

**REPORT ON THE 146<sup>TH</sup> SYNOD OF THE  
DIOCESE OF JAMAICA & THE CAYMAN ISLANDS  
MARCH 29 – APRIL 1, 2016**

**THE FIRST DAY – MARCH 29, 2016**

The Synod, under the theme “**The Church: Called to be a Holy People,**” began on Tuesday, March 29 with an Opening Service at the St. James Parish Church, Montego Bay.

The Service, which was streamed live via the Diocesan website, was attended by clergy and lay representatives from churches across the Diocese. Special guests included the Custos of St. James, representing the Governor General; the Chief Justice and Chancellor of the Diocese; Custodes of Hanover, St. Ann, St. Andrew (Acting) and Westmoreland; and members of the Diplomatic Corps, as well as the Ecumenical Fraternity,

Highlight of the Service was the ‘Charge’ or special message delivered to the Church and its Diaspora by the Bishop of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Howard K. A. Gregory. This year’s Charge was based on 1 Peter 1: 15, 16. The Bishop explained that the word “holy” is translated to mean: “set apart” for God’s use; and he pointed to passages in Leviticus in which God commanded his people “to be a mirror, reflecting his nature and ways to the watching world.” He noted that holiness must, therefore, find expression, not just in beliefs, but in conduct.

Although baptism committed us “to become agents of transformation and reconstruction, Bishop Gregory asserted that, both the nation and church faced serious moral challenges which required “visionary leadership and concerted action that would lead to rebuilding and reconfiguration of our institutions and structures.”

The Lord Bishop referred to a book entitled: “*Imagining a Church in the Spirit: A Task for Mainline Congregations,*” written by Ben Campbell Johnson and Glenn McDonald. The authors argue that the church faces a crisis, not from decreasing membership or declining income, but because of the loss of the vision of the presence of the living Christ among members. They conclude that this has produced “lifeless gatherings of the baptized with neither vision nor passion for their mission.”

Bishop Gregory also quoted from the 1912 Synod Charge by Archbishop Enos Nuttall, who expressed the need for “spiritual power” in the Church; and emphasized that “every Christian is and must always and everywhere be a Missionary” in order to advance the work of Christ on earth.

In conclusion, Bishop Gregory stated that the call for the Church to be a holy people was not about being pious, or sitting in judgement on the rest of society, while its own life was lacking in integrity and holiness. Rather, he said, “It is a call to reflect in a positive way a life which mirrors the very nature and character of the holy God who has called it into being in Jesus Christ.”

Music for the Service was provided by a combined choir under the direction of Mr. Audley Davidson; the *Pans of Praise Steel Band* of the St. James Parish Church; as well as the Rev. Canon Georgia Jervis and the Rev. Douglas Barnes, who offered a rendition of the Hymn ‘Lord of the Church.’

*(The full text of the Bishop’s Charge is available on the Diocesan website)  
[www.anglicandioceseja.org](http://www.anglicandioceseja.org)*

## **THE SECOND DAY – MARCH 30, 2016**

The Business Sessions of the Synod were held at the Holiday Inn Resort and Spa in Montego Bay.

The second day began with Matins (Morning Prayer) followed by the Holy Eucharist led by the Kingston Region. The Rev. Veronica Thomas, Rector, St. James’ Church, Annotto Bay, officiated at Morning Prayer, while the Rt. Rev. Robert Thompson, Suffragan Bishop of Kingston, was Celebrant and Preacher at the Eucharist.

Bishop Thompson based his Sermon on the passage from Luke 24:30-31 which tells how Jesus renewed the hopes of two disciples on the road to the village, Emmaus. The men were depressed over the recent crucifixion of Jesus. Through their association with him, the world had become a place of endless possibilities, but, with his death, all hope was lost. However, as they spoke with the risen Lord, new horizons were opened to them.

In the same way that Jesus came to those two disciples, Bishop Thompson asserted that: “He comes to the disappointed, the doubtful, the disconsolate... and those who do not recognize him even when they are walking right beside him... God knows where to find those who are broken and blesses them,” he noted.

Like the two disciples, Bishop Thompson said members of the Diocese had struggled for the past decade and a half over the losses being experienced by the church. But, even as we count our losses, he suggested that we were being called to take a new look at our lives; and to count our gifts of fellowship, hospitality, the word and sacrament, which are ways in which Christ promised to be with us. Ultimately, he said, the union with Christ and humanity is what makes mission possible.

The Business Session of the Synod was attended by 229 members, comprising Clergy, Church Workers, and Lay Representatives, including youth.

The Session began with **Part Two of the Lord Bishop's Charge** in which he reported on developments in the Diocese, the Province of the West Indies and the wider Anglican Communion during 2015. Bishop Gregory pointed to two significant appointments in the Anglican Communion: Bishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, the first black Secretary General of the Communion; and Bishop Michael Curry, the first black Primate of the Episcopal Church in the USA.

He also mentioned the passing of The Rt. Rev. Neville deSouza, former Bishop of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands; and The Rt. Rev. Cornell Moss, Bishop of Guyana; and he announced that plans were being made to celebrate the centenary of the death of Archbishop Enos Nuttall in May 2016.

