

# REPORT OF THE 152<sup>ND</sup> SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF JAMAICA & THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

APRIL 11-14, 2023

## INTRODUCTION

This Report is designed to provide an overview of the proceedings at the Synod and to complement the detailed information presented in the Minutes. It is expected that this will enable Synod Representatives to present reports which highlight developments in our Diocese, and in particular those that are relevant to their congregation and its witness in their local context.

## THE FIRST DAY – APRIL 11, 2023

The 152<sup>nd</sup> Synod under the theme “**A Renewed Church for a Time of Critical Social Change**” began on Tuesday, April 11 with a Service at the St. James Parish Church in Montego Bay.

Officiant was the Venerable Justin Nembhard, Archdeacon of the Montego Bay Region. The highlight of the Service was the ‘**Charge**’ or special message to the church and the nation, delivered by The Most Rev. Dr. Howard Gregory, Archbishop of the West Indies and Bishop of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands.

He pointed to the urgent need for renewal of the Church in order to effectively minister amidst the many challenges in the nation’s changing social environment. Archbishop Gregory made reference to the text in Nehemiah 2 in which the prophet led the reconstruction of Jerusalem and its wall after they were destroyed by invading forces and its citizens were taken into exile as slaves. He pointed to Nehemiah’s advocacy against injustice towards the poor and his defence of the dignity of each citizen.

Drawing a parallel with the state of Jamaica today he said the nation’s positive economic indicators masked a “moral, social, and religious crisis of corruption, injustice and deceit.” However, he said the Church cannot escape self-examination while calling on the nation to uphold the dignity of persons and the pursuit of justice.

*The full text of the Archbishop’s Charge and a recording of the Service are available on the Diocesan website: [www.anglicandioceseja.org](http://www.anglicandioceseja.org)*

## **THE SECOND DAY – APRIL 12, 2023**

The Business sessions of the Synod were held at the Holiday Inn Resort and Spa, Rose Hall, Montego Bay.

The day began with Matins (Morning Prayer) followed by the Holy Eucharist led by the Montego Bay Region. The Rev. Rory Honeyghan, Priest-in-Charge of St. Matthew's Cure, Claremont, St. Ann, officiated at Matins. The Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay, was celebrant and Preacher at the Holy Eucharist.

Bishop Golding based his Sermon on Luke 24: 33 which records how the two disciples who encountered the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus returned to Jerusalem to share the good news that their Master was alive.

He noted that if the Church were to be an agent of change, as expressed in the Synod theme, it had to be relevant in the context in which it is called to do mission and ministry.

Bishop Golding asserted that “the Church cannot simply be re-energised to do things the way we have always done them or failed to do. The Risen Lord calls us in this time of critical social change to be light in the darkness, and the voice of hope amid despair to help people see that all is not lost, and that Christ is alive and working in our world.”

### **The Morning Session**

The business session of the Synod, at which Bishop Gregory presided, was attended by 194 clergy, church workers, and lay representatives including youth.

The opening Prayer was delivered by the Rev. Natalie Blake, newly-appointed Warden of Anglican Students at the United Theological College of the West Indies.

### **Lord Bishop's Charge – Part Two**

The Bishop welcomed the opportunity for the first face-to-face Synod since 2019 and extended a special greeting to the first-time delegates, as well as The Rt. Rev. Garth Minott and The Venerable Leroy Johnson who were attending the meeting for the first time in their new capacities. He also welcomed the newly-ordained clergy.

The Archbishop's presentation highlighted events and developments in the Anglican Communion, the Province of the West Indies and the Diocese. These included the Lambeth Conference of Bishops in London from July 26 – August 7, 2022; opening of an Exhibition at Lambeth Palace where a 100 million-pound fund for restorative justice was launched; the USPG Triennial Consultation on Human Trafficking and modern-day slavery, held in Tanzania from January 25 – February 4, 2022; and the meeting of The Anglican Consultative Council in Ghana from February 10-17.

At the Provincial level, there was the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Ernest Flemming, as Bishop of Antigua and Barbuda; the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the consecration of The Most Rev. Drexel Gomez as a Bishop; and the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of the Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago.

