

SYNOD 2007: 'JESUS, WE DECLARE'

A REPORT TO THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS

The opening service took place on the evening of Wednesday May 9th at the Holy Trinity Cathedral. The highlight was the Charge presented by His Lordship, Bishop Bess. This has been printed in full in the Anglican Outlook; suffice it to mention that the charge made particular reference to Climate Change and the UN/World Bank Report on Crime, Violence and Development in the Caribbean. His Lordship also spoke on philosophical issues which affect us, as Church, and went on to discuss matters related to the Synod theme, 'Jesus, We Declare' – vocations, evangelism, a peace plan for schools, the ratio of female: male teachers, the problems within the Worldwide Anglican Communion and the Diocesan Project (rebuilding St Bartholomew, Mayaro).

The business sessions of Synod took place at La Joya from Thursday to Saturday (May 10-12), but there was insufficient time for discussion and voting on the large number of resolutions presented. Synod was, therefore, reconvened at the Trincity Colleges on Saturday June 9th. Each day began with the Holy Eucharist, celebrated by the Archdeacons and, at the reconvened session, by Canon Berkley; each day was brought to a close with Evening prayer.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Reports on activities of 2006 were presented by the following organisations:

	<i>ORGANISATION</i>		<i>ORGANISATION</i>
1	Diocesan Council	13	Lay Ministry
2	Board of Finance	14	Children's Church Committee
3	Incorporated Trustees	15	Sunday School/Christian Education Committee
4	North West Regional Council	16	Board of Social Responsibility
5	North East Regional Council	17	Anglican Education Board of Management
6	South Regional Council	18	St Mary's Children's Home
7	Tobago Regional Council	19	St Michael's School for Boys
8	Mothers' Union	20	Trinity College
9	Anglican Church Men's Society	21	Trinity Junior School
10	Clergy Council	22	Bishop Anstey Junior School
11	Commission on Ministry	23	Trincity Colleges – Bishop Anstey and Trinity College East
12	Institute of Pastoral Care	24	Building and Lands Committee

A bound copy of these reports has been placed in the Church's office and is available for perusal at the office by members of our congregations who so desire.

CLUSTER GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Delegates to Synod (Lay and Clergy) were divided to ten groups, each mandated to discuss and make recommendations on the Bishop's Charge and one or two of the Reports identified above. Each cluster reported to Synod and, arising from these discussions, resolutions were framed and presented. The discussions and presentations were so lengthy that it was necessary to postpone the discussion and voting on the resolutions to a later date – subsequently determined to be Saturday June 9th.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY SYNOD 2007

In the interest of brevity, the numerous 'whereas clauses' have been omitted. In some instances, amendments made before voting on the resolutions have changed their nature, such that the title is no longer fully reflective of the content.

1. MINISTRY TO RESIDENTS IN NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Be It Resolved that as a matter of urgency, Synod 2007 mandates the Diocesan Commission on Evangelism and Mission, to develop appropriate short term and long term strategies to assist parishes which encompass these new housing developments/communities to carry out a well organized, coordinated and executed plan of action through the following approaches:

- a) to present to Council by the end of six months short term measures that can be adopted to bring information and create heightened awareness of this situation and

- b) the Commission further present to Council by the end of one year a comprehensive study identifying population demographics and shifts in relation to present church locations, a study on type and structure of future accommodation for our new thrust in evangelism and outreach for the Anglican Church in Trinidad & Tobago.

2. THE FEMALE/MALE RATIO IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION

Be It Resolved that Synod 2007 appoint a committee to devise strategies to assist males in reaffirming their spiritual and moral standing in society;

Be It Further Resolved that the committee comprise three (3) members of Synod 2007, two (2) members of the Education Board of Management and that each Regional Council be mandated to appoint two (2) of its members to this committee;

Be It Further Resolved that the Committee complete this task for presentation to the Diocesan Council by November 2007 for approval and implementation at Parish, Regional and Diocesan levels.

Committee members nominated by Synod: Mr James Kendall, Mrs Pamela Redhead, Mr Steve Small

3. BUILDINGS AND LANDS COMMITTEE

Be It Resolved that this Synod mandate the Diocesan Council in collaboration with the Building and Lands Committee of the Diocese to establish a Building and Lands Committee in each region of the Diocese with clear terms of reference by September 2007;

Be It Further Resolved that each Regional Building and Lands Committee be comprised of two (2) persons from the Property Committee of each parish in the relevant Region.

