2011**



**“Transforming Society to facilitate the  
development of a spiritually vibrant people”**

June 2011

## **INTRODUCTION**

The 141<sup>st</sup> Synod of the Anglican Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in the Province of the West Indies was held over the period May 13-14 2011 under the theme “Transforming society to facilitate the development of a spiritually vibrant people”. The Synod started with the Service of Evensong at 4:15 p.m. on Friday afternoon in the Great Hall of the Breezes Resort and Spa Hotel in Falmouth with the Very Rev. Canon Collin D. Reid, Senior Canon and Rector of the Cathedral Church of St. Jago de la Vega, Officiated. The service ended at 6:15 p.m.

## **THE BISHOP'S CHARGE**

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

The Lord Bishop based his sermon on the theme “Transforming society to facilitate the development of a spiritually vibrant people”. The Bishop used as his text, words from Jeremiah 8: 22 to 9:3.

The year 2011 being the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Jamaica Church Missionary society, the Bishop acknowledged with thanks the tremendous growth of the movement over the 30 years during which Bishop Harold Daniels served as Chairman. The Bishop prefaced by stating that he has no doubt that there are many individuals that are spiritually vibrant, but unfortunately this does not translate into a spiritually vibrant nation. There are even vibrant congregations and assemblies in our diocese and in every other denomination, but they unfortunately have no impact on the nation or society—it is as if these congregations exist for the enjoyment of their members rather than for the healing of the nation.

What is the state of the Jamaican society at this time? He asked. He analysed the various signs of social decay and death that have plunged our country into despair. The incidence of vicious and violent crime that is still way beyond what any civilised society would tolerate and when the dark demonic nature of these brutal and sub-human acts leave no one in the society free from deep anxiety and fear. He went further to say that it is because the world is in such a bad shape that God has initiated his covenant, first with Abraham to become the father of many nations and by whom the families of the earth will be blessed. This he says is fundamental to the Biblical understanding of Mission in both the Old and New Testaments.

It is against this background that the call was issued at the opening of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jamaica Missionary Society, which was “Defining the mission of the Church to the Society” This will be no easy task and will call for a different mind-set, different assumptions and a whole new approach to the work of Mission and Evangelism. ***THE CHURCH CANNOT ABDICATE ITS PECULIAR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MORAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT MEASURED BY NOTHING LESS THAN THE FULL STATURE OF CHRIST.***

The Bishop called for the launch of a National Crusade in every Nation Worldwide – a crusade depicting a serious analysis of the dehumanizing and death-dealing challenges with which people in general are grappling- done in dialogue with the real masses. It must be approached with an open mind, willingness to see the alternative of justice and the stewardship of God’s creation. We need to figure out what is the call to mission that comes to us from the present situation and what kind of church must we become if we are to respond faithfully. He said our ***MISSION*** is not to save our own skin but to ensure that when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, Jamaica will be numbered among those blessed ones.

The offering taken at the Service was in aid of the new St. Peter’s College.

A full summary of the Bishop’s Charge has been placed on our website or can be obtained from the Church Office.

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

In presenting Part 2 of his charge, the Lord Bishop read all the notices and announced all the changes, appointments, congratulations and recognition of members of the Anglican community who had received awards during the year.

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

The Chairman of the JCMS, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Daniel presented the 2010 report on the Society, highlighting that this would be his last report as Chairman of the JCMS. Bishop Daniel tabled the Report of the Society as contained in a well prepared Booklet.

The report highlighted the work of the Church army in assisting the laity to be more involved in the mission of the Church. Several training sessions were conducted in the cures directed by Sisters Phyllis and Molly with a focus on

“Visitation/ Friendship Evangelism”. The Church Army was also invited to conduct training for the Youths in each Area Council with focus on Peer Evangelism.

The training for Lay Readers which started three years ago was completed in November 2010 and the Rt. Rev. Dr Alfred Reid commissioned twenty two persons who received licence and authority to assist the clergy as Parochial Lay Readers in the Deanery of Portland.

There is a call to involve and equip the broad based membership of the Church to actively engage in God’s mission for the transformation of the Church and the world through the love of Jesus. The Society needs to know what is being done in each church so there can be co-ordination of our efforts and any needed assistance.

In May when there were serious problems between the security forces and communities of Denham Town and Tivoli Gardens the Society intervened with a view to bring solace and stability to the traumatized citizens. They engaged the services of a Social Worker to determine an appropriate strategy for addressing the consequences of the incursion.

Bishop Daniels then guided the Synod through the other aspects of the Report, responding to questions and comments that came from the floor.

