

**REPORT ON THE 148TH SYNOD OF THE
DIOCESE OF JAMAICA & THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
APRIL 3-6, 2018**

THE FIRST DAY – APRIL 3, 2018

The Synod, under the theme “**Intentional Discipleship: Called and Empowered,**” began on Tuesday, April 3 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 Custodes of St. James, Hanover and Westmoreland. The Custos of St. James, Bishop the Hon. Conrad Pitkin, represented the Governor General and Senator Charles Sinclair represented the Prime Minister. Former Governor General, Sir Kenneth Hall; The Chancellor of the Diocese; the Chief of Defence Staff of the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF); Senior Officers of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF); and members of the Ecumenical Fraternity, were among other specially invited guests.

The highlight of the Service was the ‘Charge’ or special message delivered by the Bishop of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Howard Gregory. Referring to the text from Mark 1: 14-20, he focused on the Nature of Discipleship.

The Bishop asserted that discipleship comes with a cost, and he noted that the men and women in the Bible who responded to the call to follow Jesus had to commit to a relationship which meant abandoning some of the old ways of life and venturing into the unknown. By contrast, he said far too many Christians and Anglicans “had no sense of being called of God in Christ to a life of discipleship.”

He quoted the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, who describes discipleship as a state of being. “It is about who we are, and how we live; not just the decisions we make, not just the things we believe, but a state of being reflecting the deepest levels of selfhood. In other words, what makes one a disciple is not just turning up from time to time for church or for an act of religious devotion.”

Bishop Gregory said the challenge for members of the church was to recognise the urgency of the call and to understand that it demands a re-ordering of their life to assign a place of priority to Christ.

Against this background, he said the ministry exercised by members as intentional disciples should not only be at a personal level or directed solely to the faith community. “We must as a society and disciples of Christ continue to push against those things which are inimical to our common good, not just in the Church but also in the society.”

He pointed to the national culture in which a few persons enjoy privileges that are not available to the general public; the widening gap between the rich and the poor; as well as the trend among large companies which employ workers on contract with no job security, health insurance, pension benefits or leave, while profits soar and management and shareholders are richly rewarded. The Bishop also commented on the relationship between the rising crime rate, the lack of opportunities, and victimization.

While the protection and enhancement of the common good is the responsibility of the government, Bishop Gregory challenged members to not only inject a sense of hope and vision for the common good “in hindsight” but to “be at the forefront and in the midst of the challenges and laments of our people.”

Music for the Service was provided by a combined choir under the direction of Mr. Audley Davidson; with accompanying musicians from the Jamaica Defence Force.

(The full text of the Bishop’s Charge and a recording of the Service are available on the Diocesan website – www.anglicandioceseja.org)

THE SECOND DAY – APRIL 4, 2018

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

The second day began with Matins (Morning Prayer) followed by the Holy Eucharist led by the Kingston Region. The Rev. Dwane Blackwood, Curate at the Cathedral of St. Jago de la Vega, Spanish Town, officiated at Matins. The Rt. Rev. Robert Thompson, Suffragan Bishop of Kingston, was Celebrant and Preacher at the Holy Eucharist.

Bishop Thompson based his Sermon on Jesus’ encounter with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, as recounted in Luke 24. He explained how the disciples were able to move from a state of disbelief and despair, following the crucifixion of Jesus, to recognition and hope. He suggested that, in the face of declining membership in our church, we consider how we can adjust in order to move from sadness to joy and reclaim our call to discipleship.

The Bishop noted that, although Jesus knew what was troubling both men, he listened patiently and attentively to their story and, therefore, was able to answer their questions and begin their healing. He urged that we do the same as intentional disciples.

“It can make all the difference in restoring hope for the disenchanting and those who have left the church,” he asserted.

Bishop Thompson concluded that the church had received the same gifts that Jesus gave to the disciples on the road to Emmaus to shape its efforts in intentional discipleship. He

identified these gifts as Fellowship, Hospitality, Word and Sacrament; and he encouraged members to: “Let us count our gifts and not our losses.”

The Business Session of the Synod at which Bishop Gregory presided was attended by 211 Clergy, Church Workers and Lay Representatives, including youth.

