## Theme: Being Disciples in Our Caribbean Context

## Called: Empowered: Sent

ANGLICAN SYNOD MAY 28, 2019

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Discipleship The Mandate (Strategic Focus: 'Intentional Discipleship -- 2016)
- Visioning Discipleship 'Thy Kingdom Come'
- The Mission of Discipleship -- Called: Empowered: Sent -- 5 Thematic Issues
- Caribbean Context... Economy, Society, Polity
- Getting Our Priorities: in light of Discipleship Mandate, Vision, and Context -- Focusing Our Priorities
- Readying Ourselves for Discipleship Key Success Factors (Transformational Leadership; Commitment Planning)

## 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

4

DR GWENDOLINE WILLIAMS

5

## 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

7

## 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.

Source: Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making: An Anglican Guide for Christian Life and Formation (2016:23) 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

10

## 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).

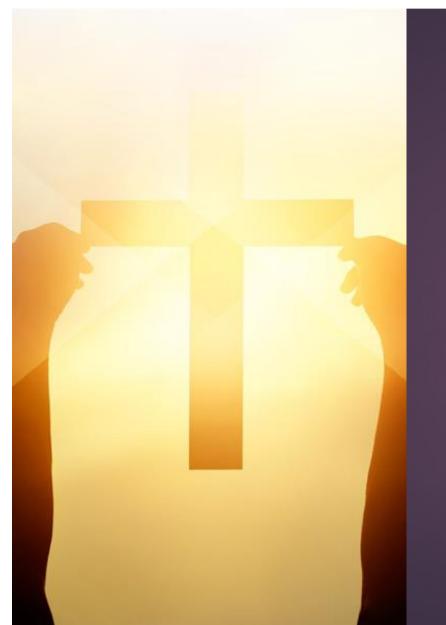
### THE CALLING: The Sermon on the Mount

- 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

16

#### 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.

17

- 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)

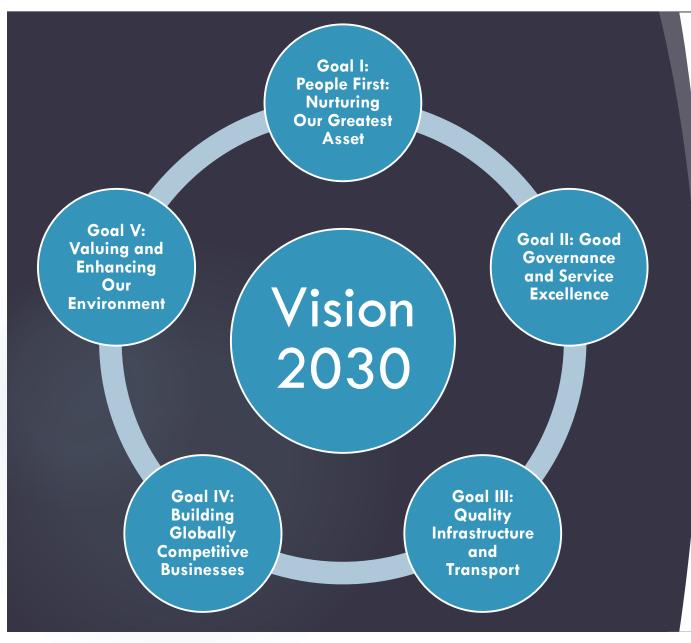
#### Goal -- Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Asset.

► "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)





**DR GWENDOLINE WILLIAMS** 

#### 21

# 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)

# Being Sent

CHRISTCENTRIC DISCIPLESHIP - LITURGY (WORSHIP); SOCIAL DIALOGING; COMMUNITY; STEWARDSHIP 22

DR GWENDOLINE WILLIAMS

### 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

23

## Spiritual/Temporal Values of Discipleship

24



Source: Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020: Anglican Diocese of Trinidad & Tobago

## Elements of Discipleship





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



Growing in faith and Christian practice.



Understanding the **dynamics of discipleship**.

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.



Achieving a confidence in apostolic and Biblical teaching.



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

26

#### 27

#### 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)

Source: survey of mandate of religious communities, UK; Australia

Arenas for Carrying Out the Christcentric Mission



29

## 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 Spiritled 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 (MULOA) (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.

34



Implementing Intentional Discipleship The Church's Guidelines

35

#### DR GWENDOLINE WILLIAMS

### 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