

Session 3: Applying Marks of Mission, Principles of Partnership to Mission Personnel and Education Programs

Objectives:

- to clarify purpose of partnerships (global, Canadian, Anglican, ecumenical) in each program area
- to strengthen and clarify our collective understanding of the integration of mission and ecojustice with Partnerships program

Mission Personnel and Education **Context and Content**

Ten principles of partnership- 45.01.10.09

5 Marks of Mission -- 45.02.10.09

The Framework included as one of its priorities *Sustaining International Partnerships for Mutual Support*.

Our PMEJ Mandate

The work of the Partners in Mission & Ecojustice Committee is to help the Anglican Church of Canada understand and participate in God's mission in the world by:

- *challenging attitudes and structures in church and society that cause injustice;*
- *building relationships among people and provinces within and beyond the Anglican Communion,*
- *modeling respectful inclusion and hospitality;*
- *fostering commitment to the integrity of God's creation;*
- *ensuring that this mission is handed from generation to generation.*

Personnel Programs

Volunteers In Mission

The Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Program of the Anglican Church of Canada was approved at the Winnipeg General Synod in 1986. The first appointments were made in late 1988 and early 1989 to Fiji and Tanzania. Since that time 88 adults and 15 children have served as Volunteers In Mission in 28 countries and returned to Canada. Volunteers have come from 20 of our 30 dioceses, from BC to Nova Scotia.

Theological Students' International Intern Program

The goals of the program are:

- To increase awareness of global concerns among theological students.
- To increase students' commitment to our church's mission and ministry.
- To give prospective clergy and professional lay workers an opportunity for inter-cultural experience.

This program, piloted in 1992, continues to receive highly positive evaluations from the theological students who participate, their bishops and their hosts. Fifty-one students have participated in summer international internships since the program began

Education and Resource Programs

Companion Diocese Program

The Anglican Church of Canada is still short of the goal of every diocese being in relationship with an international partner – of our 29 dioceses, 20 are in one or more companionships. Of these companionships, four are in Latin America, four in the Caribbean, two in Asia, nine in Africa, five in Canada and two in the United Kingdom.

People Exchange and Partnership Visits

The **People Exchange** fund assists international visitors to come to Canada for companionship visits, conferences, or other special events.

The **Partnership Visits** fund provides small grants to dioceses and parishes in Canada to support individuals or groups making companionship diocese visits, attending conferences or other special events.

Mission Resources

Providing timely and interesting material for the **PMEJ website** is an area of resource production. Information and materials from partners, updates from other parts of the Communion, letters from Volunteers and Student Interns are now available. **Praying with our partners** is a prayer cycle intended to accompany and supplement the *Anglican Cycle of Prayer*. It provides information and prayers about our Anglican and ecumenical partners around the world and within Canada, including mention of specific links with or support from our church. *Praying with our partners* is now posted to the Anglican Church of Canada website and parishes can download it for use. Partners In Mission provides hard copies for those parishes without access to the Internet.

Collaboration with the **Anglican Appeal** has produced two Advent and two Lenten **calendars**, focusing on prayer for partners in Canada and around the world.

The joys of this work include:

- i. Working with those called in global ministry, before during and after their time of participation in the life of a partner church
- ii. The transformation of those experiencing life in another part of the communion

The challenges inherent to the current situation include:

- i. discerning the vision of the leadership of the Anglican Church of Canada for the national church's global relationships for mission and ecojustice;
- ii. identifying effective, sustainable ways and means of integrating Partnerships' mission and ecojustice program priorities;
- iii. keeping up with the day-to-day work of maintaining and strengthening relationships with historic and new partners amidst ongoing financial cutbacks and reduced staffing with our lack of control over tools for education/ communication

Questions for discussion:

- a. Given what we have heard, where do you feel God is calling us? How is God's mission apparent?
- b. Does the sending of mission personnel contribute to this?
- c. How can we engage returned mission personnel?
- d. With whom should the Anglican Church of Canada be in solidarity? Whose voices should we be listening to? What do the mission personnel/education/resources contribute to hearing those voices?