Major Diocesan events included the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Garth Minott as Suffragan Bishop of Kingston on June 11; the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of St. Michael's Church, Clark's Town, Trelawny; and a Memorial Service for Queen Elizabeth 11 on October 2.

### **Issues of Concern**

The Archbishop highlighted the need for a focus on spiritual growth and the cultivation of spiritual disciplines. Among the issues he raised were:

- The failure by Anglicans to utilise the facilities of the Hillcrest Diocesan Retreat Centre which offers an opportunity for spiritual retreats to seek God and listen to his voice.
- The lack of ownership among members for the mission and ministry of the Church which resulted in the unwillingness of persons to serve its organizations and institutions.
- Climate Change and Climate Resilience. He urged churches to set an example by planting trees which he noted were deeply rooted in the country's cultural tradition.

### **Appointment of Select Committee**

The appointment of the following persons for the Select Committees was approved by the Synod:

- The Venerable Winston Thomas – Retired Archdeacon of the Mandeville Region
- Mr. Vivian Crawford – Bishop's Nominee
- The Very Rev. Canon Collin Reid – Senior Canon of the Cathedral; Rural Dean of St. Catherine and Rector of the Cathedral Church, Spanish Town.

### **Notice of Resolutions**

The Rev. Michael Elliott, Secretary of Synod, gave Notice of seven Resolutions which were previously presented at the Pre-Synod Conferences.

**Reports on Resolutions of Synod** were presented as follows:

- Re: Enos Nuttall, Percival Gibson and Christopher Lipscombe to be placed on the Calendar of Saints for the Province of The West Indies (Resolutions 2- 4, 2021)
- Re: Affirmation of the Official Name of the Diocese of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands (Resolution 6, 2021)
- Re: The need for a Canon to address the role of Clergy in the Supplementary Ministry (Resolution 2, 2022)

- Re: Commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands (Resolution 3, 2022)
- Re: Jamaica relinquishing the Privy Council and accepting the Caribbean Court of Justice as its final Court of Appeal (Resolution 4, 2022)
- Re: A National Consensus on Crime and Violence (Resolution 5, 2022)
- Re: Sensitization of the membership of the Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands regarding the CARICOM Ten-Point Plan for Reparatory Justice (Resolution 6, 2022)
- Re: Removal of the term “Lord Bishop” for a Diocesan Bishop (Resolution 7, 2022)
- Re: The Negative Impact of Bauxite Mining in St. Ann and Trelawny and the public stance of the Diocese (Resolution 8, 2022)

## **ISSUES –MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE**

The Chairman of the Diocesan Financial Board, Mr. Wayne Powell, tabled the Estimates of Expenditure which he said were crafted in faith, with the objective of returning God’s business to normal. Allocations included J\$12 Million for compensation for clergy and church workers, representing a 10% increase over 2022 and Mission Share of J\$215 million, which reflected an increase of 3.4% over the previous year. The total recurrent budget for 2023 is J\$249 million.

Mr. Powell said there were no Audited Financial Statements. However, a Qualified Opinion from the Auditors expressed concern about the 250 parcels of land for which there were no titles, with the result that the true net worth of the Diocese could not be derived. He noted that Regional Property Representatives would be identified in 2023 to transform non-earning property assets into viable ventures and he urged Church Committees to look at their lands with a view to actively changing their status.

The following support groups have been established to help meet the financial goals:

- The Maintaining the Mission Committee to inspire rejuvenation of faith in God, generate energy within congregations and the return of members
- The Treasurer Association Committee to help Treasurers across the Diocese to manage their portfolios effectively
- Volunteers for God to offer guidance and share best practices among Treasurers

The Diocesan Compliance Manager, Mr. Almerick Cooke, then reviewed the Budget performance for 2022. He explained that the Mission Share was based on the returns made during two years of the COVID pandemic. As the increase in the national minimum wage was higher than the scale for lay ministers and ancillary workers, adjustments were necessary, resulting in a revision of the Mission Share from J\$215 million to J\$219.1 million.

The Synod approved the return of Mr. Powell as DFB Chairman for another year, as well as a recommendation that the Auditors be replaced. The relevant Notice for tender will be advertised by the Diocesan Council.