Following the Opening Prayer by the Rev. Canon Garth Minott, Warden of Anglican students at the United Theological College of the West Indies, **Part Two of the Lord Bishop’s Charge** was presented. The Bishop extended a special welcome to first-timers at Synod, including Mrs. Jacqueline Mighty, the first female Diocesan Secretary and the first lay person, in many years, to hold that position. He also acknowledged the retired Secretary of Synod, the Ven. Winston Thomas, who served in that capacity for 25 years. The Rev. Michael Elliott, Acting Secretary of Synod and the Rev. Olando Gayle, Acting Assistant Secretary of Synod, were also welcomed.

Events and developments highlighted in the Bishop’s presentation included: the Diocesan Launch of the Season of Intentional Discipleship on November 12, 2017; the Anglican Methodist Dialogue initiated in conjunction with Bishop Everaldo Galbraith of the Jamaica District of the Methodist Church; the dedication of a plaque at the Cathedral in recognition of the contribution of the late Rt. Rev. the Hon. Dr. Neville Wordsworth deSouza to the life and work of the Diocese and the opening and dedication of the Aughtembeddie Camp in Manchester in June. Bishop Gregory also congratulated the Board of Management of the Wortley Home for overseeing the rebuilding of the Home which was re-dedicated and re-opened on February 28, 2018.

Among other developments listed in the review were the ordination of three priests and a Deacon; the installation of 11 Associate Evangelists and the appointment of Sister Molly Walton as Head of the Church Army; Mrs. Jacqueline Mighty as Diocesan Secretary and Miss Claudette Marshall as Director of Mission and Ministry and General Secretary of the Jamaica Church Missionary Society on July 1, October 1, and November 1, respectively. Bishop Gregory also informed the Synod about the retirement on February 28 of The Most Rev. the Hon. Dr. John Holder, Archbishop of the West Indies.

In closing, the Bishop encouraged members of the Assembly to support persons in their congregation who offered themselves for Ministry; and he also requested that members consider bequeaths for various Church organisations when preparing their wills.

Following the Charge, Resolutions 2-6 were table for debate. The Assembly then confirmed the appointment of Rev. Elliott and Rev. Gayle as Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Synod.

The Diocesan Secretary, Mrs. Mighty, presented an **update** on the work of a **Select Committee** appointed to review a 2017 Synod Resolution for the establishment of a **Human Resource (HR) Management System**. Although the Committee’s investigations indicated

that no other denomination in Jamaica operated a formal HR system, it proposed that, to enhance efficiency, the Diocese either set up an HR Department or employ a professional with the necessary skills.

The Rev. Canon Garth Minott reported on progress regarding publication of the **History of the Cathedral of St. Jago de la Vega**, through a partnership with The University of the West Indies (UWI) and Oxford University Press. The working team which includes (UWI) historian, Dr. James Robertson, is proposing a four-part publication and will involve researchers from the United Kingdom. The preliminary budget of 500 pounds sterling for research and accommodation is to be reviewed.

Presentation of the **Auditor's Report**, produced by Crowe Horwath, was done by Mrs. Lisa Cousins and the document was adopted by the Synod.

The Hon. Michael Fennell, Chairman of the Diocesan Financial Board, then presented the **2017 Financial Statements and Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2018**. He explained that 2017 was another difficult year; however, careful financial management resulted in expenditure of J\$187.5 million against the budgeted amount of J\$203.5 million, a shortfall of J\$16.1 million. While Current Account Balances increased from J\$272.8 million in 2016 to J\$283.8 million in 2017, Collections of J\$194 million reflected an improvement of on the J\$179 million recorded in the previous year.

The Budget for 2018 is J\$225 million, representing an increase of 10.5% over 2017; and Mission Share of J\$190.3 Million is projected – 6.4% more than 2017.

This Session was suspended to facilitate a presentation on “**Understanding Personality Disorder in Jamaica**” by Professor Frederick Hickling, Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at the University of the West Indies.

Professor Hickling sought to establish the relationship between trauma, personality disorders and crime in Jamaica.

He explained that complex trauma results from a host of factors including emotional, physical and mental neglect and abuse, as well as natural disasters and other stressful situations which lead to long-term recall. This can cause severe anxiety disorder or post-traumatic stress; and the trauma which is stored in the brain can be passed on to future generations. He added that experiences stored in the brain from birth, especially in the first 1,000 days of life, shape the brain circuitry in later life and adulthood. The Professor said the older one gets, the harder it is to change one's behaviour.

