

# Theme: Being Disciples in Our Caribbean Context

## Called: Empowered: Sent

ANGLICAN SYNOD  
MAY 28, 2019

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# The Mandate (Calling) for Discipleship –

## The Five Marks of Mission (p. 3)



**To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.**



**To teach, baptize and nurture new believers.**



**To respond to human need in loving service.**



**To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.**



**To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.**

# The Mandate for Discipleship

# Defining Discipleship

- ▶ A learning process by which a believer becomes more and more like Christ.
- ▶ It is the Christcentric path to spiritual growth. (Paul J. Bucknell)
  - ▶ **"So that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please [Him] in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."  
Colossians 1:10**



# The Image of Discipleship

▶ Paul (2 Cor 5.17):

▶ **‘So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!’**



# Discipleship

- ▶ A lifelong, whole-life reorientation which will have challenging implications for our self-identity, our belonging within community, our belief systems, and our daily behaviour.

Source: The Anglican Consultative Council London, 2016

# Intentional Discipleship



**Disciple of the Gospel of Christ** – each to learn to master and to articulate the whole Gospel.



**Disciple of the Word of God** – each to learn to read the Bible and to feed himself spiritually.



**Disciple of the Life of Prayer** – each to learn to pray and to listen to God through contemplation and spiritual disciplines.



**Disciple of Service** – each to offer some months or years to serve God in a certain capacity within the Church or society. (e) Disciple of Mission – each to make at least one mission trip per annum outside his comfort zone.



# Anglican Archbishop of the Province of South East Asia -- The Challenge

- ▶ **As the Disciples of Jesus found out along the way, the Calling is not an easy path.**
  - ▶ Peter discovered on his journey up to Jerusalem that the road ahead was not always clear.
  - ▶ James and John discovered there were temptations of power and influence.
  - ▶ Judas became compromised.



# The Call to Discipleship

# The Great Commission (Discipleship as a Way of Life)

- ▶ Jesus commands us to:
  - ▶ **“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)**

**Creation of the Discipleship  
Ministry!**

# The Great Commission

- ▶ As together we go on following the ways of Jesus we discover, with Paul, that **our life becomes less and less our own and increasingly 'hidden with Christ in God' (Col 3.3).**
- ▶ In stark contrast to the individualism that plagues much of our contemporary society, **we find ourselves becoming part of something (someone) much greater, much more beautiful and fulfilling – Christcentric!**
- ▶ But this experience of true humanity **'in God' is not something to hold to ourselves. It is for all humanity, indeed for all creation (Roman, 8.19).**

# THE CALLING: The Sermon on the Mount

- ▶ The **poor in spirit** are those who have accepted the loss of all things including their own selves for his sake
- ▶ Those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness** are those renouncing all claims to personal achievement, who wait for God's reign of righteousness
- ▶ The **merciful**, having given up claims to their own dignity, become "men for others," helping the needy, sick, castouts — *all those who need any kind of ministry.*
- ▶ **Pure in heart** become that way by giving their hearts completely to the reign of Jesus.
- ▶ **Peacemakers** renounce all violence and "maintain fellowship where others would break it off."

# The Harvest is Ripe: the Labourers are Few...

## Bonhoeffer's exposition of the Sermon on the Mount, he gives an exposition of Matthew 9:35-10:42

- ▶ **The Harvest** (the people are without a shepherd, without relief, deliverance, and forgiveness) for which one must pray for laborers;
- ▶ **The Call of the Apostles** (who are given power stronger than Satan's and are bound together only by their choice and call);
- ▶ **The Work** (fulfilling their commission to preach, traveling as messengers of the King, living in "royal poverty," warning men of the urgency of the times);
- ▶ The **Suffering** of the messengers (as Jesus was persecuted so the messengers will be, but they are forewarned)





# BEING CALLED

The Societal  
Context: Global,  
Regional, National

# The Call to Strengthen Faith in Action - Global

- ▶ The **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are an urgent call for action by all countries (developed and developing) in a global partnership.
- ▶ **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by all United Nations Member States 2015**, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future



## The Call to Strengthen Faith in Action - **Regional**

The Strategic Plan for the CARICOM envisages a Caribbean Community that:

- ▶ Is **integrated, inclusive and resilient**; driven by knowledge, excellence, innovation and productivity.
- ▶ Where **every citizen is secure** and has the opportunity to realise his or her potential with guaranteed human rights and social justice.
- ▶ Contributes to, and shares in, its **economic, social and cultural prosperity**.
- ▶ Is a **unified and competitive force in the global arena**.

