

Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

MINUTES OF THE 148TH ANNUAL SYNOD THE THIRD DAY - THURSDAY, 5TH APRIL, 2018

WORSHIP:

(a) **MATINS:** The day began at 6:30 a.m. with the Service of Matins at which the Rev. Cleverton Beckford, Rector of St. Andrew's Cure, Albert Town officiated. The first lesson was read by the Very Rev. Richard Tucker, Rural Dean of St. Ann and Rector of St. John's Cure, Ocho Rios, and the second lesson was read by Miss Audrey Anderson, Lay Representative of St Andrew's Church, Albert Town, The Psalm was led by Mr. Mario Samms, Lay Representative of the Christ Church, Morant Bay Cure, St. Thomas. The Rev. Leslie Mowatt, Rector of the St. Mary the Virgin Cure, Molynes Road, was the organist.

(b) **THE HOLY EUCHARIST:** At 7:00 a.m. the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay. The Very Rev. Leroy Johnson, Rural Dean of Westmoreland and Rector of St. George's Church, Savanna-la-Mar preached the sermon. The lesson was read by Mr. John Watkis, Lay Representative of the St. Mark's Church, Brown's Town. The Psalm was led by Mr. Shamar Burrell, Deanery Youth Representative of St. Ann, and The Very Rev. Richard Tucker, Rural Dean of St. Ann and Rector of St. John's, Ocho Rios read the gospel. The Prayers of Intercession were led by Rev. Judith Atkinson-Linton, priest in the Supplementary Ministry attached to the St. Mark's Church, Brown's Town. Other assisting Clergy were the Very Rev. Annette Brown, Rural Dean for St. James and Hanover, and the Rector of the St. Augustine Cure, Coral Gardens, the Rev. Basil McLeod, Priest-in-charge at St. Peter's Cure, Falmouth, the Rev. Garfield Campbell, Priest-in-charge at St. Mark's Cure, Brown's Town, the Venerable Justin Nembhard, Archdeacon of Montego Bay and Rector of the St. James Parish Church, Montego Bay, the Rev. Jacqueline Bramwell, priest in the Supplementary Ministry attached to St. John's Ocho Rios, the Rev. the Hon. Canon Hartley Perrin, Rector of St. John's Church, Darliston, and the Rev. Cleverton Beckford, Rector of St. Andrew's Cure, Albert Town. The Rev. Leslie Mowatt, Rector of the St. Mary the Virgin Cure, Molynes Road, was the organist and the Rev. Douglas Barnes, Director of Christian Education, was the cantor for the service. An offering was received from the Synod for the J.C.M.S.

THE BUSINESS SESSION:

The President of Synod, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Howard K. A. Gregory, Bishop of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, reconvened the Business Session at 9:33 a.m.

PRAYERS: The Rev. Canon Garth Minott, Warden of Anglican Students of the United Theological College of the West Indies, led the Synod in the Opening Prayers.

MINUTES: The Assistant Secretary of Synod, the Rev. Olando Gayle, read the Minutes of the proceedings of the 148th Synod for the first day – Tuesday, 3rd April, 2018 and for the second day – Wednesday, 4th April, 2018.

CONFIRMATION: The Minutes of Tuesday, 3rd April, 2018 were confirmed following the motion moved by the Rev. Canon Major Serrano Kitson, Rector of St. Andrew Parish Church and seconded by Mr. Arturo Stewart, Lay Representative of St. Margaret's Church, Liguanea.

The Minutes of Wednesday, 4th April, 2018 were confirmed following the motion moved by Mr. Henry Reid, Lay Representative of the St. Luke's Church, Cross Roads, and Ms. Vanessa Banton, Lay Representative of the Church of the Holy Spirit Cure, Portmore.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REPORT OF THE JAMAICA CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY (J.C.M.S.):

The President then declared that the Synod be resolved into Missionary Committee and received the Report of the Jamaica Church Missionary Society. (J.C.M.S.)

