

Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

MINUTES OF THE 148TH ANNUAL SYNOD THE FIRST DAY – TUESDAY, 3RD APRIL, 2018

THE OPENING SERVICE: The 148th Annual Synod of the Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in the Province of the West Indies – The Jamaica Church – commenced at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday April 3, 2018, in the Parish Church of St. James, Montego Bay with the Service of Evensong at which, the Venerable Justin Nembhard, Archdeacon of Montego Bay and Rector of St. James Parish Church, officiated. The procession of Lay Representatives to Synod and the Clergy, Church Army Officers and other Church Workers into the church was led by the Montego Bay Boys' and Girls' Marching Band.

CHOIR: The music at the Service was provided by a combined Choir, comprising select Seventh Day Adventist male vocalists, the North Western Chorale and choristers from churches within the Montego Bay Region – St. James Parish Church, and Holy Trinity, Westgate – under the direction of Mr. Audley Davidson. Additionally there were other musicians accompanying the choir, namely Mr. Alex Grey and the instrumentalists.

THEME: The theme of the Synod is: **"Intentional Disciples: Called and Empowered"**

READERS: The first lesson was read by Mr. Marlon Drummond, Lay Representative from St. Thomas' Church, Bluefields, Westmoreland. The second lesson was read by Hon. Justice Gloria Smith, Lay Representative for Church of the Good Shepherd, Constant Spring Rd., St. Andrew. The third lesson was read in Jamiekan dialect by Rev. Dwane Blackwood, Curate at The Cathedral of St. Jago de la Vega, Spanish Town.

THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION: The prayer was led by the Rev. Canon Georgia Jervis, Director of the Diocesan Training Division.

THE FIRST PART OF THE BISHOP'S CHARGE: The Bishop of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Howard K. A. Gregory, delivered the first part of his Charge based on the theme, **"Intentional Disciples: Called and Empowered"** to Synod and the Nation. The Bishop made reference to the lessons read for the service. (The full text of the Charge is to be found elsewhere in this Journal.)

SELECTION: The combined choir offered a rendition of the anthem "Let us serve Him" (Music by Don Besig).

COLLECTION: A collection was taken in aid of the Clifton Boy's Home Re-Building Fund.

DIOCESAN REDEDICATION: The Bishop led the Congregation in an Act of Diocesan Rededication.

WELCOME: The Suffragan Bishop of Kingston, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Robert Thompson, welcomed the congregation and the Members of Synod. Among the special guests identified were:

- Bishop the Hon. Conrad Pitkin, Custos Rotulorum of St. James, representing His Excellency the Governor General and Mr. Pitkin;
- Senator Charles Sinclair Jr. representing the Most Hon. Prime Minister;
- Their Excellences Sir Kenneth and Lady Rheima Hall;
- Canon the Hon. Hartley Perrin, Custos Rotulorum of Westmoreland;
- Dr. the Honorable David Stair, Custos Rotulorum of Hanover;
- Most Rev. Burchell McPherson, Bishop of Montego Bay of the Roman Catholic Church;
- Monsignor Mondo, Blessed Sacrament Montego Bay;
- Bishop Everal Galbraith, President of Jamaica Methodist District;
- Major General Rocky Meade, Chief of Defence Staff of the JDF;
- Deputy Superintendent of Police Angella Gayle, representing Assistant Commissioner of Police Donovan Graham of Area 1;
- Rev. Courtney Walters, Police Chaplaincy Area 1 and Mrs. Walters, who represented the principal of the Montego Bay Community College;
- Retired Supt. Jasmine Brown;
- Mr. Dolfen Doeman representing the Montego Bay Fire Dept.;
- Dr. Patrick Prendergast of the UWI Western Campus and Mrs. Prendergast;
- The Hon. Mrs. Justice Zaila McCalla, Retired Chief Justice of Jamaica and Chancellor of the Diocese;
- Principals of Anglican Church Schools;
- Brothers and sisters of the Ecumenical Fraternity and their spouses;
- Other invited guests;
- Mrs. Jacqueline Mighty, Diocesan Secretary;
- The Hon. Michael Fennell, Chair of the Diocesan Financial Board;
- Members of Diocesan Council and Board;
- Members of the Incorporated Lay Body.

Apologies were received from the Governor General of Jamaica, His Excellency Sir Patrick Allen and from the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness and the Hon. Mrs. Juliet Holness, among others.

Bishop Thompson further thanked the Rector and members of the Congregation of the St. James Parish Church, the combined choir, Mr. Audley Davidson, Choir Director, the St. James Parish Church Orchestra, and other guest musicians for their contribution to the Worship experience. He also thanked the Members of Synod, his brother bishops and their spouses, clergy of the Diocese and their spouses, Deaconess and Church Army Officers and their spouses, for their attendance.

The service ended at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

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

Confirmed and approved on Thursday April 5th, 2018.

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