Some points highlighted were:

- Outreach Programmes
- Education and Evangelism
- Income & Expenditure with special mention of increase contribution from St Andrew Parish Church
- Current account support

The Society continues to assist those Missions that are unable to meet their assessments; however proof of their inability is required. Provisions have also been made to assist Chapel-of-Ease to meet their insurance obligations subject to recommendation by their respective Deanery Council.

The Society had a projected expenditure of \$4,689,500 for 2010 and St. Andrew Parish Church as a top contributor (\$188,850.00) towards this effort through our Missionary Sunday contributions.

The Bishop 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.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Synod reconvened on Saturday morning with Matins and the Holy Eucharist. The business session commenced with the presentation of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 by Messrs Paul Goldson and Company. After discussions the report was adopted and Auditors Messrs Paul Goldson and Company was re-elected as Auditors for the Diocese.

The financial report for the year 2010 and estimates of receipts and expenditure for the year were introduced by Mr. Mike Fennell, Chairman of the Diocesan Financial Board (DFB) and presented by Vice Chairman, Miss Dundeen Ferguson. However, before the Chairman of the Diocesan Financial Board, the Hon. Mike Fennell, O.J., the President told the Synod of his (the Chairman's) recent illness and thanked him for his dedication to the duty of overseeing the finances of the Diocese.

On behalf of the Synod the President wished the Chairman speedy recovery to full health. The Chairman responded by thanking the President and the Synod for their prayers and support and gave public testimony that it was by the Grace of God and the support of his family and friends and the expertise of his medical team why he could stand addressing Synod at that time.

The Budget for the Diocese for 2010 and 2011 was presented as follows:

### **RECURRENT BUDGET**

<b>Details</b>	<b>Budget 2010</b>	<b>Actual 2010</b>	<b>Change (\$)</b>	<b>Budget 2011</b>	<b>Variance 2010/11 (%)</b>
Recurrent Expenditure	\$ 162,072	\$ 153,798	8,167	\$ 169,462	10.2%
<b>Financed by:</b>					

Income earned by the Diocese & other Diocese Resources	\$ 27,611	\$ 29,511	1,939	\$ 32,989	(11.6%)
Assessment	\$ 128,006	\$ 129,748	1,742	\$ 127,221	(1.95)%
Unutilized Budget Funds from previous year		\$3,751		9,252	146.7%

Concern was raised about the growing current account balances in all regions, with the largest being in the Kingston Region. 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 2010 primarily due to:
  - Savings in salaries resulting from vacancies not filled
  - The Diocese was also impacted negatively from interest income due to the JDX
  - Certain planned programmes not implemented
- Projections for 2011 based primarily on:
  - Uncertain economic environment – Global economic recession, inflation, crime, high; level of unemployment
  - Salaries of Clergy and Full-time Church workers increase by 5%
  - Filling vacancies for new positions and other clerical and lay workers
  - Provision for four (4) Suffragan Bishops and four (4) Regions
  - Approximate 2% decrease in Assessments on Churches.
  - Minimum assessments; Churches \$50,000 and Missions \$12,000

## CAPITAL BUDGET

It was noted that Churches and Missions do not contribute to the capital expenditure which for 2011 was proposed at \$23.96 million (\$9.2m for 2010). 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 Vice - Chairman was the level of compliance for all Financial Returns by each Church. Of 260 congregations in the Diocese which are subject to assessments, returns remain outstanding as follows; for 2010 for 8 congregations, while 10 remain outstanding for 2009 and 15 still outstanding for 2008. The reasons and applicable sanctions for non-compliance were again discussed at great length especially in light of the fact that awareness sessions were held across the country with various churches including the clergy and treasurers. The Synod was reminded of the provision in the Canons that no Loans or other Payments should be made to Churches with outstanding Financial Returns.

A long and spirited debate followed the presentation of the financial report. Given the concerns raised with regard to the current accounts a paper was tabled for discussion on how to restructure the Churches' current account debt. The Paper, among other things, indicated that the interest that would normally accrue on the Current Accounts would be frozen and the Balances as at 2010 December 31 would be transferred to a separate account. The Churches with credit balances (without any encumbrances) in other accounts would have those credits applied to the Current Accounts and net balances would be placed in an account until such balances are liquidated by the respective Churches. The Churches would then be required to keep their Current Accounts up to date. Discussions with Churches in debt will commence in this regard in short order.