The Chairman of the Society, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Robert Thompson, Suffragan Bishop of Kingston, presented the highlights of the work of the Jamaica Church Missionary Society referencing excerpts from the compiled reports in the J.C.M.S. handbook for 2017. He first welcomed Sister Claudette Marshall, who was recently appointed to the post of General Secretary of the J.C.M.S., replacing the retired General Secretary, Mrs. Carmen Bromley. He opined that the church will have to make strategic moves as a Diocese in order to dispose of certain properties, for which it is not feasible to maintain and ensure that the proceeds from such sales are used for the furtherance of the J.C.M.S..

The Bishop mentioned that the J.C.M.S. has been assisting with the summer placement of U.T.C.W.I. students in the Rio Grande Valley, Portland. As it relates to the development of Longville Park, thanks were expressed to persons who had kept this project going. In looking at the establishment of a church building, for which land has been acquired by the Diocese, Bishop Thompson suggested that we must engage the community so that they too will have a role to play in its construction/development.

As it relates to the finances, it was pointed out that the bulk of the J.C.M.S. contributions in St. James, are from two congregations. Special mention was made of Holy Trinity, Westgate, which made the largest contribution in 2017. Thanks were also expressed to all other churches that have contributed to the J.C.M.S. and the top five contributors for 2017 were as follows: Holy Trinity, Westgate, Montego Bay; St. Ann Parish Church, St. Ann; St. Andrew Parish Church, H.W.T.; Church of the Transfiguration, Meadowbrook; and the St. James Parish Church, Montego Bay. Archdeacon Hollis Lynch was also commended for his effort in encouraging support for the J.C.M.S. Special mention was made of the St. John's Church, Portland Cottage, which has contributed for the first time in twelve (12) years. In addition, the J.C.M.S. will be partnering with the Education and Youth Department in order to promote Intentional Discipleship among all members of the churches.

APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE J.C.M.S.

In addition to the Deanery nominees, the President nominated the following persons: The Rev. Basil McLeod, the Rev. Canon Abner Powell, the Rev. Whitson Williams, Dr. Trevor Hope, Mrs. Sandra Berry, Mr. Lincoln Tomlinson and Sister Molly Walton to serve as members of the Board of J.C.M.S.. The Board was approved by the Synod. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Robert Thompson made the point that Deans that did not make nominations should share this with the Diocesan Bishop, so that their nominees could be added.

The persons nominated by the deaneries are as follows:

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| Kingston | Mr. Miguel Thomas |
| St. Andrew | The Rev. Khan Honeyghan |
| St. Thomas | Mrs. Edna Fisher |
| St. Catherine | The Rec. Delroy Coley |
| St. Mary | Miss Pamiel Scott |
| Portland | The Rev. Sedley C. Gooden |
| Portmore | Sis. Dawn Ledgister |
| Clarendon | Sister Alvarine Roberts |
| Manchester | No nominee |
| St. Elizabeth | The Rev. Carlton Tulloch |
| St. Ann | The Rev. Judith Atkinson Linton |
| Trelawny | Mrs. Jasmine Hewitt |
| St. James | Mrs. Marjorie McGibbon |
| Hanover | Mrs. Tiffany Grant-Smith |
| Westmoreland | The Rev. Ula I. Ruddoch |

Bishop Thompson moved a motion for this report to be adopted. This was seconded by Rev. Judith Atkinson Linton, priest in the Supplementary Ministry

attached to the St. Mark's Church, Brown's Town. (The full text of this report may be found elsewhere in this journal)

Synod resumed and adopted the Report of the J.C.M.S.

The President appointed The Rt. Rev. Dr. Robert Thompson, Bishop of Kingston as Chairperson of the J.C.M.S.

**PRESENTATION: PROFESSOR ELIZABETH THOMAS-HOPE
'VOLUNTARY AND FORCED RETURN MIGRATION TO JAMAICA'**

Professor Elizabeth Thomas-Hope reported that migration is associated with crime and the criminal networks that operate in a number of countries. Furthermore, she explained that some of the deportees are involved in criminal activities. This is often times the case because the criminal behaviours that they develop abroad are brought home. In response, the church must see itself as an avenue which is able to minister to the needs of these persons. However, it is sad that the church sometimes stigmatizes these individuals.