**Resolution #1 re General Banking Facilities** to facilitate an overdraft of a maximum \$10 million was passed.

### **ANGLICAN INSURANCE FUND**

Diocesan Secretary, Mrs. Jacqueline Mighty, reported briefly on the Fund which was established in 2000 and operates on a Trust Deed. Over the years, some J\$31.2 million was disbursed to 131 Churches, rectories and other entities. However, she noted that many churches did not contribute, and payments by others did not reflect the value of their properties. She encouraged churches to have their properties valued in order to take advantage of this facility.

### **BAPTISM AS THE GATEWAY TO HOLY COMMUNION**

The Morning Session ended with a joint presentation by The Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay and The Rev. Natalie Blake, Warden of Anglican Students at The United Theological College of the West Indies. They focused on the proposed return to the practice of the Early Church which accepted baptized persons, including children, as full members of the Family of God and, therefore, eligible to receive Holy Communion. Rev. Blake and Rev. Javanie Byfield, Director of Christian Education illustrated this in a skit. The change, which was endorsed by the Provincial Synod, will take effect on Advent Sunday, December 3, 2023.

Bishop Golding explained that, in this context, Confirmation will no longer be necessary in order to receive Communion. Instead, it will be an affirmation by a member of his/her commitment as an intentional disciple of Christ.

Changes will be made to the Book of Common Prayer to support this move. A booklet highlighting changes in the Rites of Adult Initiation will also be published. He noted that instructional materials have already been produced and are posted on the Diocesan website.

### **The Afternoon Session**

On the resumption, the Report of the Board of Nomination was presented by the Secretary of Synod. This Report provides the Nominees for election to Diocesan Boards.

### **PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The Report by The Hon. Dr. Vincent Lawrence, Chairman of the Property Management Group, was presented under three headings – Property Data Base, Property Development and Property Sales. He noted that the Church must use its assets effectively to support the Diocesan Mission.

## **Property Data Base**

Dr. Lawrence noted that of the 917 properties identified, only 33% have registered titles; and this contributed to illegal occupancy, even by church members, and the eventual loss of property. He said the tax-exempt status of Church lands has been clarified resulting in significant savings to the Diocese. He urged that Church Committees give greater attention to the security, protection and retention of Church lands.

## **Property Management**

- Kensington Crescent: Within a year of construction, the 36 Super Studio Apartments contributed over J\$60 million to the Diocese
- University Crescent: The 16 Super Studio Apartments have all been rented and contribute more than J\$2 million annually
- St. Peter's Court – Phase 2: Construction of a five-storey apartment bloc adjacent to Church House is now underway and is slated for completion in 2024. All 35 units will be retained by the Diocese
- It is envisaged that plans for further development of the Cross Roads lands will be completed for presentation to the 2024 Synod
- St. Dorothy's, Old Harbour: A joint-venture partnership is being explored for development of the 35 acres of land adjacent to the Church.
- Orolands, Westmoreland: Development plans for the 96 acres owned by St. George's Church, Savanna-la-Mar are proceeding with proposed joint venture partners and the National Housing Trust
- 3 Duke Street: Formerly the office of the Bishop of Kingston, was refurbished and all units were rented

## **Property Sales**

- Temple Meade, former home of the Bishop of Kingston. A residence is now being sought for the current Bishop
- Ormsby Hall, sold to assist the finances of the St. Michael's Cure, Kingston

Other properties being considered for sale include: The Rectory in Linstead; San San, Portland; and Riversdale, St. Catherine. Enquiries are also being made regarding Belvedere in Portland; St. Faith's in St. Catherine; and Woodford in St. Andrew.

Property Maintenance: Dr. Lawrence said the Property Management Group had worked throughout the year to maintain functionality and prevent deterioration of all properties in its portfolio. He said the PMG would work with Cures to facilitate development of their land assets. However, as it was costly to secure titles, Cures may be required to meet some of this expense.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE**

Professor Elizabeth Thomas-Hope, who led this joint presentation with the Rev. Fr. Orlando Gayle, noted that human activity was the main contributor to climate change, due mainly to the use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas in industry and for generating electricity.

Since 1981, global warming was twice as fast as the preceding 100 years, with the 10 warmest years being experienced since 2010. Heat waves were now a leading cause of death, peaking at 26,000 in parts of Europe between July and August 2022.