Based on the above St. Andrew Parish Church will be required to pay \$12,682,113 in assessments for the year 2011, which reflects a reduction of 9.9% over 2010 total of \$13,966,285. This is the first time in the past five years that SAPC is allocated a reduced assessment. Kindly see below SAPC assessments over the past 4 years.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Amount ( \$Ja)</b>	11,320,016	13,026,387	13, 966,285	12,682,113
<b>Percentage</b>	30.07%	18.12%	7.2%	(9.9%)

## RESOLUTIONS

The Synod for the year 2010 carried on the trend of passing timely resolutions with potentially far-reaching impact. However, prior to the passing of Resolutions the Chancellor tabled amendments to Canons as noted and these were approved:

**1. CANON IV Article 1      *Of the Constitution of the Diocesan Synod***

Amendment is made to this Canon by adding paragraph "o" the following words "All the Directors of the Department of Education and Youth".

**2. CANON VIII Article 16 Section A      *Of Finance***

Amendment is made to this Canon by deleting the words "March 31" and replacing them with the words "February 10."

**3. CANON IX Article 6                              *Of Deanery Councils***

Amendment is made to this Canon by repealing Article 6 and renumbering Articles 7 to 14 as Articles 6 to 13.

**4. CANON X Article 1 Section 1 *Of Diocesan Board of Education & Youth***

Amendment is made is to this Canon by adding paragraph "j" after paragraph "i". Paragraph "j" will now read

"A Representative of the Presidents of Deanery Sunday school Councils."

**5. CANON XII Article 4 Section 4                              *Of Board of Nominations***

Amendment is made to this Canon by changing paragraphs "b, c & d" to read

(b). Divisional Director of Christian Education

(c). Divisional Director of Youth

(d). Divisional Director of Schools

**6. CANON XIV Article 1                              *Of Ecclesiastical Returns***

Amendment is made to this Canon by deleting the words "January 25" and the words "the tenth day of February" and replacing them both with the words "the fifteen day of February."



7. *CANON LIII Article 1 Section 1 Of Diocesan Board of Mission & Ministry*

Amendment is made to this Canon by adding the following:

- (k). The Director of Evangelism
- (l). The Director Training.

The following resolutions were debated and passed:

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF WORK**

Expression of appreciation and thanks for the dedicated work sterling service of The Very Rev. Canon Peter A. Mullings who has retired from active service in Ministry .

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF WORK**

Expression of appreciation and thanks for the dedicated work and contribution that the late Philip Hamilton made towards various activities of the Diocese.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF WORK**

Expression of appreciation and thanks for the unflinching work and thirty one years of outstanding service of The Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold B. Daniel who will be stepping down as Chairman of the Jamaica Church Missionary Society (JCMS).

**RESOLUTION ON BANK FACILITIES**

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

**RESOLUTION ON BUDGETING FOR YOUTH MINISTRY**

This resolution sought to strongly advise local congregations across the Diocese to make such financial provisions in their local budgets to support youth ministry in whatever, way shape or form as is possible within each specific congregation.

**RESOLUTION RE: SUICIDES**

This resolution called upon the Synod membership to be supportive of family, neighbors, coworkers and others, particularly children, when they are unable

to cope with stress and as the need arises to assist them with emotional and other support including counseling and reference to appropriate health services which could make all the difference between life and death.

## **RESOLUTION RE: YEAR OF THE FAMILY**

This resolution urged all members to commit themselves to the ideals of the Year of the Family and to take appropriate measures, individually and collectively to accomplish as much as possible in the advancement and strengthening of family life within the home, Church and wider community.

## **RESOLUTION TOWARDS CURBING CORRUPTION**

This resolution called upon leaders in all spheres to set the example by their personal conduct and public commitment to the highest standards of integrity especially in our political culture and to make no peace with wrong-doing at any level and

**IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that as members of Christ's Kingdom our Church calls its members to aim to live in such a way as to be exemplars in our communities, Church and nation so that we may not only draw others to Christ but encourage turning aside from unethical practices and that we commit ourselves to helping to cleanse the society of the evils of corruption and, by examples, shine the light of God into the dark places of our nation.

## **OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

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

## **EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEPARTMENT**

The Department of Education and Youth Divisional Director, Mrs. Gloria Gascoigne made a presentation on the work of the Division

The Department has seen changes under the leadership of Rev. Michael Allen - Director of Christian Education; Mrs. Gascoigne and Mrs. Sasha Wright- Director of Youth Ministry. During the past year the Department said goodbye to Mrs. Michelle Haughton and Mrs. Nicki Elliott and welcomed Mr. Donurine Mills. Mrs. Elliott has however returned to the ranks of full-time volunteer of the Education

and Youth Department of the St George's Grand Cayman where the family now resides.