Six-point strategy for building social, economic, environmental and technological resilience of Member States to 2019 and beyond



# The Call to Strengthen Faith in Action – National (Trinidad and Tobago)

## Goal -- Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Asset.

- ▶ “All our citizens, particularly the most vulnerable, must be loved and cared for and treated with dignity and respect. We must create a society in which all the basic needs of the people are met and each individual is given an opportunity to contribute and to self-actualize. **(Community & Worship)**
- ▶ This means that we must eradicate poverty, discrimination, economic and social marginalization, disease and poor 45 health and substandard living conditions.
- ▶ We should provide a nurturing environment that teaches, promotes and richly reinforces behaviours and skills needed to create productive citizens. **(Stewardship & Worship)**
- ▶ We must build a society that shares the social attributes and cultural norms of trust, goodwill, honesty, respect, tolerance, integrity, benevolence and civic pride, social justice and community spirit”. **(Worship, Community and Stewardship)**



# VISION 20 30





# Being Empowered

**VISION FOR DISCIPLESHIP  
(THE END STATE; THE DESTINATION)**

**MISSION/CORE VALUES  
(THE JOURNEY; THE MEANS TO GET TO THE DESTINATION AS VISION REALIZED)**

# DARE TO BE A DISCIPLE

## Being Sent

CHRISTCENTRIC DISCIPLESHIP - LITURGY (WORSHIP); SOCIAL  
DIALOGING; COMMUNITY; STEWARDSHIP

# The Essence of Discipleship

When God is the center of our lives, we live to please Him.



When we please God, **we want Him to influence each area of our lives.**



We then use our God given skills in the **service others** in the home, community and society

# Spiritual/Temporal Values of Discipleship

Love

Faithfulness

Integrity

Worship

Communication

Reconciliation

# Elements of Discipleship



Teaching the basics of **faith and assurance of salvation**.



Understanding the **dynamics of discipleship**.



Achieving a **confidence in apostolic and Biblical teaching**.



**Growing in faith and Christian practice**.



Becoming **skilled in sharing one's faith and leading others in discipleship**.

Beginning to define one's life calling and clarifying one's spiritual gifts.



Finding one's place in the Body of Christ-not only in **evangelization, but in fellowship, in worship, and in service**.

# Plan of Action for The Anglican Church in the Province of the West Indies 2015 - 2018



## DISCIPLESHIP IN ACTION – MISSION CRITICAL ACTIVITIES



**Liturgy (worship – celebrating the Risen Christ)**



**Social Dialoguing (engaging each other in matters of faith)**



**Community (social responsibility to home, community and nation)**



**Stewardship ('manager of God's affairs on earth' -- using spiritual, financial, and other resources to build the Church and community -- Anglicanism)**

# Arenas for Carrying Out the Christcentric Mission



# Being Sent:

**BEING SENT: CHRISTCENTRIC DISCIPLESHIP – LITURGY (WORSHIP);  
SOCIAL DIALOGING; COMMUNITY; STEWARDSHIP**

In the Vineyard  
of Intentional  
Discipleship  
(The Five  
Thematic  
Issues)

- ▶ **Equipping our Youth for Discipleship**
- ▶ **Discipleship within the Family**
- ▶ **Discipleship within a Multicultural Society**
- ▶ **Discipleship in an Era of Moral Indifference**
- ▶ **The Church's Role in Developing Models for Christian Discipleship**

Equipping our  
Youth for  
Discipleship -  
Building the  
Church's  
Talent  
Pipeline/  
Succession  
Planning

- ▶ Beyond a token “**Youth Sunday**” participatory LSSC Management of the Affairs of the Church.
- ▶ **Youth involvement as ushers, choristers, music volunteers, scripture readers, teaching Sunday School...**

David Wright

# Equipping our Youth for Discipleship - Building the Church's Talent Pipeline/ Succession Planning

- ▶ Programmes at denominationally run schools and in partnership with interdenominational Christian organizations with a **focus on equipping students for Christian life, for Discipleship Ministry and leadership within public institutions** and beyond.
- ▶ The intention is to **bring up maturing believers who are Spirit-led and LSSC Christ centred in life, mission, and purpose**



## Discipleship within the Family

**Train up a Child in the way he/she should go...**  
Based on Core Values in the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan

- ▶ **Enhancing family life** – widely recognized as being in need of strengthening
- ▶ **Anglican Church Training and Employment Mission (ACTEM)** – has expanded the scope of the committee to include interview training, resume writing and preparation for the world of work; and handling job loss.
- ▶ **Parenting Programs (Train the Trainers) – Children's Home (Community)**
- ▶ **Social Outreach** – preventing and mitigating GBV; Food Bank; Homework Centres; Walkathons (**Community**)
- ▶ **Prayer and Spirituality Committee** – Bible Festival (**Liturgy/Social Dialoguing**)
- ▶ **Mothers' Union Looking, Observing and Acting (MULO) (Stewardship)**
- ▶ **'The Provincial Link'** (new publication)

# Discipleship within a Multicultural Society

**“Reaching out to others and ministering in a multicultural society” as an essential to Intentional Discipleship.**

COME

FOLLOW ME



# Implementing Intentional Discipleship The Church's Guidelines

## Enabling Environment - Christcentric Leadership

All leaders must embrace behaviours, core values and principled actions such as:

- ▶ **Commitment to the Theological and Doctrinal underpinnings of Anglicanism.**
- ▶ A planned, orderly and supported process of **transformation to a culture and ethos of collaboration.**
- ▶ Development and enhancement of **ICT** systems.
- ▶ **Commitment to Christian Stewardship to the Marks of Mission.**
- ▶ **Strengthening of the financial and interactive media** to improve efficiency and sound decision-making.

Enabling  
Environment -  
Christcentric  
Leadership

‘Let us yield, as we journey, to the authority and perfect example of our Lord, who has called us to be tireless, loving ‘fishers’ of humanity’.



# Discipleship Training

Become who God Created You To Be

THANK YOU