The Lord Bishop welcomed the new Director of Schools, Mrs. Ena Barclay; and he offered congratulations to the Chancellor, The Hon. Mrs. Justice Zaila McCalla who was recently named an Honorary Bencher of Middle Temple, London.

In closing, Bishop Gregory challenged Anglicans to exercise the ministry to which God has called us, rather than seeking to imitate other churches.

Nine resolutions (#2-10), as well as, the Synod Handbook, were tabled for discussion.

**Financial Statements for 2015 and Estimates of Expenditure for 2016** were presented by the Chairman of the Diocesan Financial Board, the Hon. Dr. Michael Fennell. He noted that there was a noticeable increase in receipts from churches in 2015, and attributed this to training workshops conducted across the Diocese, increased efforts by Deaneries to meet their obligations, and the re-energising of Oversight Committees.

The Budget for 2016 is J\$189.7 million, representing a 13% increase on the J\$168 million approved in 2015. Mission Share is J\$169.6 million. Noting that Current Account Debt which stood at J\$348 million in December 2015, remained a concern, Mr. Fennell announced the decision to freeze the debt, under specific conditions. Oversight Committees will meet to determine procedures for granting relief and for monitoring finances in churches. Applications for relief must be submitted to Regional Archdeacons by May 31, 2016.

Resolution #1 was passed by the Synod to facilitate an overdraft of no more than J\$2 million, if needed. Mr. Fennell was returned as Chairman of the Financial Board, and the Accounting firm, UHY Dawgen, was retained as Auditors.

The morning session ended with a presentation on “**The Electronic and Social Media as Vehicles for the Transmission of Values**” led by Professor Hopeton Dunn, Director of the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC), University of the West Indies; and Chairman of the Broadcasting Commission.

Professor Dunn noted that the media landscape had changed dramatically with the emergence of new technologies; and that more time was being focused on the Internet, in particular, social media channels such as Facebook which, with 1.59 billion active users monthly, is shaping world views and values. While social media facilitated contact management, the building of relationships and global exchange of information, he said the disadvantages included social; alienation, altered values, inadequate attention to the nurturing of children, as well as cybercrime and terror.

Professor Dunn suggested that the church use these same channels to re-engage its members, spread the gospel and promote wholesome programme content. He added that new/social media could also be used to manage tithing, live streaming of services to shut-ins, the creation of WhatsApp groups and the downloading of podcasts. He also recommended the establishment of Communication Committees that include women, youth and persons with appropriate skills, as well as the formulation of a Communication Master Plan that would be subject to constant review and upgrading.

A panel discussion followed, with Deaconess Elaine Cunningham, Principal of St. Hugh’s High School, serving as Moderator. The first of the four panelists who spoke was Mrs. Andria Dilbert of St. George’s Church, Grand Cayman. She suggested that the prevalence of smart phones among young persons be taken into consideration in planning communication strategy; and that the love of Jesus be highlighted consistently in the messages disseminated. The Rev. Michael Elliott, Rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Cumberland, Portmore, argued that if the Church’s mission was to get God’s word out, then it had to go where people were, speaking their language, especially in the case of young persons who live in the virtual world. Mr. O’Dayne Plummer, Lay Representative from the Church of the Holy Spirit, noted that the church had to be creative, both in the content and the method of communication, given the wide range of audiences using social media. The final panelist was Mr. Earl Jarrett of the Incorporated Lay Body, who advised that the Internet must be embraced and not feared. He said the church should, therefore, invest the resources to facilitate communication through this channel, which also offered an opportunity to recruit new members.

### **The Afternoon Session**

This session began with the Report of the Board of Nominations, followed by a presentation on the Christian Education Curriculum, delivered by the Rev. Douglas Barnes. He focused on the new Sunday School Curriculum, which comprises three books based on the Liturgical Calendar. The publication is available from the Education & Youth Department at a cost of J\$2,500 for each book, or J\$7,500 for the set. The content has also been produced on CD at a cost of J\$4,500 for the series, or J\$1,500 each.

The next agenda item was a report on the Division of Training, in the Department of Mission and Ministry, presented by the Rev. Canon Georgia Jervis. She stated that the Division was on an evolutionary track, with the aim being to achieve focused preparation of persons in ministry. Her vision for the programme involves the promotion of faith development, aligned to the wider Diocesan mission. The delivery strategy, she said, is to use available human resources and technologies to provide varied training opportunities. Most courses will be offered online at: [www.stpeteronline-edu.org](http://www.stpeteronline-edu.org)

Programme accomplishments, to date, include: training of lecturers; revision of the Supplementary Ministry Training Curriculum; and development of a library. Future plans include rebranding and reorganisation of the Supplementary Ministry; and accreditation for courses offered is to be sought from the University Council of Jamaica. Rev. Jervis said the long-term goal was to create a Diocesan Institute for Leadership and Training.

Evensong followed, led by Miss Nina-Rae Barrett, Anglican student at the United Theological College of the West Indies.

### **The Evening Session**

The proceedings resumed with presentations from the six Cluster Groups which met during the afternoon session and focused on reports in the Synod Handbook relating to:

- Schools – Education
- Outreach – Diocesan Children’s Homes; Homes for the Aged
- Mission & Ministry – Chaplaincy; Lay Training; Supplementary Ministry & Church Army

The reports were reviewed in relation to the Five Marks of Mission, their relevance to today’s church and their alignment to the Diocesan Vision Statement. Groups were also required to shape a relevant Action Plan.