4. LAY MINISTRY

Be It Resolved that this Synod agree that:

- a) The Lay Ministers' Warden or a duly appointed representative be afforded representation on the Diocesan Council to effectively communicate the combined ratified concerns and/or laid down directives.
- b) On such appointment Lay Ministers shall be required to form themselves into an organized body with representation from all Regions of the Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago to work in tandem with the Warden and
- c) At the next annual meeting of Synod and thereafter representation in the form of two delegates as elected by the body of Lay Ministers be afforded to ensure continuity, foster individual and group growth as well as involvement in the affairs of the Church.

Parts 1 and 2 of this Resolution were passed, Part 3 was defeated

5. ATTRACTING MEN AND WOMEN TO THE ORDAINED MINISTRY

Be It Resolved that the Synod 2007 mandates the Bishop in Council to recruit an Officer for Vocational Ministries with clearly defined duties and responsibilities.

Be It Resolved that the Diocesan Vocation Officer be recruited from within the Clergy of the Diocese of Trinidad & Tobago based on the following criteria:

- a) Possession of good personality traits with interpersonal communication skills
- b) The ability to profile the Ordained Ministries and the benefits thereof.
- c) The ability to interact readily with Clergy Personnel, families and Laity of every strata within the Society
- d) An exemplar of the profession.

6. ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL FOR BOYS/ST MARY'S CHILDREN'S HOME

Be It Resolved that

- a) the role and function of the Board of Management of the St. Michael's School for Boys be firmly established;
- b) there be a greater Anglican presence at the St. Michael's School for Boys in all aspects of the overall development of the students e.g. spiritual, educational, social, cultural, physical, with the Parish of St. Michael and All Angels as the overseer who will seek the help of the Northwest Regional Council and other members of the Anglican Community whenever necessary;
- c) the Synod agree to the re-establishment of the "Friends of the St. Michael's Home" with a Coordinator coming from among delegates of Synod 2007 and;

Be It Further Resolved that the Diocese, through the respective Boards of Management, seek to develop more effective programmes for young persons leaving the St Michael's and St Mary's Homes – the programmes to include certification, employment opportunities, and placement in half-way homes or hostels around the Diocese to help former students during the first few months after leaving the Homes.

Co-ordinator named by Synod – Commander I.E. Forbes

7. CAPACITY BUILDING – INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS & LEADERSHIP

Be It Resolved that the Church embark on a three/year development program of capacity building through intensive training in “interpersonal Communication and Leadership” for all Priests, Deacons, Lay Ministers and Vestries.

That this development programme (DP) is the first multi-year capacity building programme in the history of the Diocese to rekindle the hearts of all Anglicans for the long-term growth of our Church. Some of the topics in the training modules should include presentations by local and overseas facilitators such as:

- a) Defining and understanding media and communications
- b) Understanding Your Audience and Team Building
- c) The Anglican theological perspective and Catechists in our Church
- d) Recruitment and Selection of communication teams
- e) Developing relationships within sectors of the Parish & Region
- f) Leadership and Building our Church at the grassroots at all age groups
- g) Strategic Planning and Project Management at the Parish, Regional and Diocesan levels – Accountability and Results
- h) Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E).

The Diocesan Council (DC) and the Board of Finance (BOF) will

- a) Recruit a Diocesan Vocation Officer (DVO) who will liaise with Parish clergy and Regional Councils to ensure the annual placement of three or more candidates to attend Codrington College by late 2008 and
- b) Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for a Project Proposal with a DP as described above. The Diocesan Council and Board of Finance will consider and if feasible, based on Cost/Benefits and other parameters, approve and implement the project with financing from the Diocese not to exceed TT \$3 Million (US \$ 500,000).

Project costs may be co-financed and leveraged with complementing agencies such as International Financial Institutions, NGOs, Grants, Project beneficiaries, Government of Trinidad and Tobago and local private sector. However, project implementation will be controlled by the Church. The project, *inter-alia*, should ensure that our Church is revitalized with sustainable leadership for today’s youths – their moral and spiritual growth. A small Project Management Team will implement this Project and M & E will be carried out by staff of the Diocesan Office. Synod is kindly asked to agree.

Resolution was referred to Diocesan Council for further study. Council will determine the actions that should be taken and will report back to Synod 2008. Members of Cluster will be asked to provide detail and/or clarification as appropriate.

8. SAFETY AND HEALTH ISSUES AS THEY AFFECT THE CHURCH

Be It Resolved that the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago take the necessary actions to:

- a) Train and update clergy and selected Vestry members on relevant aspects of OSHA;
- b) Ensure the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago becomes OSHA compliant in all aspects;
- c) Identify and train persons within the parishes to be responsible for ensuring that each parish becomes and remains OSHA compliant.

9. RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Be It Resolved That:

- a) A document outlining the Church’s position on responsible stewardship of the environment be produced by the Bishop in Council and circulated not later than July 31st 2007 as a first step towards the Church becoming a significant force for change by adopting a leadership role in matters relating to care of ‘the Environment’.
- b) A mechanism be sought to assist clergy to develop an appropriate awareness and understanding of environmental issues and that a further mechanism be sought to ensure that training for the sacred ministry includes training in environmental issues.
- c) The Bishop in Council establish, no later than July 31st 2007, an Environmental Action Team comprising interested clergy, lay (including not fewer than three of our young people), business and other persons with relevant knowledge and expertise, to be charged with the responsibility of:
 - (i) Investigating mechanisms by which the Environment might be placed firmly on the agenda of our Church, such that the Church may be empowered to become a change-agent in this important area
 - (ii) Creating an Action Plan containing short term and longer term interventions in, *inter alia*, our Churches and Schools, and presenting an *interim* plan no later than September 30th 2007
 - (iii) Instigating action, as approved by Bishop in Council, towards implementing the recommendations of the Action Group.
 - (iv) Looking into the possibilities of an ecumenical approach to matters related to the care of the environment

- d) The Ministry of Education be asked:
- (i) To reconsider its approach to Environmental Education by adding Environmental Studies to the S.E.M.P. Level 1 curriculum for Secondary students in Forms I-III, thereby ensuring that:
 - The environment is handled in the holistic manner necessary for students to gain a proper understanding of the issues involved, in contradistinction to the current approach, with the subject matter distributed among several subjects
 - Such study is undertaken by all students.
 - (ii) To ensure that age-appropriate environmental issues are included in the Primary School curriculum utilising, to the extent that this may be possible, an experiential approach.

10. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Be It Resolved that the Diocese appoint a Diocesan Officer who will administer the Christian Education programme of the Diocese and that that person be responsible for encouraging parishes to appoint parish directors and/or committees to ensure that that programme is being instituted and tailored to the needs of each individual parish, and

Be It Further Resolved that this Officer be responsible for encouraging parishes and the Diocese to use more Information and Communication Technology and more digital approaches (websites, internet, broadcast media), particularly in formulating programmes for Christian Education, Sunday School and Children's Church.

PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE REGULATIONS AND APPROVE AN INVESTMENT POLICY FOR THE DIOCESE

PREAMBLE

Paragraph 6 of Regulation 11 specifies as follows:

- a) There shall be an Investment Sub-Committee of the Board (hereinafter in this Regulation called "the Committee), which shall comprise:
 - (i) the Diocesan Treasurers, and the Diocesan Secretary ex-officio;
 - (ii) such others of its members as the Board may designate;
- b) Subject to ratification thereof by the Board at its first meeting thereafter, the Committee shall consider and decide upon the investments of the Diocese which shall be vested in the Trustees, and upon any changes in such investments"

At a meeting of the Board of Finance at which the members of the Investment Sub-Committee were appointed, it was agreed that the Sub-Committee should also include a representative from each of the Regions and the members were so appointed. In order to regularize the position, the Board of Finance therefore proposes that paragraph 6 of Regulation 11 be amended accordingly.

The Investment Sub-Committee has met and considered an Investment Policy for use as a guideline for the investments of the Diocese. The enclosed Policy document is brought to Synod for approval.

Resolution:

Be It Resolved That paragraph 6 of Regulation 11 be amended to allow for the membership of the Investment Sub-Committee to include a representative from each of the Regions and that subparagraph 6 (a) (ii) be amended as follows:

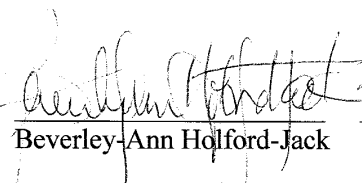
- a) Delete subparagraph 6 (a) (ii) of Regulation 11, and
- b) Replace subparagraph 6 (a) (ii) of Regulation 11 with the following words: "not more than five others as the Board may designate, which shall include a representative from each of the Regions.

Further, Be It Resolved that the enclosed document entitled "*Investment Guidelines For The Anglican Church In The Diocese Of Trinidad And Tobago*" be approved and be adopted for use by the Diocese in making investment decisions, to which document "Properties" should be added to the list of "Eligible Investment Types" on page 7.

Diocesan Council will meet to determine how these resolutions can best be effected.

Respectfully submitted


Eric Drew


Beverley-Ann Holford-Jack


Pat Ruddell