She said hurricanes had become more intense resulting in some US\$700 million in direct losses in the Caribbean between 1997 and 2000. She also cited the negative impact of local events such as the 2005 mudslide in the Rio Grande Valley, Portland and flooding in Port Maria in February 2022.

The Professor said that the Church's response must be guided by faith and reflect the relationship between man and the earth.

Both Professor Thomas-Hope and Fr. Gayle recommended the following strategies through which the Church could strengthen its advocacy and make the fifth Mark of Mission a living reality:

- Introduce Climate Sunday in June 2023
- Plan Sunday liturgies relating to God's creation
- Use the Environmental Calendar
- Encourage container gardening
- Form Deanery Eco Teams and identify Eco Champions in each Deanery
- Launch Environmental Clubs in church-affiliated schools; and Competitions among Churches
- Mobilise Climate Change Networks among youth groups
- Partner with other churches and organisations
- Plant more trees, and undertake general beautification of church grounds
- Encourage composting and use of organic fertilizers
- Recycle plastics

The session ended with Evening Prayer led The Rev. Michael Solomon of the Grange Hill Cure.

## **The Evening Session**

### **COVID-19 MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE UPDATE**

Dr. Eleanor Henry, Chairperson of the Committee explained that the Task Force, established in 2020, was mandated to review the Diocesan vision and devise a way forward beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

She reported that discussions with clergy and laity consistently highlighted the fact that the pandemic exposed the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of the Diocese. Surveys revealed that the Church was not doing well and rated poorly in the area of spirituality – its core business.

Dr. Henry cited Census data which indicated a decline in the number of Anglicans from 350,311 or 28.3% of the population in 1943 to 74,998 or 2.8% in 2011, declining further to an estimated 32,000 or 1.1% of the population in 2022.

The Committee recommended focus in the following seven areas going forward: Mission and Ministry, Strategy, Finance, Human Resource Development, Technology, Communication, and Governance. An Organisational Development Consultant will be engaged to facilitate implementation of strategies in these areas.

Dr. Henry asserted that change could not occur overnight, but the primary objective was to move members to a place of greater individual spirituality and to achieve a more relevant and responsive Diocese.

### **THE THIRD DAY – APRIL 13, 2023**

The day began with **Morning Prayer** led by the Church Army's Sister Andrea Taylor-Smith. The Rt. Rev. Garth Minott, Suffragan Bishop of Kingston, presided at the Service of the Holy Eucharist which followed.

Bishop Minott preached on the theme: “**Religion in the Public Square**” based on the text in Acts 3:24-26. Among other things, he said religion in public spaces was effective in bringing people together for a common cause and provided an opportunity for witnessing, as demonstrated by Peter who preached boldly in a hostile environment about the Resurrection of Jesus.

The Bishop pinpointed four principles of Christian Mission which demonstrate the power of God at work in the Resurrection.

The first is anticipation of the Resurrection which focuses on new things that God continues to do in the world and looks ahead for what he has in store. Secondly, he said, Resurrection is a sign of God's unconditional gift of love and grace for all people. This means there should be no discrimination in the Church. He identified the third principle of Christian Mission as the



affirmation of all life, including persons on the margins of society. Finally, Bishop Minott said compassionate actions by the Church can manifest the power of the Resurrection.

“Though at times things might look dismal and dark, it is not the time to throw in the towel, but to redouble our efforts to be people of light in the midst of darkness,” he encouraged.

### **The Morning Session**

Synod resumed with Prayers led by The Rev. Natalie Blake.

The Archbishop extended special congratulations to The Revs. Robert Green and Javanie Byfield who gained 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours at the UTCWI in 2022, and he announced that Rev. Byfield would be going on scholarship abroad in August to pursue further studies.

The reading and approval of the Minutes for the first and second days of the Assembly followed.

The Synod then resolved itself into Committee for the **Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica Church Missionary Society (JCMS)**, guided by Bishop Minott, in his first meeting as Chairman.