Professor Thomas-Hope explained that persons who are deported would like guidance or direction from the church in order to be better integrated into society. The church can do this by providing training for deportees through Heart Trust/NTA, providing pastoral care, to immediate relatives of deportees, undertaking outreach in various forms (cash, kind or moral support) and by making efforts to counter the judgmental attitudes of some church members. Prof. Thomas-Hope shared with the Synod, testimonials of deportees including a recorded interview with a deportee in order to emphasize her points.

A panel, consisting of the Rev. Canon Garth Minott, Warden of Anglican students at United Theological College of the West Indies, Mr. Nicholas Graham, a Lay Representative of St. George's Church in Grand Cayman, Miss Pamiel Scott, Lay representative of the St. Mary's Church, Retreat, St. Mary and Rev. Judith Atkinson-Linton, priest in the Supplementary Ministry attached to the St. Mark's Church, Brown's Town responded to the presentation. From the discussion, it was pointed out that the relationship between crime and deportees needs to be studied. Also, the country and the church need to examine ways in which it can help to reintegrate deportees into society as such practices are not new. We need to show them love and not judge nor discriminate against them because they were deported. They need to be empowered and engaged as we embark on our mission of intentional discipleship.

Professor Thomas-Hope then responded to the panel, after which she gave her closing remarks. The President expressed thanks to her for coming to share this aspect of her research on voluntary and forced migration with the Synod. He also stated that we need to look at the contemporary issues that are facing us, and

how we respond to these situations. Thanks were also extended to the Panelists for their participation.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE – THE VISIONING PROCESS

Mrs. Fay McIntosh, was acknowledged and commended by the President for her hard work in leading this committee on His behalf. The President reported that the vision statement was now shortened to address the concern that many persons had about its initial length; however, the mission statement remains the same.

He pointed out some weaknesses in our Diocese such as not having an effective ministry to the aged, even though we have aging congregations; the lack of denominational loyalty; the assumption that persons are having meaningful spiritual experiences, which is not always so, and a reminder that viability is not only about finances, but how we manage the resources that we have as a church. The Bishop also stressed the importance of the communication policy within the Diocese as part of our way forward as a church.

The President then told the Synod that the presentation will be emailed and put on the website, so that persons can provide feedback by the end of April about their thoughts on how the Strategic Plan may be improved.

Mrs. McIntosh also expressed thanks to the team members who have worked with her namely Miss Rhena Williams, Mrs. Jacqueline Mighty, Rev. Olando Gayle, Rev. Jim Parkes, Mr. Devon Sterling and Mr. Robert Gregory.

LUNCH: The adjournment for Lunch was taken at 1:20 p.m. with Grace being said by the President.

RESUMPTION: Synod resumed at 2:27 p.m.

AWARDS CEREMONY FOR RETIREES AND OUTSTANDING CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS.

The Master of Ceremonies was the Rt. Rev. Dr. Howard Gregory. Prayers were offered by the Very Rev. Canon Collin Reid, Rural Dean of St. Catherine and Senior Canon of the Cathedral of St. Jago de la Vega, Spanish Town. Opening remarks were made by the President after which he read the citations for the awardees.

A citation and award for the Venerable Winston Thomas, Archdeacon for the Mandeville Region and Rector of St. Gabriel's Cure, for serving faithfully for 25 years as Secretary of Synod, was presented by the President.

The following organizations were recognized for their contribution to the mission of the Diocese. The awards were presented by the Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay.

1. J.C.M.S. Lead Church Contributor – Church of the Holy Trinity, West Gate, Montego Bay. The award was received by Mrs. Eliese Spence, Lay Representative, Holy Trinity Church, West Gate, Montego Bay.
2. Mothers' Union Branch of the Year – Church of the Ascension, Mona. The award was received by Mrs. Clare Blake, enrolling member.
3. Brotherhood of St. Andrew Branch of the Year – St. Gabriel's Church, May Pen. The award was received by Mr. Michael Simpson, President of the Chapter.
4. Women's Auxiliary Branch of the Year – The Church of the Conversion of St. Paul, Greater Portmore. The award was received by Miss Joyce Skyers, President.