## **Group Reports**

### **Green Group: Outreach – Children’s Homes and Homes for the Aged**

Led by: Rev. Charles Danvers; Rapporteur: Mrs. Veronica Morris-Lynch

- Establishment and operation of the homes to meet the needs of society’s vulnerable members; pastoral, financial and material support provided by clergy and church members; as well as leadership by Boards are all expressions of ministry.
- Devotional services held in the homes; and integration of residents into the church family reflect Mark of Mission #1
- No numerical evidence to demonstrate Mark of Mission #2; however, the involvement of residents in congregations suggests this is being done.
- The establishment and continued operation of the Homes demonstrate the response to human need by loving service – Mark of Mission #3
- Children’s Homes offer care and protection, which partially address the mandate in Mark of Mission #4. This is not as explicit in the Homes for the Aged.
- Involvement of children in crop rearing and animal husbandry is helping to instil a love of nature and the earth as expressed in Mark of Mission #5
- The Homes are relevant to today’s Church, but resource constraints limit effectiveness, especially in Homes for the Aged which need repairs and are under-utilised.
- **Action Plan:** Encourage youth and other members to give of their talent and time; invite friends with the necessary skills to assist; forge partnerships with the private sector; Cures/congregations in close proximity should integrate the Homes in their development plans; expand Homes for the Aged to meet the needs of the nation’s aging population; arrange a National Diocesan Work Day for the Homes

### **Yellow Group: Mission & Ministry – Chaplaincy, Lay Training, Supplementary Ministry & Church Army**

Led by: Rev. Lorraine Geddes-McDonald; Rapporteur: Rev. Leslie Mowatt

- **The Church Army** reflects discipleship through its work as expressed in the first, second and third Marks of Mission.
- It is very relevant to the operation of the church today and its officers are effective wherever they are assigned
- Resources are sorely needed to promote development and ensure a more effective ministry. Cures in which they are assigned have a responsibility to build on the foundation they lay
- **Mission & Ministry** are focused on outreach by meeting the needs of young and old through loving service – Mark of Mission #3
- Through Vacation Bible School; mission walks and Diocesan Homes, the Gospel is proclaimed – Mark of Mission #1

- Boys are mentored in peaceful pathways, avoiding violence – Mark of Mission #4
- Baptisms at the Wortley Home and St. Monica’s Home indicate that the Gospel is bearing fruit – Mark of Mission #2
- **Action Plan:** Programme monitoring to be strengthened; and compliance with regulatory requirements ensured
- **Chaplaincy in Hospitals:** This ministry reflects Marks of Mission 1, 2 and 3; and also provides a vehicle through which new members may be attracted.
- **Supplementary Ministry, Lay Training:** Their contribution is evident primarily in Marks of Mission #1 and #2, and is very relevant. Without them, ministry would not be possible in many places. However, redefinition of roles and duties is required; and a change in title from “Lay Readers” to “Lay Leaders” is proposed
- **General Observation:** The lack of details in the reports does not facilitate assessment of programme efficiency. Instruments should be designed to encourage SMART analysis

### **Pink Group: Outreach – Children’s Homes; Home for the Aged**

Led by: Rev. Annett Brown; Rapporteur: Lt. Col. Norman Tomlinson

- The establishment and operation of the Homes reflect Mark of Mission #3. However, the operation smacks of tokenism, because from a Diocese of more than 30,000, the Homes cater to less than 100 persons, on budgets that, in most cases, are less than the salary of a mid-level manager in the private sector
- Most reports relate to Mark of Mission #3. However, especially with respect to the Homes for the Aged, the periodic visits by clergy and others do not indicate a consistent programme to fulfill marks of Mission #1 and #2. By contrast, there was indication of an active devotional life at Clifton Boys Home and St. Monica’s Home.
- Reports of run-down facilities negate the environmental considerations in Mark of Mission #5
- **General Observation:** Most of the church’s outreach does not challenge and demolish social structures that contribute to injustice – Mark of Mission #5
- The Homes are fitting expressions of mission for today’s church. However, the limited information presented; under-utilised or unsustainable facilities, given the number of residents compared to the number of staff and board members; and the absence of strategic plans and projections made it difficult to assess effectiveness.
- The improvement in the plant and service since the lease of the Muschett Home to private operators was noted.
- The Diocesan Vision and the Marks of Mission must become a way of life so that the Boards of Diocesan Homes would be inspired to develop and implement strategic plans that would turn the institutions into veritable centres of excellence.
- A reporting template is required to facilitate consistency in reports presented
- **Action Plan:** A common understanding of mission must be shared by residents, staff and Board; adopt mission models and goals appropriate to each institution; appoint Boards

with expertise to meet the policy direction and mission objectives and hold them accountable; seek partnerships with benefactors across the Diaspora; use the website to solicit contributions and manage payment options; use Diocesan communication channels (website, newspaper, radio programme) to market the institutions; mount a telethon, radiothon and or walkathon to finance restoration and establish facilities to meet the growing need for “Assisted Living.”

