

**REPORT ON THE 150TH SYNOD OF THE
DIOCESE OF JAMAICA & THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
APRIL 6-9, 2021**

THE FIRST DAY – APRIL 6, 2021

The 150th Synod under the theme **God’s Church for God’s World**” began on Tuesday, April 6 with a Service at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Bishop’s Lodge.

In the face of the spike in local COVID-19 cases and related protocols regarding mass gatherings, the Service was streamed live. Officiant was the Very Rev. Canon Collin Reid, Senior Canon and Rector of the Cathedral of St. Jago de la Vega, Spanish Town.

The highlight of the Service was the **‘Charge’** or special message to the church and nation delivered by The Most Rev. Dr. Howard Gregory, Archbishop of the West Indies and Bishop of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands. In the introduction, he explained that this year’s Synod should have been the 151st, but due to the outbreak of the COVID virus last year, the 150th was postponed. He noted that several other Diocesan events, including a year-long celebration of the Disestablishment of the Diocese, were also affected.

Archbishop Gregory said the Synod theme was appropriate, given the impact of the pandemic on the Church’s congregational life. In the Charge, which focussed on the first reading from 1 Peter 1: 3-9, His Grace observed that the passage was intended to offer Christians in that era comfort in the midst of suffering; and linked their experience to the suffering of Jesus. He noted that Peter pointed to the reward awaiting the faithful, which far surpassed their suffering at the time. He also said that trusting in an unseen God and a future filled with trials demands great faith from the individual, but is possible because of Christ’s victory over death.

While persecution may not be a threat in Jamaica, the Archbishop said the passage had messages for the local Church, given the challenges posed by the pandemic; increased crime and violence in the society and the growing threat of domestic violence and abuse. He asserted that the Church had a responsibility to work in solidarity to break the silence and engage issues that contribute to injustice in the society. He also encouraged the Church to become agents for truth and positive messages in the face of the distortion and conspiracy theories being spread on social media regarding the coronavirus and vaccines.

Archbishop Gregory stated that hope was an essential component of Christian life, grounded in the saving work of Jesus which we celebrate at Easter with his resurrection. He challenged the Church through its witness to be a beacon of transformative hope, as the society experiences hardship, uncertainty and change as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please read the full text of the Archbishop's Charge on the Diocesan website:
www.anglicandioceseja.org

Music for the Service was led by organist, Audley Davidson, supported by five choristers from across the Diocese.

THE SECOND DAY – APRIL 7, 2021

The day's proceedings began with **Morning Prayer** led by The Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay, supported by participants from the Montego Bay Region.

This was followed by Prayers led by the Rev. Canon Garth Minott, Anglican Warden at the United Theological College of The West Indies, for the following:

- Delegates of Synod
- Election of a Bishop
- Discipleship

The Visioning Prayer was said by all.

Archbishop Gregory welcomed participants, noting that this was the first virtual Synod because of the pandemic which he said would impact the way the Church's business is conducted in the future. He also referred to the impending Elective Assembly to elect a new Bishop of Kingston, which was a new feature on the Agenda.

Six Scrutineers were chosen to verify attendance at the Synod and assist in the voting process, following which the Rev. Michael Elliott, Secretary of Synod, took the Roll Call.

Synod Charge – Part Two

The Archbishop then presented the second part of his Charge, in which he acknowledged the commissioning of new Lay Chaplains, the ordination of new priests and Deacons in 2019 and the licensing of 28 Associate Evangelists in January 2021. He also welcomed the new Director of Christian Education, the Rev. Natalie Blake, who served as the Assistant Secretary of Synod, as well as other new members of staff at Church House.