The Christian Education Division staged another of its Bible Expo and the Rt. Rev. Dr. Howard Gregory, Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay was the presenter with the topic being, 'Lessons from Job'. Deanery workshops were also conducted in all deaneries under the Theme: "I believe in Jesus" to strengthen the Sunday School Ministry.

For some time now, our Diocese has been concerned about the breakdown of values and attitudes in our society and the negative impact it has been having on our schools. Out of this concern, the publication of the booklet "Celebrating A New Culture: A Curriculum for Moral Development" was published to be used by Chaplains and teachers in our Schools. Additionally, a number of persons were trained as Chaplains and assigned to our schools. The Chaplains were given a mandate and guidelines to ensure a certain standard of operating.

The National Youth Council had a productive 2010 with a number of planned activities under the theme, *"RENEWING, REVIVING, REFRESHING our PURPOSE in Christ Jesus*

The AYF and Discipleship: A New Approach to Ministering to our Youth took a different and broader look at the core business of the AYF and came up with recommendation to take this group to a different level.

**DIOCESAN NEW APPOINTMENTS & RETIREMENTS**

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>Appointments/Retirements</b>
The Rt. Rev. Dr. R. Thompson	Chair, Jamaica Church Missionary Society
The Rt. Rev. Dr. H. Daniel	Chair, Church Army Council
The Very Rev. R. McLean	Rural Dean Portmore
The Very Rev. F. Jackson	Rural Dean St. Andrew
The Rev. Canon J. Daniel	Retirement, September 30,2011
The Ven. Dr. A. Stone	Retirement ( as Archdeacon), December 31, 2011
The Rt. Rev. Dr. H. Daniel	Retirement, September 30,2011
The Rt. Rev. & Hon. A. Reid.	Retirement, December 31,2011

The following new appointments and retirements were announced:

## APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBERS OF SAPC

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

MEMBER	APPOINTMENT
Mrs. Andrea ChinSee	Jamaica Church Missionary Society
Sister Doris Levien	Church Army Council
Mrs. Yvette Smith	Diocesan Schools' Trust
Mr. Mike Fennell	Diocesan Financial Board & Jamaica Church Pension Scheme
Dr. Vin Lawrence	Member Incorporated Lay Body & Chairman, Nuttall Trust
Mr. Alvaro Casserly	Member Incorporated Lay Body
Rev. Serrano Kitson	Diocesan Council - 1 year remaining
Miss. Greta Bogues	Diocesan Financial Board - 1 year remaining

## CLOSING REMARKS

In the closing the Bishop told Synod that the Archbishop of the West Indies was asking the Dioceses to ask their respective Synods to recommit themselves to the Ordination of Women to the Episcopate. Synod agreed to reaffirm its commitment which it made in the Annual Diocesan Synod of 2004.

The Synod closed with the Lord Bishop announcing his retirement on 2012 January 1. During the inter regnum the Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay, being the Senior Suffragan Bishop would act as Canonical Administrator of the Diocese until the vacancy is filled. He said that he would be writing to the Archbishop of the West Indies, with a copy to Bishop Gregory who would be acting as Canonical Administrator of the Diocese, informing him of his decision to proceed to retirement on 2012 January 1.

The Venerable Dr. Alvin Stone, on behalf of the Diocese, thanked the President for the usual efficient handling of the business of Synod. He thanked him for his rousing Charge to Synod and the Nation the evening before and for the homily

delivered at the Holy Eucharist earlier in the day. Archdeacon Stone recalled memories of his work with Bishop Reid – from fellow student at St. Peter's Theological College to working with him as Archdeacon. On behalf of the Synod Archdeacon Stone wished the Bishop and his dear wife happiness in retirement.

The Lord Bishop then thanked those who had made the Synod possible and had laboured long hours. At 4:45 p.m. with the singing of the doxology and the blessing by the President, Synod was dissolved on Saturday May 14, 2011.

Some final observations:

- Synod was very appreciative of the new process being implemented to assist churches in debt, and hoped this would bring this situation under control.
- The continuing decline in membership in most churches is a source of major concern.
- It was noted that Jamaica will be hosting the next Provincial Synod in November 2011
- 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 family at Synod. We feel blessed and truly wish to thank you for the opportunity. In these times of transformation may we all, in faith, respond to the call of Stewardship.

### **Lay Representatives to Synod 2011**

**Greta Bogues**  
**Rhena Williams**

June 30, 2011