### **Red Group: Mission & Ministry – Chaplaincy, Lay Training, Supplementary Ministry & Church Army**

Led by: Rev. Rory Honeyghan; Rapporteur: Mrs. Audrey Anderson

- **Chaplaincy:** This detailed report on the work done in hospitals reflected the provisions in most of the Marks of Mission, in particular, the first three.
- Chaplains offer support to patients, staff and caregivers in handling bereavement; and they provide a listening ear, pastoral care and encouragement for terminally-ill patients, under-age mothers, victims of rape, and others facing stressful situations – Mark of Mission #3
- There was, however, minimal information on school chaplains; and this is a grave omission. School reports carry one paragraph on chaplains, written by Principals from a different perspective. It is necessary to present the issues faced by chaplains in schools so that approaches to strengthen spiritual growth of young persons can be addressed. This has implications for the future of the church
- **Lay Training:** There was little reported in this area, although group members shared personal information about activities in specific regions. More work is required in this area as trained lay leaders help to fill the gaps where there are insufficient priests.
- **Supplementary Ministry:** There was no specific report on this area
- **Church Army:** The report reflects a vibrant ministry which is relevant to all Five Marks of Mission. Activities include Vacation Bible School for young people, nurturing of new believers, evangelism retreats, conflict resolution and a focus on environmental protection.
- **Action Plan:** Strengthen communication/education about the Marks of Mission; provide practical lessons to members about how to evangelise; identify members with specific skills to support priests and the mission work of the church; impress on members that evangelism and mission are responsibilities for everyone, not just the priest

### **Orange Group: Schools – Education**

Led by: Rev. William Willis; Rapporteur: Mr. Sterling Soares

- Most reports indicate that operations in schools are aligned with the Diocesan Vision and the Marks of Mission, in particular, Mark of Mission #3
- In proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom, some schools also have programmes that teach students what it is to be an Anglican



- Mark of Mission #4 is implicit in activities such as peer mentoring, guidance counselling; and some schools have also installed security cameras
- Almost all institutions have introduced initiatives that support Mark of Mission #5. Although many of these were not disclosed in the Handbook, they include: installation of solar panels, water harvesting, agricultural programmes and establishment of green areas
- **Action Plan:** Develop a reporting template; include reports from both primary and all-age schools in the Handbook, and provide updates of audited financial statements; invite high school principals to present their reports at Synod; develop a vibrant chaplaincy programme to guide worship and encourage students to become Anglicans; provide guidelines for appropriate signage to identify Diocesan schools

### **Blue Group: Schools – Education**

Led by: Mrs. Sandra Swyer-Watson; Rapporteur: Dr. Jennifer Cadogan

- Church Teachers' College and most high schools continue to perform creditably, as evidenced by data on examination results, innovations and community involvement. Reports from primary schools should also be included in the Handbook.
- Daily devotions; involvement in the Inter-Schools Christian Fellowship (ISCF); religious education courses; and student membership in service clubs are all expressions of Mission
- Outreach activities in several schools, including: visits to the sick and shut-in, as well as patients in hospital; peer counselling programmes which are, sometimes, extended to the community and children with special needs; and work with the police reflect Mark of Mission #3
- In institutions that have Anglican chaplains (clergy or lay) students who are inclined towards Anglicanism are being nurtured, in keeping with Mark of Mission #2. For example, six students from Church Teachers' College were confirmed recently. Training has also started in identified schools to create an Anglican ethos
- Peace-building programmes, such as International Peace Day marches, the Peace for Champs initiative and monitoring and reporting incidents of abuse are consistent with Mark of Mission #4
- Environmental and Tourism Action Clubs, 4-H, and school gardening programmes, garbage disposal and recycling initiatives, as well as student participation in community clean-up activities are practical responses to Mark of Mission #5
- Much more can be done to link outreach activities to Christian expression
- **Action Plan:** Deaneries to arrange cluster workshops to sensitise Boards, principals and other stakeholders about the Diocesan Vision and the Marks of Mission; identify youth in church who are interested in teaching and offer scholarships/bursaries to those who need it; and hire Anglican teachers for our institutions; step up branding of Diocesan schools; set up booths with information on the Anglican church at orientation sessions in schools; train more chaplains to improve interface with students

## THE THIRD DAY – MARCH 31, 2016

Day three began with Matins and the Holy Eucharist, led by the Montego Bay Region. The Rev. Michael Solomon, Rector of the Grange Hill Cure, officiated at Morning Prayer; and the Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay, presided and preached at the Holy Eucharist.

Bishop Golding's Sermon was based on 1 Peter 1:14-16, and the theme was: "Holiness without Mission is not Holiness, and Mission without Holiness is not Mission." Noting that God alone is truly holy, Bishop Golding said that holiness in relation to humans meant 'a people set apart for God' and whose lives reflect the Fruit of the Spirit.

He explained that whom God calls, God sends out into the world in mission. These include the Children of Israel who he called out of bondage; and the prophets who he raised up to be a light shining forth. God also sent Jesus on a mission. In like manner, Bishop Golding stated that every member of God's church is called to mission, and that begins in union with Christ.

Pointing to the need for what he called "a Gospel without words," he asserted that members of the church must be the Good News for people to see, and holy lives must be demonstrated through ethical behaviour. The Bishop concluded that we can be the best advertisement for the Gospel we proclaim by being energetic disciples.