Professor Hickling stated that 41% of the Jamaican population qualifies for a diagnosis of personality disorder, while another 15% has severe disorders. He asserted that poverty and social deprivation were not the cause of crime or murder in Jamaica; and he stated that, as long as trauma is replaced by love our children will develop normally.

In the discussions that followed, it was revealed that a 1,000 day project is being implemented at St. Michael's and Central Branch Infant Schools in Kingston.

The Afternoon Session

The Session opened with the continuation of the Financial Report, and the passing of Resolution #1 which facilitates an overdraft of a maximum J\$2 million, if needed. Mr. Fennell was returned as Chairman of the Diocesan Financial Board and Crowe Howarth was retained as Auditors.

This was followed by the **Report of the Board of Nominations.**

The Session continued with the **Report by the Director of Schools**, Mrs. Ena Barclay, who stated that the objective was to make Anglican schools institutions of choice. She emphasised the importance of providing a sound foundation to ensure the success of students; and noted that training and adequate infrastructure were essential in order to achieve the desired objectives. She made a special appeal for members to provide material support for Diocesan primary schools.

A highlight of the year under review was the launch of a pilot project for infants 0-3 years. This is being implemented at St. Michael's and Central Branch Infant Schools in Kingston, as well as Albert Town Primary, in Trelawny under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education. Under the arrangement, support for the home/school relationship will be provided with the establishment of a Parents Place at St. Michael's and Central Branch Infant Schools.

Mrs. Barclay also outlined the components of the new Primary Exit Profile (PEP) which will replace the Grade Six Achievement Test (G-SAT) in 2018/19.

In 2017, the Director of Schools met with high school Principals with a view to deepening relationships and sharing best practices across institutions. Training for School Boards was also provided, and Mrs. Barclay urged members of the Synod to offer themselves for service in this area.

She further noted that the Diocese continues to assist Anglican students who pursue the teaching programme at Church Teachers' College.

The Assembly then welcomed Colonel Daniel Pryce of the Jamaica Defence Force and Superintendent Kirk Ricketts, the Jamaica Constabulary Force's Joint Commander of the Zone of Special Operations (ZOSO) in Montego Bay. They provided a **"Perspective on Crime and Violence in Today's Jamaica"** with special reference to ZOSO and the Enhanced Security Measures (ESM).

Colonel Pryce spoke about the obstacles to social and economic development posed by street gangs, crime and corruption. He said there were now some 250 to 300 gangs in Jamaica, including first second and third generation groupings, and more than half of these were actively committing murders. Gangs also featured in contract killings, extortion, lottery scamming and transnational crimes including drug trafficking, identity fraud, cyber crime and the drugs for guns trade.

He explained that a different approach had to be adopted to criminality in Western Jamaica where every scammer was potentially a “Don” compared to Kingston where there may be one area “Don.”

He said the government responded with the development of the 2013 National Security Policy and supporting legislation such as the Proceeds of Crime Act, the Lottery Scam Law, the Anti-Gang Legislation and ZOSO Act – all of which have required retraining of the security forces, including human rights and community development strategies.

Superintendent Ricketts gave empirical evidence to highlight the state of crime in the country. Between January and March 2018, there was a 3% reduction in violent crime and a 1% decline in the illegal acquisition of goods and property. At the same time, however, murders increased by 5.4%; but a reduction was projected in the second quarter of the year. Cases of rape and aggravated assault were also reduced.

Participants in the panel discussion which followed agreed that force would not curb crime. They pointed to the need for social intervention and improvement in the relationship between the police and citizens in order to effectively address the problem.

The afternoon session closed with Evensong led by the Rev. Paul Sharp, priest in the Supplementary Ministry attached to the Church of the Transfiguration, Meadowbrook.

The Evening Session

The evening’s activity featured a video presentation of the movie “*War Room*,” which was introduced by the Rev. Douglas Barnes, Director of Christian Education, in the context of the Diocesan thrust for Intentional Discipleship.

The session was adjourned at 9.35 pm.

THE THIRD DAY – APRIL 5, 2018

Day three began with Matins led by the Rev. Cleverton Beckford of the Montego Bay Region. The Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay presided at the Eucharist, and the Very Rev. Leroy Johnson, Rural Dean for Westmoreland and Rector of St. George’s Church, Sav-la-Mar, preached the Sermon.