Turning to developments locally, in the Province of the West Indies, and the wider Anglican Communion since the last Synod in 2019, Archbishop Gregory highlighted the following:

- His election as the 13th Archbishop of the Province in May 2019
- The appointments of The Hon. Mrs. Justice Zaila McCalla as Provincial Chancellor; Mr. Peter DePass as Provincial Registrar; and Mr. Frank James as a Trustee at Codrington College, Barbados
- The leading role being played at the Provincial level by The Rev. Natalie Blake in the orientation programme for Clergy and the production of resource materials for the

education programme to support the decision by the 2019 Provincial Synod to restore the practice by the early Church which accepted **Baptism as the Gateway to Holy Communion**

- The distribution of 1680 care packages for the elderly and the needy as part of the Diocesan response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with financial assistance from the Archbishop of Canterbury Anglican Communion Fund and USPG
- A commemorative Service to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Disestablishment of the Diocese in November 2020
- The Diocesan Service on February 7, 2021 in appreciation for the Rt. Rev. Robert Thompson who has retired as Suffragan Bishop of Kingston; and to dedicate a plaque in honour of the late Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Alfred Reid
- The appointment of The Rev. Oral Thomas as President of the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI)
- The consecration in 2019 of Jamaican, The Rt. Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin, as Bishop of Dover

The Archbishop also offered congratulations to members of the Diocese who had received National Honours and other national appointments, with special reference to the Hon. Earl Jarrett, Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica; and the Hon. Mrs. Justice Zaila McCalla as a member of the Commission.

He extended condolences to the families of the following:

- The Hon. Oliver Clarke, who played a seminal role in identifying Diocesan properties and establishing the Property Development Unit
- The Hon. Justice Marsh
- The Rev. Easton Lee, and
- Mr. William McCalla, husband of the Hon. Mrs. Justice Zaila McCalla.

Members then agreed to the hours of business.

Following this, the meeting resolved into the Elective Assembly.

The Elective Assembly

Door keepers were assigned virtually, and the Archbishop outlined the purpose for the Elective Assembly.

He sought to clarify misunderstandings in relation to the process, and explained that this was not a political platform, involving the nomination of candidates and subsequent campaigning. **Unlike the process for the election of a Diocesan Bishop in which any eligible clergyperson may be nominated by five members of the Assembly, he said nomination of the candidate for Suffragan Bishop is the purview of the Diocesan, as set out in Articles 15 and 16 of Canon**

#22. Bishop Gregory further noted that Suffragan Bishops are assigned a See, but also perform other functions designated by the Diocesan. Consequently, he concluded, the Diocesan Bishop indicates to the Synod the person whom he deems most suitable, whose confidence he enjoys, and with whom he thinks he can work most effectively, in the interest of the Diocese.

In establishing the quorum for the election, it was determined that at 11.55 am, there were 90 clergy and 117 laity present. With the minimum number required being 81 clergy and 112 laity, the Assembly was duly constituted, in keeping with the necessary three-quarters of eligible voters in each House.

The proceedings of the Assembly continued as follows:

- The Mandate from the Archbishop was read by the Diocesan Chancellor, Mrs. Justice Zaila McCalla.
- The Hon. Michael Fennell, Chairman of the Diocesan Financial Board, confirmed that adequate financial arrangements were in place to accommodate the new Bishop.
- Archbishop Howard Gregory nominated the Rev. Canon Garth Minott to succeed the Rt. Rev. Robert Thompson as Suffragan Bishop of Kingston. He outlined Canon Minott's qualifications, experience and achievements nationally, at the Provincial level and in the wider Anglican Communion. He said Canon Minott was a suitable candidate for the Bishopric, especially as the Diocese contemplated its changing role in a post-COVID society.
- Members of the Elective Assembly were then invited to respond to the Archbishop's nomination. The speakers were:
 - Rev. Garfield Campbell, Priest-in-Charge, St. Mark's Church, Brown's Town, St. Ann
 - Rev. Prof. Dr. Veront Satchell, Supplementary Minister, Church of the Ascension, Mona
 - Mr. Vincent Chen, Lay Representative, St. Luke's Church, Cross Roads
 - Mr. Javanie Byfield, Student, UTCWI
 - Rev. Charles Danvers, Priest-in-Charge, St. Augustine Cure, Porus, Manchester
 - Rev. Seymour Blackwood, Assistant Priest, Church of the Ascension, Mona
 - Rev. Natalie Blake, Director of Christian Education & Assistant Secretary of Synod
 - Rev. Barrington Soares, Retired Rector, St. Mark's Church & Rural Dean, Manchester
 - Rev. Veronica Thomas, Rector, Little London Cure, Westmoreland
- This was followed by a Prayer and the singing of the Hymn "Come Holy Ghost our Souls Inspire."
- Instructions for voting were provided, with clergy voting preceding the laity. Following consultation with the Chancellor, a second round of voting was done as Canon Minott failed to secure the required two-thirds majority in the House of Clergy.