The Business Session began with the Opening Prayer led by Rev. Garth Minott, Anglican Warden at the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI); followed by reading of the Minutes of Day One by the Rev. Michael Elliott, Assistant Secretary of Synod.

The Business Session was suspended for the **Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica Church Missionary Society (JCMS)** chaired by the Rt. Rev. Robert Thompson. He thanked the General Secretary, Mrs. Carmen Bromley, for her hard work, but also lamented the "lukewarm" response from Deaneries, some of which did not attend any of the four meetings held during the year. He also commended the Rev. Percival Lynch, former Rector of the Lucea Cure, for his record of full participation for 17 years.

The JCMS Chairman reported that just over J\$4.4 million was spent on projects in 2015. This included payment of the monthly mortgage instalment for the Longville Park Mission in Clarendon, as well as, an allocation for fencing the property and grilling the house. The Bishop said the National Housing Trust had also approved an application to purchase 1.2 acres of land at a cost of J\$4.2 million to build the mission house. He thanked the Lord Bishop who had identified J\$2.6 million towards the purchase.

Bishop Thompson commended the St. James Deanery which contributed just under J\$1 million of the J\$5.6 million donated to the JCMS, with the Holy Trinity Church in West Gate, Montego Bay accounting for some J\$506,337. The 2016 Deanery Quota is J\$6.2 million.

The JCMS Chairman pointed to the need for the Diocese to deal with unsustainable trends and to establish achievable goals. He highlighted the situation in the St. Margaret's Bay Cure, in Portland, in which two settled congregations were to be converted to Mission status; and explained that reclassification would facilitate better management of resources and promote renewal. The Bishop asserted that this process must be engaged by all members and, where resources are limited, expenditure should be reduced.

On completion of the presentation, the Lord Bishop nominated Bishop Thompson to continue as Chairman of the JCMS and this was approved by the Synod.

The Order of Business was adjusted to facilitate rescheduling of the presentation by the Commissioner of Police.

Mrs. Fay McIntosh, Member of the **Visioning and Strategic Planning Committee** provided a **status update** on these processes. She highlighted the following challenges:

- Low awareness of the Visioning process among members
- Lack of enthusiasm – some churches included the Visioning Prayer in their services, but the Visioning Song was not used
- Insufficient resources
- Weaknesses in monitoring

She reported that feedback from churches identified the need for skilled persons to guide the process; and special meetings were conducted by the Monitoring Committee to explain the approach.

Mrs. McIntosh noted that of the 30 plans submitted to the Committee, several did not identify clear steps for implementation. She urged congregations to make a concerted effort to prepare and submit their plans.

Rev. Michael Elliott, Rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Portmore, and Mrs. Sidonie Lindsay-Reid of St. Agnes Mission in Grange, Hanover, highlighted strategies being implemented by their congregations. In subsequent discussions, The Rev. Canon Georgia Jervis suggested that Diocesan organisations develop Master Plans to complement the work of congregations.

Dr. the Hon. Vincent Lawrence, Chairman of the **Diocesan Property Advisory Board**, reported on the data base, development initiatives and sales over the past year. He commended the Rev. “Jim” Parkes, Diocesan Property Manager, on his efforts in spearheading this process.

To date, 891 parcels of land island-wide have been identified as belonging to the Diocese; 33% of these have titles; 67% are yet without titles and verification of lands is ongoing, with 602 parcels already completed. Dr. Lawrence said property management guidelines were issued to clergy and church wardens; and he warned that it was their responsibility to protect the assets of the church.

#### Development Update

Construction of the Bailey Suites of Kensington, in Kingston, is completed and only eight of the 36 luxury studio apartments are unsold; KSAC approval has been received to build 16 super studios for rental at 25 University Crescent, and construction is due to start by year-end; and plans have been made for Phase 2 of the St. Peter’s Courts apartments which will include 72 units to be built on a phased basis starting in 2017. Investigation and analysis are being done for development of 35 acres of land adjoining St. Dorothy’s Church, Old Harbour, and a joint venture partner is being sought. Discussions are also continuing with the Sav-la-Mar Parish Church regarding development of the 100-acre Orolands property in Westmoreland.

#### Property Sales

The former Diocesan camp site in Negril has been sold for J\$30 million and the proceeds will be used to develop a new camp site in Manchester. The 2 ½ acres of land in Manchester, on which Elizabeth House stands, have been sold to Church Teachers College for J\$95 million, and this amount will be used to assist with the University Crescent development.

Dr. Lawrence noted that financial returns from property development were not necessarily immediate, but the Property Advisory Board was moving quickly to secure long-term gains.

The morning session ended with the debate on the following resolutions relating to changes in the status of churches from settled congregations to Missions, which were passed:

- Resolution #6 St. Peter’s Church, Hope Bay – St. Margaret’s Bay Cure, Portland
- Resolution #7 St. Stephen’s Church – St. Margaret’s Bay Cure, Portland
- Resolution #8 St. Jude’s Church – Battersea, Manchester
- Resolution #9 St. Paul’s Church – Spalding, Manchester

#### **The Afternoon Session**

The day’s proceedings resumed with the **Award Ceremony** in recognition of clergy and church organisations. This session was chaired by the Hon. Dr. Michael Fennell and the presentations were made by Dr. the Hon. Vincent Lawrence.