Fr. Johnson noted that the Church was all about mission, and so every baptised member was obliged to engage in mission. Recalling the Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus referred to his followers as salt and light, he challenged members of the Synod to impact the world for good, as light dispels darkness and illuminates the way, and as salt gives zest to food.

He drew the parallel between Mission and Evangelism as he focused on the nature of the mission-shaped church. Fr. Johnson advised members of the Synod to select their leaders carefully, as the priorities of the persons in charge are often reflected in the life of the church. He went on to explain that the mission-shaped church is one that carefully plans its strategy and meets people where they are; and he cited sports evangelism as an approach that could be adopted.

Fr. Johnson stated that Anglicans were not short of structures or gifts to pursue Mission, but seemed to lack the commitment and intentionality to make the necessary impact.

“If you are not an excited Christian, you probably have not met Jesus. Loosen up, let go and let God, so we can be his ambassadors of reconciliation...Let it never be said that as Anglicans we are cold and dead,” he asserted. Fr. Johnson ended his Sermon with a dub poem and song “*You can’t be a beacon if your light don’t shine.*”

Following breakfast, the day’s Business Session began with Prayers by the Rev. Canon Garth Minott, followed by Minutes for the first and second day of the Assembly.

The Synod resolved itself into Committee for the **Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica Church Missionary Society (JCMS)** chaired by the Rt. Rev. Robert Thompson.

Bishop Thompson advised members that the chief objective of the JCMS, now in its 157th year, was the expansion of the mission field to which Christ has called us; and to this end, he said it would be focusing on training congregations in mission work. In the year ahead, the Society will be partnering with the Church Army and the Education and Youth Department to fulfil the second Mark of Mission – “*To teach, baptize and nurture new believers.*”

He introduced the new General Secretary, Miss Claudette Marshall, who assumed responsibility for this portfolio following the retirement of Mrs. Carmen Bromley.

He provided the following updates on Diocesan Missions:

Spot Valley: Missionary work at this Station was temporarily suspended following the migration of Captain Joshua Henry, who was assigned there. A small Committee is being established to plan ongoing initiatives in that community.

Discovery Bay: The 13 year-old Mission that operates from the Roman Catholic Church and the homes of members, is the only Anglican presence in that area. The Very Rev. Richard Tucker, and the Rev. Garfield Campbell, along with eight lay members, supervise its programmes.

Longville Park: This Mission is expanding and offers a range of programmes in the dormitory community where it is located. These include a homework centre, parenting programme, home Bible studies and community activities. During the year under review, J\$1.3 Million was spent to extend the Mission House, which now accommodates the residence of Sister Alvarine “Gem” Roberts. The Diocese also bought land in the community to build a church close to the Mission House/residence. Bishop Thompson suggested that members of the community be engaged both in the design and construction of the church. He also thanked the Steering Committee appointed to manage the affairs of the Mission for its leadership.

Other Activities: Re-Roofing of the St. Barnabas Mission in Enfield, St. Mary was undertaken in 2017 with a grant of J\$500,000 provided by the JCMS.

A summer placement programme was initiated at the Missions in Moore Town and Comfort Castle in the Rio Grande Valley, Portland, for a seminarian at the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI), who worked under the supervision of clergy in the Deanery.

The Church of the Holy Trinity in West Gate, Montego Bay, was recognised as the top Church Contributor for the third year running, with a total of J\$583,052, more than twice the second highest donor, the St. James Parish Church which recorded J\$203,550. Special mention was made of St. John’s Church, Portland Cottage which contributed to the JCMS for the first time in 12 years. In the subsequent discussion, Archdeacon Hollis Lynch noted that 120 churches had not contributed to the JCMS in 2017.

The projected total for Deaneries in 2018 is J\$6.7 million; and J\$500,000 has been allocated to promote discipleship.

The report was accepted by the Synod.

The Business Session resumed with a presentation titled “**Voluntary and Forced Return Migration to Jamaica – The Underbelly of Migration**” by Professor Elizabeth Thomas-Hope, Retired Head of the Department of Geography and Geology, UWI.

She noted that in the 1950’s migration was primarily by workers going to the United Kingdom, but by the 1990’s the trend shifted with the United States and Canada attracting Jamaican athletes, among others. However, since the 1970’s, there has been a decline in legal migration, while short-term migration has increased. The number of persons deported for immigration offences has also increased. Between 1995 and 2017, 70% of deportees were from the United States; 17% from Canada and 9% from the United Kingdom.