However, the Elective Assembly failed, once again, to achieve the required result. The Elective Assembly was then prorogued.

The Synod reconvened after the voting process, and was adjourned for the day.

THE THIRD DAY – APRIL 8, 2021

The day began with **Morning Prayer** led by The Venerable Patrick Cunningham, Archdeacon of the Kingston Region, assisted by members of the Region.

The Rev. Canon Garth Minott then led Prayers for:

- The Synod
- The Mission of the Church
- The Increase of our Faith
- The Visioning Prayer, which was said by all in attendance.

The Morning Session

The Synod reconvened with the Archbishop's welcome.

Commenting on the Elective Assembly, he noted that it was one of the most important events of the Synod and the Diocese. He expressed the hope that members had reflected on the previous day's proceedings and their implications for the Church. Archbishop Gregory thanked Canon Minott for his willingness to stand for election, and assured him of his continued confidence.

Agenda items that were not addressed on the previous day were incorporated in the day's business.

Minutes of the first day were presented by Rev. Natalie Blake, Assistant Secretary of Synod, corrections were noted and the document was confirmed.

The first item from Day Two – the **Appointment of the Select Committee**, which addresses matters in the Synod relating to finances, was proposed and accepted as follows:

- The Hon. Dr. Vincent Lawrence
- The Venerable Winston Thomas and
- Mr. Vivian Crawford

The Rev. Michael Elliott then presented the **Notice of Resolutions and Questions**.

Resolutions #2, #3 and #4 were withdrawn and replaced by Resolution #12.

Other Resolutions, Nos.5-12, were presented for subsequent discussion.

ISSUES MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

The presentation was made by the Hon. Michael Fennell, Chairman of the Diocesan Financial Board, who advised the Assembly that the COVID-19 pandemic which was identified in Jamaica in March 2020, severely impacted the operations of the Diocese. He explained that a Revised Budget was prepared, and was subsequently approved by the Diocesan Council, as the annual Synod was cancelled in the wake of the national lockdown.

The Audited Accounts for the year ended December 31, 2020 were to be approved by the Diocesan Financial Board, he said; and a subcommittee comprising Mr. Sterling Soares; Mrs. Leicha Gordon-Forsythe and Mr. Almerick Cooke, was formed to review the accounts.

Qualifications to the audit by BDO Chartered Accountants were read and accepted by the Synod.

Mr. Fennell highlighted factors affecting the Diocese's financial status during the review period, including the uncertain socio-economic climate, the impact of COVID on the national economy, crime, climate and the General Elections in September 2020.

Budget 2020

Some J\$211.8 Million were budgeted, of which J\$190.48 Million were spent. The under-expenditure was attributed to the reduction in salaries across the board, posts which were not filled and the cancellation of the annual Synod, among other factors.

Current Account balances remained a challenge, as well as Frozen Accounts, which reflected a slight reduction over 2019. Cash receipts of J\$170.4 Million were J\$30 Million less than in 2019. However, Mr. Fennell said the performance by members across the Diocese was commendable, given the almost total absence of fundraising activities during the challenging year under review.

Draft Budget 2021

An allocation of J\$202.4 Million for the current year represents a 6.3% increase over the 2020 expenditure. A 2% increase in Mission Share moves this budget item from J\$170.7 Million in 2020 to J\$172 Million in 2021.

The Non-Recurrent and Capital Expenditure Budget was projected at J\$38.1 million. Mr. Fennell assured the Assembly that this would not be funded from Mission Share but from investment, transfers from Capital Reserves, property sale and grants from the Trinity Wall Street Church.

He said the challenges facing the Diocese in the current year were similar to those experienced in 2020, but also included the COVID control and national recovery plan. He listed among the Diocesan priorities: Leadership and Management Training for clergy and laity; Improved Pastoral Care; Intentional Discipleship; Growing the Mission; Enhanced Efficiency of Church Attorneys and other Lay Leaders; New Sources of Revenue; and Property Management.

The Budget was approved by the Synod and **Resolution #1 re General Banking Facilities** to facilitate an overdraft of a maximum \$10 Million was passed. Mr. Fennell was returned as Chairman of the Diocesan Financial Board and the current auditors, BDO Chartered Accountants, were retained.