Bishop Gregory welcomed the honorees and noted that the Synod provided an opportunity to recognise persons who had served the Diocese. Awardees were: The Rev. Percival Lynch, retired Rector of the Lucea Cure, Hanover; and The Rev. Claudette Johnson, retired Rector of the Harewood Cure, St. Catherine. Plaques were also presented to: Church of the Holy Trinity, West Gate, Montego Bay – Lead Contributor to JCMS; and the Church of the Ascension, Mona Heights – Outstanding Mothers’ Union Branch.

The Rev, Leroy Johnson entertained with his dub poetry composition “Weh dem tek pason fa” – Part 2.

A presentation and panel discussion on “**Criminality and its Relation to Societal Values in Jamaica**” led by Commissioner of Police, Dr. Carl Williams, was next on the agenda.

While noting that no society will ever be crime free, Dr. Williams suggested that crime is the symptom of a deeper social problem that must be addressed by the entire society. “If the problem is left untreated, it will fester until the country implodes and becomes a failed state,” he said.

Among the root causes identified by the Commissioner was the breakdown of social institutions, including the family. This was evident in conflict in the home and exposure of children to adult situations at an early age, resulting in delinquency. Other contributing factors listed were: social, political and economic deterioration; as well as, wide-spread unemployment. He added that increasing the number of police officers or crime-fighting equipment was only a temporary solution.

Pointing to the economic burden created by the high crime rate, Commissioner Williams argued that the society would have to invest time and resources in order to achieve meaningful results. He also said the church had a role to play in the socialisation of youth; but suggested that enough was not being done to capture their attention. He recalled the influence of organisations such as the AYF and Daughters of the King (DOK) during his youth, and he urged the Anglican Church to lead the change.

Deaconess Elaine Cunningham served, once again, as Moderator for the panel discussion which followed. The Rev. Mary Graham, Rector of St. George’s Church, Grand Cayman was the first responder, and she suggested that the church needed to move out in the community to embrace persons who are hurting. Although we may be scared, she said we had to be bold. Mr. Peter dePass, Diocesan Registrar, stated that the values established in the Bible provide a guide for Christian living. He added that the way we live our mission life and engage with young people will make a difference. Miss Audrian McFarlane, Deanery Youth Representative for St. Andrew, noted that values in the community have changed, and children who are impressionable, will be influenced by what they see. The Rev. Sean Major-Campbell, Rector of Christ Church, Vineyard

Town, pointed to the importance of Sunday School and school worship in shaping values in a society which offers many opportunities for crime.

The discussions were followed by elections to Diocesan Board, Councils and Committees.

The final activity in the afternoon session involved the Cluster Groups which focused on the Synod Charge, as well as the presentations by Professor Dunn and Commissioner Williams.

Evensong was conducted by Sister Melvorn Stewart, Chaplain of the Cornwall Regional Hospital.

### **The Evening Session**

The Synod resumed with reports from the Cluster Groups which focused on: a) the impact of the presentations on the life of the Church; b) the mission implications and imperatives; c) aligning the imperatives to the Diocesan Mission Statement and the Five Marks of Mission; and d) recommendations for an Action Plan. Deaconess Cunningham was Moderator.

### **Group Reports**

**Blue Group** – Led by: Mrs. Sandra Swyer-Watson; Rapporteur: Dr. Jennifer Cadogan

#### Dr. Williams' Presentation

- The breakdown in the major institutions of socialisation, namely, the home, school and church is a major cause for the breakdown in social values and the resulting increase in crime. These institutions should collaborate to resolve the problem; and seek assistance for training from the Disputes Resolution Foundation, among other organisations.
- Migration by citizens to escape from rising crime has resulted in a brain drain, which has a negative impact on the church
- **Mission Imperatives/Action Plan:** Revival of Sunday Schools and the AYF is essential in changing behaviour and attitudes to authority, and helping youth to recognize the difference between right and wrong
- Women are dominant in single-parent homes, school and church. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew should, therefore, take more active part in mentoring boys and young men who have few role models
- Young people should be welcomed into the church, and adult members must be encouraged to accept them
- Restoration of Sports and Arts ministries is proposed

#### Professor Dunn's Presentation

- While there is a downside to social media, we have to embrace technology in order to engage young people; and use these channels to instil values such as honesty and respect for all

- Establish Communication Committees, comprising youth and mature adults to facilitate responsible use of technology. Taping sermons, and inspirational music for shut-ins and production of greeting cards are innovations that can be adopted.
- Promote church activities through social media, and local cable channels
- As the church engages with the technology, consideration must also be given to older people who are not inclined that way.