Professor Thomas-Hope explained that deportees surpass the number of persons who have returned voluntarily. Some 59% of forced return migrants had breached immigration regulations; while 41% had committed criminal offences, and some of them were associated with criminal networks.

In the discussion which followed, the need for a formal study into the relationship between crime and deportees was highlighted. It was also noted that the church contributed to the stigma attached to deportees. Professor Thomas-Hope encouraged members to focus instead on providing skills training opportunities, pastoral care and other outreach support to help them re-integrate into the society.

She also spoke about the emergence of human trafficking. International statistics show that 50% of these cases involve persons less than 15 years old. Between 2007 and 2015, 140 children in Jamaica were victims of this phenomenon.

An **Update on the Diocesan Strategic Plan** was provided by Bishop Gregory. He commended the support and work of Mrs. Fay McIntosh, who chairs a Sub-Committee of the Strategic Planning Committee. He reported that the Vision Statement was shortened in response to concerns about the initial length.

In developing the Framework for the Strategic Plan, the Bishop said the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) for the Diocese were examined. Among the strengths are a rich heritage; the extensive skills and talents among clergy and congregations; and substantial real assets.

The weaknesses include: the aging and declining membership; the lack of an effective ministry to the aged; inadequate attention to the spiritual formation of members; poor communication and flow of information; failure to adequately manage our human resources and physical assets; limited attention to recruitment, engagement and retention of persons in ordained ministry.

Opportunities identified include reaching out to the un-churched and lapsed members; strengthening the focus on youth programmes and development; utilising social and other media for spiritual and personal development and improving pastoral care to the vulnerable.

Lack of trust within the society; denominational competition; shifting demographics and declining denominational loyalty are some of the threats.

Nine strategic goals were identified, among them being: the creation of the church as a community of disciples; transformed congregations of care and hospitality; a church of nurture and support for youth and the attainment of sustained financial viability. Objectives have also been developed for each goal. The Framework for the Strategic Plan has been sent to Clergy and Synod Representatives by e-mail; and it is also posted on the Diocesan website. Members are encouraged to provide feedback by April 30 to facilitate improvements.

The Afternoon Session

Synod resumed after lunch with the **Awards Ceremony for Retirees and Outstanding Church Organisations.**

Bishop Gregory served as Master of Ceremonies for this session; and he invited The Very Rev. Canon Collin Reid, Rural Dean for St. Catherine and Senior Canon of the Cathedral, to offer prayers.

The Bishop noted that, in most cases, active members of a congregation numbered about 15%; and this annual ceremony was aimed at recognising outstanding contributions as determined by Diocesan organisations.

Bishop Gregory presented a special award to The Ven. Winston Thomas, the Archdeacon/Administrator for the Mandeville Region, who served as Secretary of Synod for 25 years from 1993 to 2017.

Other Awards were presented by The Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay, to:

- JCMS Lead Church Contributor, 2017 – Church of the Holy Trinity, West Gate, Montego Bay, received by Ms. Eliese Spence
- Mothers' Union Branch of the Year – Church of the Ascension, Mona Heights, received by Mrs. Claire Blake, Enrolling Member
- Brotherhood of St. Andrew Chapter of the Year – St. Gabriel's Church, May Pen, received by Mr. Michael Simpson, President
- Women's Auxiliary Branch of the Year – Church of the Conversion of St. Paul, Greater Portmore, received by Miss Joyce Skyers

The Rev. Dwane Blackwood provided entertainment with a dub poem entitled "*A jus tru di calla.*"

This was followed by a presentation on **Insurance Coverage of Diocesan Properties** by the Hon. Michael Fennell who spoke to the need for an urgent and comprehensive review of existing coverage against the background of the ever-present risk of natural disasters in Jamaica.

He noted that most Diocesan properties were not insured or were seriously under-insured and, therefore, faced the prospect of severe loss in the event of a disaster. In 2017, only 154 of the 289 Diocesan properties on record contributed to the Diocesan Insurance Fund. He urged priests and attorneys of churches to update their contributions to the Fund by June 30.

Mr. Fennell explained that options being explored as part of the review included the purchase of additional insurance on the open market, and this would require amendments to the relevant Canons. A formal decision on the future direction will be taken at the 2019 Synod.