Mrs. Jacqueline Mighty, Diocesan Secretary, presented an update on **the Anglican Church Insurance Fund**, which was established in 2000.

Noting that insurance of Church properties was mandatory, Mrs. Mighty reported a decline in the number of contributors from 117 in 2018 to 89 in 2020, resulting in reduced earnings which impeded growth of the Fund and the provision of effective coverage. She also encouraged churches to review their property values as most were woefully under-insured.

This was endorsed by Archbishop Gregory who emphasised that, given the impact of climate change, congregations should not assume that all was fine. He pointed to the experience of the Wortley Home for Girls and the Clifton Boys' Home which were destroyed in recent fires; and the challenge in financing reconstruction at Clifton which was not insured. The Archbishop also urged churches to give special attention to the maintenance of electrical wiring on their property.

COVID-19 TASK FORCE

Management Consultant, Dr. Eleanor Henry, reported on the work of the **COVID-19 Task Force** established in 2020 to explore strategies in response to the pandemic and beyond. The Task Force's Terms of Reference include:

- Identifying any shortfall in resources
- Establishing an agreed Vision for the Church in the future
- Preparing an Implementation Plan

Dr. Henry affirmed the Task Force's commitment to ensuring that all decisions were based on fact and were data driven. She explained that two surveys were scheduled to capture pre and post COVID experiences. The first – a survey for clergy – was completed in December 2020; and that for the laity will be mounted following Synod.

Some 93.5% of clergy participated in the survey which identified the following limitations:

- 30% of priests have limited access to Internet facilities
- 41% of churches are located in urban areas and 59% in rural communities
- 58 active full-time clergy serve 220 places of worship
- Church attendance has been significantly reduced since the onset of COVID-19. This has affected weekly offering with 81% of churches reporting a reduction in this source of income

Major Concerns included: the absence of youth; the elderly membership; rebuilding the congregation following COVID, given the likelihood of physical and mental health challenges among members.

Positive Indicators included: improved technical skills, given the heavy use of smart phone technology and social media platforms; a growing ministry beyond the pews; more innovative approaches to worship; and increased male participation.

Post-Pandemic: There was optimism that the Church will be stronger although fewer members were anticipated.

Post-Pandemic Vision: Seventy-five percent of the respondents anticipated more caring and vibrant congregations; small group discipleship and a ministry transformed by the use of technology.

Dr. Henry noted, however, that an efficient management structure was necessary to operate the Diocese in the new environment.

The Morning Session ended with the Report of the Board of Nomination presented by the Secretary of Synod. This Report provides the Nominees for election to Diocesan Boards.

The Afternoon Session

On resumption after lunch, Synod resolved itself into Committee for the **Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica Church Missionary Society, (JCMS)** which was chaired by Archbishop Gregory.

The Archbishop explained that the former JCMS Chairman, Bishop Robert Thompson, would normally have presented this Report, but with the onset of COVID-19, this was not done in 2020; and he had since retired. He expressed gratitude for Bishop Thompson's leadership over the years. The Archbishop stated that he had secured funding for care packages which were distributed in the wake of the pandemic; and he acknowledged the efforts of Miss Claudette Marshall, Director of Mission and Ministry in facilitating this process.

Archbishop Gregory also thanked congregations which conducted Missionary Services during the pandemic, and he urged others to follow suit, despite the financial challenges which impacted contributions to the JCMS. He further observed that over the years, churches had failed to focus on missionary activities, thereby, preventing sustainable growth of our mission.

The Report highlighted developments at three Missions – Discovery Bay, St. Ann; Spot Valley, Montego Bay, and Longville Park, Clarendon.

Discovery Bay: This Mission is driven by a corps of 8 energetic retired persons. They meet every Sunday at 4.00 pm at the Roman Catholic Church. The Community Centre at Old Folly has also been the site of Services, Bible Study and Sunday School. With the assistance of overseas friends, the volunteers provide a subsidy for education of the children.

Spot Valley: The Mission is dormant, and, as a result, the building acquired for missionary work has been unoccupied. With assistance from the Property Board, the property has been secured. Strategies are being explored with a view to establishing a dynamic ministry to serve the growing community which surrounds the Mission.