**Yellow Group** – Led by: Rev. Lorraine Geddes-McDonald; Rapporteur: Rev. Leslie Mowatt  
Bishop's Charge

- All baptised members are being called to participate in mission which is closely linked to a life of holiness; and the church should maintain its focus on mission
- Reference to Archbishop Nuttall's 1912 Synod Charge indicates that present challenges facing the church are neither new nor unique
- Relationships with family, civil authority and community are important areas for ministry and growth
- The church must be proactive, rather than reactive
- **Mission Imperatives:** Vision and planning must be relevant to the local circumstances; and congregations must participate as charged in Marks of Mission 1, 2 and 3
- **Action Plan:** Post the Charge on the Diocesan website for the benefit of persons across the Diocese

Dr. Williams' Presentation

- Values and attitudes are at the heart of the country's crime problem
- The church should actively promote values from the Bible and restore old values, especially in relation to discipline, and church attendance by children
- Sunday School should be more than a mere holding area. The Curriculum should become a vehicle for encouraging discipleship
- **Action Plan:** Data driven analysis of the local church and community are recommended to facilitate effective interventions; reactivate dormant youth groups and identify mentors for youth; organisations such as the Mothers' Union through its Parenting Programme, and the BSA, should be more active in youth development; collaborate with the government to promote positive values and attitudes

Professor Dunn's Presentation

- **Action Plan:** Develop a new Communication Strategy; re-assess the Diocese's involvement in radio, television/cable, Internet and social media networks; encourage senior citizens in the church to embrace smart phone technology

**Green Group** – Led by: Rev. Charles Danvers; Rapporteur: Mrs. Veronica Morris-Lynch  
Bishop's Charge

- The Church is the moral compass for society

- More voluntarism and commitment are needed from members who should be willing to take on leadership roles as a holy “set apart community.”
- We need to show true hospitality to outsiders
- Strengthen church organisations and engage our Anglican spirituality, rather than imitating others
- Effectively embrace the dynamic nature of technology to better communicate our Anglican values, for example, develop an application/game based on the Bible to capture the interest of the young

#### Dr. Williams’ Presentation

- The Church must focus on the breakdown in family life, values and attitudes and identify solutions relevant to local communities and based on available human and material resources
- Members should be encouraged to engage in “energetic discipleship” adopting the motto “Mission begins with me”
- **Action Plan:** SWOT analysis is recommended, followed by appropriate action; encourage church groups of all ages to become actively involved in promoting the objectives of the Vision Statement; establish a Communication/Technology Committee to ensure use of all available media throughout the Diocese; form a Mission Team to drive and constantly review implementation of the Mission Plans

**Orange Group:** Led by: Rev. William Willis; Rapporteur: Mr. Sterling Soares

#### Professor Dunn’s Presentation

- Highlighted the power of the media to shape thinking, values and attitudes
- Use of technology offers a quick and easy medium to share information with shut-ins, other targeted members of the congregation and prospective members
- Church activities must be more captivating
- **Mission Imperatives:** Revamp the radio programme “*Think on These Things;*” redirect resources from print to electronic and social media, and utilize e-billboards; ensure that communication is relevant to all age groups; address copyright issues
- **Action Plan:** Establish a Steering Committee to develop a strategic communication programme; encourage technology training; Education & Youth Department to produce YouTube videos

#### Dr. Williams’ Presentation

- The family, church and community are negatively impacted by the predominance of the female influence and the limited presence of the father image and male role models
- **Mission Imperatives:** Ensure that schools are aligned with the church’s ethos; focus on the socialization of youth in the church; and resuscitate youth organisations/activities
- **Alignment to the Vision/Marks of Mission:** Reach out to youth and help them to understand the Anglican Faith; prepare them for life through involvement in the Church



and the teaching of Christian values; leaders should become more active in the church community

- **Action Plan:** Resuscitate dormant church organisations; educate congregations about the Visioning Programme; share successes in other churches in the Diocese which can be adopted

#### Bishop's Charge

- The Church is under the searchlight, but that must not define who we are
- Do not allow the Church to become another social organisation
- If the challenge issued in the Charge is taken seriously, the Diocesan Vision will be fulfilled
- Encourage members to be true practitioners, teachers and believers of the Spiritual Power

**Red Group:** Led by: Rev. Rory Honeyghan; Rapporteur: Mrs. Audrey Anderson

#### Dr. Williams' Presentation

- The breakdown of social institutions and social values have negatively affected the life of the Church
- We must get involved to reverse the negative effects, both in the church and the wider community
- Corrective measures relating to Marks of Mission 3, 4, & 5 are proposed as follows:
  - Step up community involvement; promote social activity for youth, for example, sports evangelism; develop viable mentorship and parenting programmes – Mark of Mission #3
  - Resist the fear of challenging violence and injustice; break the silence about abuse; build awareness among members – Mark of Mission #4
  - Educate members regarding environmental protection, with an emphasis on handling plastics, garbage disposal and preventing littering – Mark of Mission #5
- **Action Plan:** Introduce “Positive Intervention” programme focusing on: etiquette, civics, exposure to varied social settings, educational tours; and seek human resource and financial support from external sources. **Youth should be involved in the design and implementation of the Plan.**

#### Professor Dunn's Presentation

- Issues raised include the dramatic change in the media landscape; the need to make technology inclusive in the Church; the introduction of a Facebook page for individual churches, and keeping these pages up-to-date
- **Mission Imperatives/Action Plan:** A Communication Policy is imperative; establish a think tank involving several churches to shape the policy

**Pink Group:** Led by: Rev. Annett Brown; Rapporteur: Lt. Col. Norman Tomlinson

The Group indicated that the time allotted for the work of Cluster Groups did not facilitate meaningful discussion; and was a recurring challenge at the annual Synod. Members urged a change in this approach which they said frustrated persons who wished to participate. Against this background, only one presentation was addressed.