He thanked the Rectors and members of St. John’s Church, Ocho Rios; St. Mark’s Church, Brown’s Town and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew for their consistent support of the Discovery Bay Mission and its work in the community of Old Folly. Among other initiatives highlighted were a Health Fair held at the Longville Park Mission in Clarendon and support for the Mission spearheaded by the Church Army in Moore Town, Portland. The Spot Valley Mission in St. James remains inactive.

Miss Claudette Marshall, General Secretary of the JCMS reported that there was a decline in contributions for 2022, due to the impact of the COVID pandemic. A total of J\$5.8 million was received as against the J\$7.1 million budgeted. The 2023 budget has been marginally increased to J\$7.6 million. The Church of the Holy Trinity, West Gate, Montego Bay was, for the sixth consecutive year, the top contributor in 2022 with J\$1.3 million, or 60% of the total collected from the Montego Bay Deanery.

The Synod passed two resolutions for the reclassification of the Mission of the Ascension in Harry Watch, Manchester, and the Church of the Holy Spirit in Pepper, St. Elizabeth as Chapels of Ease.

A minute’s silence was observed for the late Rt. Rev. Robert Thompson, who was JCMS Chairman up to 2020.

The JCMS Report was approved by the Assembly after which Bishop Minott was re-appointed as the Society's Chairman.

## **PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC PLAN**

The presentation was made by Diocesan Secretary, Mrs. Jacqueline Mighty, who reported that given the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, the Strategic Planning Committee had decided to modify the 2019 Action Plan to provide greater focus on virtual technologies. The Plan is designed to reflect the culture of the eight Dioceses in the Province of the West Indies while allowing each Diocese to apply the elements best suited to its circumstances.

Revision of the Provincial Mission and Vision Statement is being proposed; and the five core values to undergird the Strategic Plan are: Justice, Indigenization, Integrity, Love and Peace.

The four main priorities identified for the three-year period of the Plan include:

- Christian Discipleship that affirms Baptism and Holy Communion as essential to the life of a disciple. This will be supported by various initiatives to form Christ-shaped leaders for mission and social transformation
- Youth Empowerment to help children and youth build a personal relationship with Christ, form their identity as Anglican Christians, and grow as disciples
- Strengthening Family Life by assessing the needs of families in various contexts and developing relevant programmes to support them
- Information Technology, Theology and The Church to equip clergy and laity to make disciples in a digital age, and increase the use of technology as a tool for evangelism.

## **SAFEGUARDING AND SAFE CHURCH**

The Morning Session ended with a presentation by Mrs. Ena Barclay, who represents the Province of the West Indies on the Anglican Communion's Safe Church Commission.

She explained that the term "Safe Church" reflected the commitment by members of the Communion to create safe places in their churches, especially for children and vulnerable adults; while "Safeguarding" is the policy that reinforces that commitment.

She cited initiatives dating back to the 2008 Lambeth Conference of Bishops which acknowledged the many forms of abuse in society and the church which affected women disproportionately, but which were often concealed.

The Safe Church Charter adopted by the Anglican Consultative Council in 2016 and its related Protocols provide for:

- Pastoral support where there is abuse, including listening with compassion to the victim's concerns; and offering spiritual assistance, as well as other care
- Effective responses, including sensitising members about the procedure for making complaints, impartial assessment of the allegations against clergy and church workers, and determination of the abuser's suitability for future ministry
- Promotion of standards for the practice of ministry
- Screening candidates for ordination or appointment to positions of responsibility, including background checks
- Promotion of a culture of safety through education and training

Mrs. Barclay encouraged Synod delegates to introduce conversations about abuse and its traumatic effects within their congregations in order to create awareness; and also to establish support groups of past victims who can offer positive advice and hope.

The Protocol is now to be endorsed by the Province and adopted by all eight Dioceses.

### **The Afternoon Session**

Synod reconvened with the annual **Awards Ceremony** to honour retirees and outstanding performance by Diocesan organisations. The Venerable Leroy Johnson, Rector of St. Gabriel's Church, May Pen and Archdeacon of the Mandeville Region chaired the Ceremony. Citations were presented, to the following who together have served more than 100 years:

- Archdeacon Justin Nembhard, St. James Parish Church
- Rev. Whitson Williams, St. Matthews Church, Allman Town
- Rev. Basil McLeod, Falmouth Cure, Trelawny
- Rev. Ronald Keane-Dawes

The Citation to Rev. Basil McLeod, who was absent, was received on his behalf by The Rev. Olando Gayle.