Longville Park: Significant work remains to be done at this Mission, which is surrounded by an extensive community. Land has been purchased on which to erect a Mission House, and plans are underway to use two containers until a permanent structure is built. Tankweld Limited is providing assistance in this regard. Sister Alvarine “Gem” Roberts is spearheading work at the Mission, but her efforts are limited because of her other assignments elsewhere.

Mission Indebtedness

This has risen dramatically since 2018, with a total of J\$37.9 Million now outstanding.

The Archbishop explained that a small amount is budgeted to assist Missions in difficulties and, they, in turn, were required to submit a plan detailing strategies for growth. However, this, too, was derailed by COVID.

Over the last two years, several Missions have been reclassified to Chapels of Ease. These are:

- St. Barnabas in St. Catherine
- St. David’s in St. Ann; and
- St. Andrew’s in Prickley Pole, St. Ann

The JCMS General Secretary, Miss Marshall, reported that none of the Regions had met their quotas for 2020. However, she commended the Portmore and Manchester Deaneries which came close to achieving the goals.

For the 5th consecutive year, the Church of the Holy Trinity in Montego Bay was the top contributor – J\$682,002. This was followed by St. Mark’s Parish Church, Mandeville – J\$400,000; and The Church of St. Margaret’s, Liguanea J\$174,850.

In subsequent discussions regarding Spot Valley, it was suggested that Bishop Leon Golding establish a Committee to explore factors contributing to the failure of the Mission, and propose possible solutions.

The JCMS Budget of J\$7.3 Million for 2021-2022 was approved.

The Synod reconvened following the JCMS Annual General Meeting.

Nominations and elections to Diocesan Boards, Committees and Councils were the next items of business on the agenda.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

The report of the Property Advisory Board was presented by The Hon. Dr. Vincent Lawrence, who the Archbishop recognised for his contribution in many areas of Diocesan activity over the years.

Dr. Lawrence traced the work of the Board since its establishment in 2009 and commended the late Mr. Oliver Clarke for his considerable contribution to the development of this portfolio.

He then focused on the activities of the Property Management Group which was established in 2019. The Review was presented under four headings: Sales, Restoration, Lease & Rentals and Development.

Sales

Among the properties listed for sale were:

- Bounty Hall in Trelawny – deal completed in 2020
- Linstead, St. Catherine
- Ormsby Hall in Kingston and
- One in Annotto Bay, St. Mary

An assessment and preparation of a sales list from the newly-updated database is being prepared.

Restoration

Construction of the new Clifton Boys' Home, in Westmoreland, was completed in late 2020, replacing the building which was destroyed by fire in 2017. Dr. Lawrence explained that financial support was received from several sources, including the Sagicor 2020 Sigma Run/Walk.

Property Lease & Rentals

- The building, originally designated as Church House, at 3 Duke Street, and which now serves as the office for the Suffragan Bishop of Kingston, was refurbished and is now almost fully rented.
- The Bishop Gibson Home for the Aged has been leased to an associate company of the NBC Group; and it is now operated as an Adult Day Care Centre.
- All apartments in the Bailey Suites on Kensington Crescent, Cross Roads, have been sold. Built in 2016, this complex has achieved Net Revenue of J\$50 Million, in addition to the J\$30 Million earned for the land.

- University Crescent Super Studios, which were completed in 2018, are all rented. Since 2019, they have contributed Gross Revenue of J\$200 million to the Diocese annually.

Development

Construction is scheduled to start in 2021 on the expansion of St. Peter's Court, with completion projected by the end of 2022. This project is to receive funding assistance from the Trinity Wall Street Church.

- Partnership is also being negotiated with potential investors for the phased development of the remaining lands on the Cross Roads property which also houses the Nuttall Memorial Hospital and Church House.
- Discussions are also underway with St. George's Church in Savanna-la-Mar regarding the development of Orolands which has potential for commercial, residential, religious, educational, and professional development. Implementation of this project is scheduled for later this year.
- Options are being explored for the development of 35 acres of land adjoining St. Dorothy's Church in Old Harbour; and application for title is imminent.

Property Data Base

- As at January 2021, 889 parcels were identified, 67% of which included facilities for church and school.
- 33% of church lands have registered titles and 67% are still without.
- Less than 30% of church lands in several parishes have registered titles.