#### Bishop's Charge

- **Issues Raised:** Holiness in the body of Christ and its impact on members' conduct, prayer life and social responsibility
- The need for visionary, exemplary and effective leadership
- Hospitality/community relationships which enable members and visitors to feel welcome and dispel negative opinions about Anglicans
- Mission focus and involvement
- Family relationship with particular attention to the church's attitude to common-law unions
- **Mission Imperatives:** Encourage full participation by members; place greater emphasis on the spiritual life of members, as a strong personal relationship with Christ is what inspires the passion to proclaim the Word; revive dormant organisations such as Daughters of the King; re-educate members regarding what it means to be children of God; get members to understand that we must be the living testimony that will influence the unsaved.

### **THE FOURTH DAY – APRIL 1, 2016**

The fourth day of Synod began with Matins and the Holy Eucharist led by the Mandeville Region. Matins was conducted by Rev. Ulit Brackett of the Mile Gully Cure. The Ven. Winston Thomas, Archdeacon for the Mandeville Region and Secretary of Synod, presided and preached at the Eucharist.

The Archdeacon based his Sermon on John 21:1. He noted that 2,000 years ago and even today, people have been asking for proof of the resurrection of Jesus. He stated that the empty tomb was the greatest evidence of this fact; and disciples were witnesses, having seen the risen Christ many times.

In the selected passage, the Risen Lord came to the disciples while they were doing their regular tasks; and the Archdeacon asserted that he visits us in the same way today, while we are busy doing the common and essential tasks of life. In keeping with his promise that “where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them,” the Archdeacon said Jesus was at the 146<sup>th</sup> Synod.

He noted that the obedience of the disciples to Jesus' advice that they cast their nets on the right side of the boat yielded a great haul of fish. He suggested that, in our personal life, we might have been casting our nets on the wrong side, and may need to change course. He concluded that the Risen Lord comes to us where we are, at the level of our own experience and leads us to where he wants us to be.

The business meeting resumed with prayers, led by the Rev. Garth Minott, followed by the Minutes of Day Three, read by the Rev. Michael Elliott.

Resolutions were debated and passed, as follows:

- Resolution # 2 : Formula for Calculation of Mission Share (Assessment)
- Resolution #10: Change of Status of St. James Church – Grange, Westmoreland to Mission
- Resolution #3: Exploration of the Possibility of Classifying Non-Assessable Income
- Resolution #4: Regarding Technology and Media in the Mission and Ministry of the Diocese
- Resolution #5: To Encourage Payment of Mission Share on a Timely Basis
- Resolution #12: In Recognition of the Contribution by The Rt. Rev. Neville deSouza to the Diocese

A special presentation was made to retired Bishop of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands, The Rt. Rev. Alfred Reid, for starting the Cursillo Movement among Anglicans in Jamaica. Cursillo is aimed at renewing and deepening Christian commitment, inspired by the example of Jesus. There are now just over 300 members in the Diocese.

### **Alternate Venue for Synod**

Bishop Thompson presented the Report of a Committee established by the Diocesan Council to explore alternate venues for Synod, given the present high cost of the annual meeting which is depriving many congregations of the opportunity to participate.

Six options were investigated, including two educational institutions which did not fulfil the Diocesan requirements. The alternative of a non-residential meeting was also considered.

The Committee recommended that Synod 2017 remain as a residential meeting; but that meeting days be reduced to two. Bishop Thompson explained this this would require more intense discussions and decision-making at Pre-Synod and other preliminary meetings. The matter is to be discussed further at the Regional level.

## **Election Results & Appointments**

The results of elections to the following Diocesan Boards, Committees and Councils, held on Day 3, were announced:

- The Board of Nominations
- The Canons Committee
- The Diocesan Council
- The Diocesan Financial Board
- The Church Army Council

Members of the following Committees and Boards were also announced:

- The Board of Mission & Ministry
- The Education & Youth Board
- The Diocesan Schools' Trust
- The Jamaica Church Missionary Society
- The Nuttall Memorial Hospital Trust & Board
- The Hillcrest Diocesan Retreat Centre
- The Anglican Church Insurance Fund
- The Selection Committee

## **Rural Deans**

Rural Deans for 2016 were named, with three new Deans included, as follows:

- Kingston:                   The Very Rev. Sean Major-Campbell
- St. Elizabeth:             The Very Rev. Basil McLeod
- Westmoreland:            The Very Rev. Leroy Johnson

The Deaneries of Clarendon and Trelawny remain vacant.

## **Bishop's Closing Remarks**

Bishop Gregory thanked Clergy, Lay Representatives, as well as the Administrative Staff of the Diocese, visiting presenters and employees of the hotel for their contribution to the work and success of the Synod. He expressed the hope that delegates would share their experiences with their congregations with a view to promoting renewal across the Diocese.

Archdeacon Cunningham, in turn, thanked Bishop Gregory for his leadership as President of the Synod.

The proceedings were officially closed with the Lord Bishop's blessing and the singing of the Doxology.