The Rev. Dwane Blackwood, Curate at the Cathedral of St. Jago de la Vega, St. Catherine gave an entertaining performance of a dub poem entitled 'Ah jus tru di calla' as a tribute to the awardees.

INSURANCE COVERAGE OF OUR PROPERTIES UPDATE

The Hon. Michael Fennell, Chairman of the Diocesan Financial Board, in his presentation explained the need for us to take the insurance of our properties very seriously, especially since our country is prone to natural disasters such as hurricanes, and bearing in mind the damaging effect that fires may cause. With most of our property either underinsured or not insured, the Hon. Michael Fennell explained the importance of each church contributing to the fund, and therefore asked that each delegate, priest and priest-in-charge review the properties they have under their control and seek to update their contributions on a replacement value by the end of June.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

This report was presented by the Hon. Dr. Vincent Lawrence, OJ chairman of the Diocesan Property Advisory Board. Dr. Lawrence made his report under the three headings as below:

Property Sales

- Farquharson House for the Elderly in Cross Roads, St. Andrew -This property has been sold for 112 million dollars.

- Orolands, Savanna La Mar – The sale of this land is being reconsidered, as persons did not want to pay for what it's actually valued. The board is now looking at how they can develop it to benefit the diocese.
- 3 Duke St., Kingston: The building needs repair, and the board is now looking at how they can have it properly fixed in order to get it rented at market value.

Property Development

- The Baileys Suites at Kensington Crescent – Kingston. All the suites are now fully sold. We have earned over Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) on what the value of the land was.
- 25 University Crescent-Kingston – The project is now well advanced and is expected to be completed on time.
- St. Peter's Court: Phase 2 – Kingston. Additional units at St. Peter's court are to be developed.
- There is a plan to examine the land in Cross Roads for it to be a major source of Income for the Diocese.
- St. Dorothy's Church Lands – Old Harbour, St. Catherine. The Church Committee of St. Dorothy's Church has invited the Property Advisory Board to look at their lands to see how they may be able to develop the approximately 35 acres of land adjoining to the Church.
- New Diocesan Camp Site at Auchtembeddie is now opened, and the funds from the sale of Negril Campsite had been used to develop that property.

Property Database

- Only 33% of Church Lands have registered titles while 67% are still without titles. Dr. Lawrence therefore asked that churches play a major role in rectifying this issue.
- Dr. Lawrence suggests that some of the ways that this could be address is that:
 - All the lands be brought under the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, in which church House would act as a facilitator of the process - This was his personal opinion and does not reflect the mind of the Property Advisory Board.
 - Each church should have a property Committee which would liaise with Church House.
 - Each church prepare a plan for the development of their lands.

Dr. Lawrence concluded by expressing thanks on behalf of the Property Advisory Board to the members of Synod and all persons who have lent their support over the past year, and he looks forward to their continued support in going forward as a Diocese.

Questions and comments were received from the floor of the Synod, after which the report was adopted by the Synod. (Details are to be found elsewhere in the Journal)

ELECTION TO DIOCESAN BOARDS, COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

The panel of Scrutineers and Tellers:-

1. SCRUTINEERS

- I. The Very Rev. Richard Tucker
- I. The Rev. Michael Allen
- II. Mr. Newton Thomas
- III. The Rev. Andrew Reid

2. TELLERS

- IV. The Rev. Kirk Brown
- II. Mr. Marlon Drummond
- III. The Rev. Paul Sharp
- IV. Mrs. Billie Clarke

The President invited the Secretary of Synod to conduct the elections. The Secretary introduced the nominees. There were no nominees from the floor of Synod for any of the boards or committees. There was one amendment made to the list. Under Diocesan Financial Board, 4 Lay names were listed but canonically, it should have been 3. The chancellor ruled however to allow the list to remain, and persons should vote for only 2 persons as stated in the instruction. Also, the Secretary of Synod asked that the phrase "one of whom must be a woman" be removed under the instructions for Church Army Council. He advised the Synod on the voting procedure and the members proceeded to vote. After satisfying himself that all the members had voted, the Secretary of Synod declared the voting closed and directed the Scrutineers and Tellers to retire from the Synod Hall to count the ballots.