Dr. Lawrence challenged Church Committees to assist in the process of rectifying and solving titling problems resulting from the lack of documentation, and also the challenge posed by undefined boundaries. He emphasised their responsibility for the security, protection and retention of church lands; and also to prevent the illegal use of these lands by unauthorised persons. Finally, Dr. Lawrence highlighted the need to establish verifiable records for all church properties; and he reminded Cures to prepare their own plans for the best use of lands under their control.

Following the presentation, Archbishop Gregory expressed condolence on behalf of the Diocese to Mr. Crafton Miller of the Incorporated Lay Body, whose wife had passed.

The day's proceedings closed with the Assembly saying the Grace.

THE FOURTH DAY – APRIL 9, 2021

The fourth day began with Morning Prayer led by the Rev. Hilda Vaughan and a team chosen by the Venerable Winston Thomas of the Mandeville Region. Prayers were offered by the Rev.

Canon Garth Minott for:

- Persons who have died
- Renewed commitment to God
- Guidance
- Discipleship

The Visioning Prayer was said by all.

At the start of the Business Session, Archbishop Gregory thanked Archdeacon Thomas and Canon Minott for their role in the morning's worship.

The Minutes of Day Two and Day Three were read and approved by the Assembly. The Archbishop asked members of the Synod to keep the people of St. Vincent in their prayers in the face of the eruption of La Soufriere Volcano.

BAPTISM AS THE GATEWAY TO HOLY COMMUNION

The Presentation was made by the Rev. Natalie Blake, Director of Christian Education, who has been leading education around the Province of the West Indies regarding the change that will be made in the Church's approach to Holy Communion. The change is based on the fact that Baptism is a complete initiation Sacrament which makes each person a full member of the Church, the Body of Christ, and therefore able to receive Holy Communion.

She explained that this was the practice in the First Century Church; and in 2019, the 40th Session of the Provincial Synod endorsed the unanimous agreement by the House of Bishops to return to this position. She said the agreement by the Bishops followed reflection on the history and theology that are fundamental to the rites of Christian Initiation and admission to Holy Communion.

How will this change affect how we operate?

This means that all persons baptised in water and the Holy Trinity will be admitted to Holy Communion, without having to be confirmed. Baptised children will also be welcome to receive Holy Communion, with the permission of their parents and guardians; and in consultation with their priest. However, Rev. Blake added that Confirmation would still be available to adults who wish to recommit themselves to their baptismal vows, after reflection and study.

She said the change would follow an extensive process of teaching and communication which will involve Bishops, Clergy, Church Workers, Sunday School teachers, parents, guardians and children working together.

A transition resolution by the House of Bishops, and subsequently passed by the Provincial Synod, will be required before the change can take effect.

Information Programme

Rev. Blake stated that a multi-faceted promotional programme involving the dissemination of flyers, videos, booklets, discussion events and launches would be mounted to help get the word out.

Stage Two will require the establishment of a Communication Team which will target stakeholders to undertake teaching in churches and engage families in order to determine when children are ready to receive Holy Communion.

Stage Three will involve the roll-out of supporting teaching resources which are being developed for use online across the Province to ensure that the information provided is consistent. These resources can also be modified to suit specific needs in each Diocese.

Proposed publications include:

- A leaflet in three formats to target adults and children
- Booklets on Baptismal Theology and the Baptismal Covenant
- When is Your Child Ready for Holy Communion (For clergy and parents)
- A Children's Guide with graphics showing details of the Holy Eucharist

The presentation was well received; and in the discussion that followed, it was proposed that Scriptural references be provided to support the information presented. It was noted that the change would place much more responsibility on parents and guardians, with Sunday School being the main initiator of the conversation.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The Ceremony in recognition of retirees was chaired by Mr. Vivian Crawford. The Rev. Claude Campbell said an Opening Prayer.

In his remarks, Archbishop Gregory said it was the practice of the Diocese to recognise persons who had served before a more fulsome gathering. As the 2020 Synod was cancelled, the Ceremony covered a two-year period.