The Hon. Dr. Vincent Lawrence, Chairman of the Diocesan Property Advisory Board, then presented the **Property Development Update** under three headings – Property Sales, Property Development and Property Data Base.

Property Sales

- Farquharson House (in Cross Roads) for the Elderly was sold for J\$112 million.
- The sale of Orolands in Savanna-la-Mar is being reconsidered due to the inadequacy of the offers received. Options for development of the property are being reviewed by the Board.
- Refurbishing of #3 Duke Street, with a view to rental, is being considered. The building, which houses the office of the Bishop of Kingston, is in need of significant repair.

Property Development

- The Bailey Suites at Kensington Crescent, Kingston, have all been sold; and the construction of 16 studio apartments for rental at University Crescent is nearing completion.
- Phase 2 of the apartment complex at St. Peter's Court is proposed as part of an overall development plan for Diocesan lands in Cross Roads and as a potential source of income.
- Thirty-five acres of the St. Dorothy's Church lands in Old Harbour are being earmarked for a subdivision, and the church is applying for a title.
- The new Diocesan camp site at Auchtembeddie, Manchester, was refurbished with funds from the sale of the Bishop Swaby camp site in Negril, and is now open.

Property Data Base

To date, some 889 properties have been identified, but only 33% of these have registered titles. Dr. Lawrence said the Property Advisory Board was seeking additional help to streamline the process. He noted that the Diocese was losing land to squatters, and he urged churches to give greater priority to the protection of church lands.

The **Election to Diocesan Boards, Councils and Committees** followed.

The Session continued with the **Diocesan Communication Update** presented by Miss Beverley Newell, Communication Officer.

She reported that the Communication Board ramped up its activities in 2017 to improve the delivery of information and engage a wider cross section of members. A Social Media Officer was employed to spearhead the strategic application of new technologies; a Communication Desk was established at Church House; and the installation of state-of-the-art equipment in the Boardroom is facilitating real-time discussions with stakeholders across the Diocese and overseas.

Both the radio programme *Think on These Things* and the quarterly newspaper *The Anglican* have been revamped under the guidance of Editorial Committees. Deanery correspondents are being engaged for *The Anglican*, advertising has been introduced and a dedicated e-mail address is enabling the timely submission of material for publication. The Diocesan presence on Social Media was also expanded during the year and Miss Newell said there was a steady growth of users on all platforms.

She acknowledged the contribution of the Hon. Barbara Gloudon, who retired in 2017 after more than 40 years' service to the Diocese, and Mrs. Patricia Phillips who resigned from the Communication Board due to numerous professional obligations.

Board Chairman, The Rt. Rev. Robert Thompson, encouraged members of Synod to access the social media channels; and he announced that he had identified funds to support training in the Regions by representatives of the Caribbean School of Media and Communication (CARIMAC).

The Director of Youth, Mr. Craig Mears, updated the Synod regarding the operation of **Camp Auchtembeddie** which is suitable for church or sports camps, spiritual retreats, group meetings or other gatherings. Located in the hills of Manchester close to several famous attractions in St. Elizabeth, Mr. Mears said the camp offers comfortable accommodation in five dormitories with a total capacity of 80. Facilities include a fully equipped kitchen, a dining/multi-purpose room, audio visual room and tuck shop.

He acknowledged the donation of benches by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew for the outdoor gazebos. Mr. Mears also presented a video testimonial by Mr. Josh Pratt, a camper from St. Andrew Parish Church; and he encouraged members of the Synod to use the facility. The cost for Anglicans is J\$750 per night, for accommodation only. There is an additional charge to rent the kitchen and a cook may also be hired, on request.

The Rev. Douglas Barnes, Director of Christian Education, addressed the Assembly on the subject of **Intentional Discipleship** using as a reference the movie "**War Room**" which members watched the previous night. He explained that Intentional Discipleship enabled persons to meet Jesus in a way that changed how they view the world. He noted that the movie demonstrated how a simple conversation can start an intentional discipleship relationship; and he emphasised that discipleship was about maintaining the relationship. He added that the goal was a constant multiplication of disciples.

Fr. Barnes challenged members to begin to talk freely about a relationship with God and to witness to others, inside and outside of their congregation. He pointed out that we have the tools that can be used as a basis for intentional discipleship. To this end, he said each congregation/Cure was being asked to identify three members to be trained as resource persons; and he hoped that the persons selected would be excited about being disciples of Christ. He announced that a series of regional training workshops was being planned as follows:

- Montego Bay Region: May 4-6 – Hillcrest Diocesan Retreat Centre
- Mandeville Region: May 11-13 – Auchtembeddie Camp
- Kingston Region: June 15-17 – Venue to be announced

A congregational Leaders' Guide and brochures will be disseminated to participants at the workshops.