Awards were also presented by the Archbishop to Mrs. Marcia Williams from the Mothers' Union, St. George's Church, East Street, Kingston for its stellar work in the community during the COVID-19 lock-down; and to Mr. Hhoman Pink for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Cathedral Church of St. Jago de la Vega, Spanish Town. Mrs. Lorna Lawson from The Church of the Holy Trinity in Montego Bay accepted the award for the largest contributor to the JCMS.

In his reply on behalf of the recipients, Archdeacon Nembhard encouraged the young people to consider Ministry, as it was a very rewarding vocation. Entertainment was provided by The Rev. Leslie Mowatt on keyboard, and The Rev. Canon Dr. Georgia "Grace" Jervis who delivered a tribute in song.

## **THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION – Presentation on Teaching & Other Resources**

Bishop Garth Minott and Mrs. Clavia Watson-Reid, the Social Media Officer, treated members of the Synod to a virtual tour of the online resources available to enhance the spiritual growth of congregations. The presentation covered the Diocesan, Provincial and the Anglican Communion Websites; and highlighted content for Bible Studies, videos created for the 2022 Lambeth Conference, the Communion's online Bookshop and publications produced by the Education and Youth Department of the Diocese, among other materials.

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

### **VOCATIONS**

In the day's final presentation, Archbishop Gregory addressed the issue of the priesthood as a vocation. He noted that the dearth of clergy was having a negative impact on laity in many Churches/Cures, and explained that:

- There are over 20 Cures without full-time pastoral leadership and some have lost or are losing their definition and viability as a Cure.
- There are no seminarians at the UTCWI
- Nine persons are currently pursuing the Supplementary Ministry Training Programme

He lamented the limited effort by congregations to nurture young people for the ordained ministry. Archbishop Gregory said finance was not a concern as every seminarian receives a full scholarship and, in return, is required to give at least five years of service. The following are some of his suggestions to reverse the trend:

- Observe Ember Days as days of prayer for ordained and Lay vocations
- Be more intentional in presenting ordained ministry as a call of God to the service of humanity
- Awaken interest in ministry among children as acolytes and servers
- Engage youth at the age when they are selecting courses to be pursued for CXC and CAPE.
- Invest in Camps and Retreats for youth and adults who display potential
- Sensitize the congregation to options that are available for the Supplementary or Full-time Ministry, the Church Army or Lay Readers Ministry.
- Enlist Seminarians from Africa (Ghana) where there are aspirants who do not have the financial resources, and have them serve a bond for five years

The day's programme ended with Evensong led by The Rev. Professor Veront Satchell, Priest in the Supplementary Ministry attached to the Church of the Ascension, Mona Heights.

## THE FOURTH DAY – APRIL 14, 2023

The final day of the Synod began with Morning Prayer led by The Rev. Hilda Vaughan, Priest-in-Charge of the Gilnock/Santa Cruz Cure in St. Elizabeth. The Service of the Holy Eucharist followed with The Venerable Leroy Johnson, Archdeacon of the Mandeville Region, as Celebrant and Preacher.

Based on the reading in Acts 4:1-12, Archdeacon Johnson focused on the theme: “Is Christ a Living Presence in Your Life?” He suggested that the Easter readings and Sermons should motivate delegates to leave the Synod confident and inspired to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. He asserted that in the same way that Peter and the disciples, whose aspirations seemed to have died with Jesus, were filled with a new boldness and resolve after his Resurrection, a renewed Church was needed for this time of critical social change.

Noting that the disciples were fearless and unstoppable because they were convinced that Jesus was risen and was the way, the truth and the life, Archdeacon Johnson charged that: “If the Church is to be effective, Christ has to be more than a figure in a book. He must be a living presence in your life. Every day has to become Easter for us.”

### **Final Business Session**

The session began with The Rev. Natalie Blake saying prayers.

The Archbishop then announced the death of The Rev. Jean Forbes that morning. In a brief tribute, he recalled her selfless service and hospitality in the management of Deaconess House for many years.

The Minutes for the third day were read, amended and confirmed.