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY REPORT UPDATE

Miss Beverly Newell reported that communication was ramped up in 2017 with the appointment of a Social Media Officer, a Communications desk managed by the Social Media Officer and some state of the art Multimedia equipment was outfitted in the Church House Board Room. There are now new editorial committees for Think On These Things and The Anglican, respectively. The Anglican now has a new look. Mr. Tony Patel is now the new voice on "Think On These Things". The Diocese is on Social Media with a steady growth of users on all platforms. The Communications Board covers important events in the Diocese such as the Annual Synod, Clergy in Concert and is looking forward to covering Cathedral Sunday.

The Hon. Barbara Gloudon, OJ, OD was acknowledged for having served the Diocese for over forty years. The contribution of Mrs. Patricia Donald Phillips to

the Communications Board, was also acknowledged. Bishop Thompson, who was acting as chair on behalf of the President endorsed the work of the Communications Board, and encouraged members of Synod to use the social media applications to broaden our scope for communications. He also added that funds have been identified for CARIMAC to conduct training sessions with the Regions for persons to learn to use these technologies. The work of the Communications Board, Miss Bev Newell and the Mrs. Clavia Reid were also affirmed by the Synod.

Auchtembeddie Campsite

Mr. Craig Mears, Director of Youth, spoke about the new Diocesan Camp Site. He mentioned that the windows are to be meshed, the community around is warm and welcoming, the Police in the area are aware of the Campsite and its usage. He also acknowledged the donation of a set of benches by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. The camp is loved by those who visit and use it, and special mention was made of Mr. Josh Pratt, a camper from St. Andrew Parish Church who shared via a video, his impressions of camp and why attending camp is important for him. Mr. Mears also stated that the children are involved in Fire drills and there are incentives offered to campers for good conduct and other social skills.

Adults and other church groups are being encouraged to visit the facility. The cost per night is only \$750.00 for Anglicans, which does not include food. Arrangements can be made to rent the kitchen facility. Volunteers and contributions are welcomed. The President expressed thanks to Mr. Mears for his presentation.

INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Following up from the movie watched last night, entitled 'War Room' Rev. Douglas Barnes, Director of Christian Education, guided the Synod to understand what it means to be intentional or make a decision to be obedient to Jesus, by staying with Him. He pointed out that discipleship is a continuous rhythm, in which we are present with Jesus, share our faith with others, and use our gifts to share the kingdom of God with others.

Rev. Barnes pointed out that the Christian Education department is currently seeking to have members of congregations trained to become resource personnel in their congregations and cures. Congregations/Cure should select 3 persons who can form part of such a training cohort. The hope is that persons who come should be 'fired up' as disciples of Jesus.

The planned dates and venues are as follows:

Montego bay Region – May 4 – 6 – Hillcrest diocesan Retreat Centre.
Mandeville Region – May 11 – 13 – Auchtembeddie Campsite

Kingston Region – June 15 – 17 – Venue to be announced

A congregational leader's guide and brochures will be provided for persons who attend these training.

We were reminded that the Lenten Intentional Bible Study Guide is available on the website. He also encouraged us to pray for the success of the programme as well as for ourselves as we commit our lives to God as intentional disciples.

The Bishop then thanked Rev. Barnes and the department, and he further charged the Synod to take the process seriously.

EVENSONG: At 6:01 p.m. there was the Service of Evensong led by the Rev. Andrew Reid, Rector of Holy Trinity, Westgate. Rev. Andrew Reid also led the Psalm. The first lesson was read by Mr. Wayne Grainger, Lay representative of the Holy Trinity Church, Westgate, and the second lesson was done by the Rev. Michael Allen, Rector of Church of the Ascension, Mona.

ADJOURNMENT AND SUPPER: The session for the day ended at 6:27 p.m. after which the prayer for supper was led by Rev. Andrew Reid.

The Synod will reconvene on Friday morning at 10 o'clock.

Submitted by:

Elliott, Michael G. (The Rev.)
SECRETARY OF SYNOD.

HOWARD K. A. GREGORY (THE RT. REV. DR.)
BISHOP OF JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
PRESIDENT.