Presentations to the retirees were made by The Rev. Canon Dr. Georgia Jarvis and Mrs. Jacqueline Mighty. The awardees are:

- The Rev. Mary Graham – St. George’s Church, Grand Cayman
- The Rev. Barrington Soares – St. Mark’s Parish Church, Mandeville
- The Very Rev. Jean Fairweather-Wilson – Yallahs/Trinityville Cure
- The Rev. Cheryl Phillips – St. Peter’s Church, Lluidas Vale
- Sister Molly Walton – Church Army
- The Rev. Paul Bogle – Barton’s Cure
- The Rev. Ralph “Jim” Parkes – Christ Church, Morant Bay
- The Rev. Dr. Patricia Johnson – Church of the Good Shepherd

The Rev. Barrington Soares thanked the Diocese on behalf of the retirees. He noted that retirement was not an easy stage, and he urged his fellow awardees to continue sharing the Ministry to which God called them.

Entertainment was provided by The Rev. Capt. Dwane Blackwood, who offered three dub poems: “Tek di vaccine”, “Words mi no like” and “A jus’ tru’ di calla.”

The **Debate on Resolutions** was the next Agenda item.

Resolutions #2, 3 & 4 were withdrawn and the following were approved:

- Resolution #5: Re Synodical membership for the President of the Anglican Youth Fellowship
- Resolution #6: Re Affirmation of the Official Name of The Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands
- Resolution #7: Re The Recommendations Arising From the Keucher Report
- Resolution #8: Re The Establishment of a Diocesan Resource and Archival Centre
- Resolution #9: WITHDRAWN
- Resolution #10: Re Change of Status of the Church of the Conversion of St. Paul to a Settled Congregation
- Resolution #11: Re Change of Status of the St. James Church, New Roads, Westmoreland to a Chapel of Ease
- Resolution #12: Re Local Christians to be included in the Calendar of Saints in the Book of Common Prayer

ELECTION RESULTS AND APPOINTMENTS

Appointments to the following Boards and Committees were announced by the Archbishop:

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

- The Jamaica Church Missionary Society
- The Diocesan Schools’ Trust
- The Diocesan Schools’ Trust Ltd. – Council
- The Nuttall Memorial Hospital Trust Ltd. – Board of Governors
- The Nuttall Memorial Hospital – Board of Governors
- The Anglican Church Insurance Fund Trustees
- The Selection Committee
- Representatives to the Provincial Synod

Mr. Vincent Chen was appointed Legal Advisor to the Diocese and the legal firm Dunn Cox was retained as Attorneys for the Diocese, while The Hon. Earl Jarrett and The Hon. R. Danny Williams will serve as Business Referees.

RURAL DEANS

Rural Deans for 2021 were named as follows:

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| ▪ Kingston: | The Very Rev. Sean Major-Campbell |
| ▪ St. Thomas: | The Very Rev. Jean Fairweather-Wilson |
| ▪ St. Catherine: | The Very Rev. Canon Collin Reid |
| ▪ Portmore: | Vacant |
| ▪ St. Andrew: | The Very Rev. Canon Major Serrano Kitson |
| ▪ St. Mary: | Vacant |
| ▪ Portland: | The Very Rev. Vinton Greene |
| ▪ Clarendon: | Vacant |
| ▪ Manchester: | Vacant |
| ▪ St. Elizabeth: | The Very Rev. David “Tony” Reid |
| ▪ St. Ann: | The Very Rev. Richard Tucker |
| ▪ Trelawny: | Vacant |
| ▪ St. James/Hanover: | The Very Rev. Andrew Reid |
| ▪ Westmoreland: | The Very Rev. Leroy Johnson |

ARCHBISHOP’S CLOSING REMARKS

Archbishop Gregory thanked everyone who contributed to the Virtual Synod, which he said had gone well. He mentioned that he had responsibility for the entire Diocese – from maintenance activities to strategy implementation. He expressed concern about the pace of work in the mission field. He also spoke to serious human resource challenges and the limited number of persons answering the call to ordained ministry.

In closing, the Archbishop urged prayers for the Province, in particular, the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Bishop of Montego Bay, The Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, expressed appreciation for the able manner in which the Archbishop guided the historic virtual Synod against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the Synod provided an opportunity for Reflection and noted that, as family, we can all learn from each other, even when we disagree.

The Synod was then prorogued and ended with the Bishop's Blessing and the singing of the Doxology.

**Prepared by: Lady Rheima Hall
Miss Beverley Newell
April 28, 2021**