### **New Canon #29B Re: Role of the Supplementary Ministry**

This presentation was made by Diocesan Chancellor, The Hon Zaila McCalla and the new Canon was approved by a show of hands.

**Debate and approval** of the following **resolutions** was the next order of business:

- Resolution #2: Re Change of Status of All Saints Church – Newell, St. Elizabeth
- Resolution #3: Re Public and Social Behaviour Transformation
- Resolution #4: Re Greater Social Transformation in the Fight Against Crime
- Resolution #5: Re Change of Status of the Church of St. Joseph the Grove, Gordon Town Road, St. Andrew Deanery
- Resolution #6: Withdrawn

- Resolution #7: Concerning the Secretary of the Incorporated Lay Body of the Church in Jamaica in the Province of the West Indies (The Incorporated Lay Body)
- Resolution #8: Re Approval and Authorization of the Use of Official Names for the Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in the Province of the West Indies

### **Foundations for Ministry and Leadership**

The Rev. Canon Georgia “Grace” Jervis, Director of Leadership Development and Training, introduced a promotional video featuring testimonials from lay members who were in the first cohort of participants in the one-year programme from 2021-2022.

### **Election Results & Appointments**

The results of elections to Diocesan Boards, Committees and Councils were announced.

Archbishop Gregory announced the retirement of Mr. Christopher Bovell, who served for almost 30 years as Secretary of the Incorporated Lay Body. He is being succeeded by Mr. Carlton Williams from the Church of the Ascension, Mona Heights.

Mr. Khalil Mitchell was appointed as Youth Representative to the Provincial Synod.

### **RURAL DEANS**

Rural Deans for 2023 were named as follows:

- |                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ▪ Kingston:          | The Very Rev. Sean Major-Campbell     |
| ▪ St. Andrew:        | The Very Rev. Serrano Kitson          |
| ▪ St. Catherine:     | The Very Rev. Canon Collin Reid       |
| ▪ St. Thomas:        | The Very Rev. Jean Fairweather-Wilson |
| ▪ St. Elizabeth:     | The Very Rev. David “Tony” Reid       |
| ▪ St. Ann:           | The Very Rev. Richard Tucker          |
| ▪ Westmoreland:      | The Very Rev. Veronica Thomas         |
| ▪ St. James/Hanover: | The Very Rev. Andrew Reid             |

The Deaneries of Portmore, Clarendon, St. Mary, Portland, Manchester and Trelawny are vacant.

## **ARCHBISHOP'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CLOSING REMARKS**

Archbishop Gregory expressed appreciation for the service provided by the Holiday Inn Resort and Spa whose representatives, Miss Karen Guthrie and Mr Shiral James, accepted the accolades on behalf of the Hotel's management.

He also commended the spirit of fellowship which ensured the smooth conduct and success of the Synod.

In particular, he acknowledged the role played by the Chancellor, the Hon. Mrs. Justice Zaila McCalla; the Chairman of the Diocesan Financial Board, Mr. Wayne Powell; the Diocesan Secretary, Mrs. Jacqueline Mighty; The Ven. Justin Nembhard and members of the St. James Parish Church; the Secretary of Synod, The Rev. Michael Elliott; and his Assistant, The Rev. Olando Gayle; Presenters; Clergy and Lay Representatives.

The Archbishop also offered special commendation to his Administrative Assistant, Miss Rhena Williams, who coordinated arrangements for the Synod, as well as the Secretarial team from Church House, the Social Media Officer and the Editorial Committee.

In closing, he noted that it was the responsibility of members to address the challenges confronting the Diocese. "You can't be anybody's Church; recognize who you are and what you have," he stated.

The Rt. Rev. Harold Daniel, Retired Bishop of Mandeville and former Chairman of the annual **Healing Conference**, then made a special appeal for support of the **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Conference** to be held from May 19-21, 2023.

Bishop of Montego Bay, the Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, expressed appreciation to Archbishop Gregory for his leadership of the Synod – a sentiment which was endorsed by members of the Assembly.

The Synod was then prorogued and ended with the Archbishop's blessing and the singing of the Doxology.

**Prepared by The Editorial Committee:**  
**Miss Beverley Newell**  
**Mrs. Beverley Josephs**

**May 12, 2023**