The day's session ended with Evensong led by the Rev. Andrew Reid, Rector, Church of the Holy Trinity, West Gate, Montego Bay.

THE FOURTH DAY- APRIL 6, 2018

The final day of Synod began with Matins led by the Mandeville Region. The Rev. Larius Lewis presided.

The Eucharist followed with The Ven. Winston Thomas as Celebrant and Preacher. The Sermon was based on John 20: 29 "Because you have seen me you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Archdeacon Thomas stated that the reality of life which we seek is found in Jesus Christ. In the text, Thomas doubted the reality of Jesus resurrection, although deep down, he wanted to believe it. He separated himself from the fellowship of the other disciples who could have encouraged his belief.

Archdeacon Thomas noted that in the same way, there are many persons today who are reluctant to join the fellowship of believers, while others are tentative, going to Church now and then, but really spending their time on the sidelines, only to acknowledge God in the autumn of their life. He added that people who refuse to leave their comfort zones could also be accused of disbelief.

The recognition of Jesus brings Thomas' confession of him as Lord and God; and the Archdeacon urged members of the Assembly to make a complete confession, also.

"We shouldn't leave here as we came. Let us leave feeling we are called, chosen and empowered by God to become intentional disciples," he charged.

The Business Session began with prayers led by the Rev. Canon Garth Minott. The Minutes of Day 3 were read, followed by a presentation by Mrs. Jacqueline Mighty on the **sale and allocation of the proceeds of Farquharson House.**

Mrs. Mighty reported that the Farquharson Jamaica Trust was established by a Resolution of the 2017 Synod to preserve and protect former beneficiaries and occupants of the Home. There are nine Trustees led by the Bishop of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands.

Debate on the following **resolutions** was the next order of business:

- Resolution #2: Re Corporal Punishment in Schools (Passed with an amendment)
- Resolution #3: Re Observance of the 150th Year of Disestablishment (Passed)
- Resolution #4: Re Extending the Term on Church Committees from 5 – 8 Years (Defeated)
- Resolution #5: Re Recognition of Mrs. Carmen Bromley for service to the Diocese (Passed)
- Resolution #6 Re Recognition of the Hon. Barbara Gloudon, OJ, OD for more than 40 years' service to the Diocese (Passed)

Election Results & Appointments

The results of elections to the following Diocesan Boards, Committees and Councils 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 Jamaica Church Pension Scheme
- The Selection Committee
- Representatives to the Provincial Synod

The legal firm Dunn Cox was retained as Attorneys for the Diocese.

Rural Deans

Rural Deans for 2018 were named as follows:

- Kingston: The Very Rev. Sean Major-Campbell
- St. Andrew: The Very Rev. Franklyn Jackson
- St. Catherine: The Very Rev. Canon Collin Reid
- St. Thomas: The Very Rev. Jean Fairweather-Wilson

- St. Mary: The Very Rev. Canon Charles Manderson
- Portland: The Very Rev. Vinton Greene
- Manchester: The Very Rev. Barrington Soares
- St. Ann: The Very Rev. Richard Tucker
- Westmoreland: The Very Rev. Leroy Johnson
- St. James/Hanover: The Very Rev. Andrew Reid

The Deaneries of Portmore, Clarendon, St. Elizabeth and Trelawny are vacant.

Bishop's Closing Remarks

Bishop Gregory acknowledged the contribution of the many persons who made Synod the success it was. He also thanked the visiting presenters and employees of the hotel.

He commented on the level of engagement for Intentional Discipleship which surpassed anything that he had experienced in his ministry of more than 40 years. He said this was likely to change the character of the Diocese in years to come. Describing Synod 2018 as an engaging experience, Bishop Gregory urged members to be faithful witnesses in the family, community and nation; and to take advantage of training opportunities throughout the Diocese.

The Ven. Winston Thomas thanked the Bishop for his management of the Synod and encouraged members to pray for his continuance as our good shepherd.

Prepared By: The Editorial Committee

- Lady Rheima Hall
- Miss Beverley Newell