

Global Anglican and Ecumenical Relations Program Overview

PMEJC Meeting, 1-5 October 2008

Introduction

In the 6 months since the Committee's meeting in the Diocese of Brandon, the Global Anglican and Ecumenical Relations program has continued to carry out its work in inter-Anglican and ecumenical relationships globally and locally. This overview will highlight the activity of Global Relations staff and news from selected partners. Partners' news is also available online at <http://www2.anglican.ca/mission/about/news/index/html>

Global Relations Program:

1. Grants to Church and Ecumenical Partners:

\$164,500 was sent in annual grants to 18/39 global partners. 7 grants (\$52,000) are being withheld due to insufficient financial reporting. Remaining reports are expected by November whereupon remaining grants will be sent. Total value of annual grants sent by year-end: \$336,00

Close, constant monitoring of financial reporting continues. The resulting increased reporting reflects the merits of regular communications with partners on this matter and partners' improving financial management capacity.

An additional \$102,808 was designated from Global Relations Emerging Priorities to 32 projects, including 11 international graduate theological education scholarships. Total value of Emerging Priorities grants sent by year-end: \$216,500 (not including @\$35,000 annual donations and trust funds for the work global partners). A full list of students and projects supported to date in 2008 is attached as Appendices 1 and 2.

A total of \$267,308 was checked line by line, monthly, for accuracy against FMD monthly statements. Reconciliation of monthly accounts with grants expenditures continues.

Global Relations continues to process funds monthly from The Episcopal Church to the Episcopal Church in Cuba for clergy pensions and life insurance.

2. Partner Visits/Meetings:

April 14-30 Uganda, Southern Sudan, Tanzania
Report sent previously/included in docket

April 10-11 Toronto: KAIROS International Human Rights PC
May 26 Toronto: Ecumenical South Pacific Consultation

June 9	Toronto: Edinburgh 2010
June 11-13	Toronto: Partner to UCC Partnership Consultation
June 18	Toronto: KAIROS Partnership Consultation
July 3	Toronto: PMEJC Chairs and Staff Agenda Planning
July 9	Vancouver: Diocese of New Westminster Orientation
July 24	New Westminster: Asia Pacific Forum Agenda Planning
Sept 3-4	Toronto: ACC-ELCIC Consultation
Sept 13-14	Toronto: Forum for Justice and Peace in Sri Lanka
Sept 19-20	Metchosen: Diocese of British Columbia Synod
Sept 25-26	Langley: BC Provincial Ecojustice Committee

3. Visitors:

July-August	Canon Kobina Ben Smith, Province of West Africa
September	Bishop Paul Kim (Coadjutor Elect), Diocese of Seoul
	Bishop Terry Brown (Retired), Diocese of Malaita

4. Fall 2008 Travel Planning

Oct.07-Nov.01 **Asia**

Thailand: Christian Conference of Asia and Asia Pacific Forum, Korean Christian Federation, Pacific Conference of Churches, Myanmar Council of Churches

India: Church of North India and Church of South India Partners Consultation, Church of North India 13th Synod, Bishops College

Sri Lanka: Church of Ceylon (Colombo and Kurunagala), National Council of Churches of Sri Lanka, Theological College of Lanka

Myanmar: Church of Myanmar, Holy Cross Theological Seminary, Myanmar Council of Churches, Association of Theological Education in Myanmar

Hong Kong: World Student Christian Federation Asia Pacific, Daw Thida Nyunt Khin (Burmese Scholarship student at LTS), Amity Foundation, Province of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Nov.23-Dec.02 **South America**

Brazil: Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil

Uruguay: Diocese of Uruguay

5. Resources:

Contributions to *Praying with our Partners* (May11-July27; August 3-November 28)

Contributions to *Towards an Understanding of Partnership in Mission* (July)

6. Relocation: Coordinator relocated to New Westminster on July 7th, continuing program work and making initial connections with the Diocese of New Westminster, and all dioceses within the Ecclesiastical Province of BC. Exploring office space possibility in the Lutheran BC Synod Office. Seeking opportunities to work more closely with dioceses, the Province, Lutheran Synod, and Vancouver School of Theology towards strengthened partnerships for mission and ecojustice.

News from Global Partners

News highlights from global partners over the past 6 months have been listed, posted, and reported on the website, in the *Journal*, and in *Praying with Our Partners*. The 2009 Narrative Budget provides a brief description of each historic global partner (#07-01-10-08)

From Anglican Provinces in Africa, we continue to hear of the devastation of communities, economies, and countries brought about by election violence, particularly in Kenya and Zimbabwe, by xenophobia and HIV/Aids in South Africa, and paramilitary movements and mercenaries in Darfur, and northern Uganda. We have responded to calls for prayer and solidarity with these Provinces and others who seek systemic change and public education towards peace with justice.

African partners continue to share news of involvement in significant national matters: Sudanese Church leaders continue to urge a faster implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army in January 2005. Among the critical elements of the CPA yet to be implemented are the determination of boundaries and the return of internally displaced peoples to their homes. The Primate of the Episcopal Church of Sudan recently accompanied a delegation of government ministers to Canada and was welcomed by the Diocese of Calgary, and Canadian-Sudanese Anglican community there. Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul actively seeks partners to accompany his church in its challenging and enormous work of re-building and re-storing dioceses, theological training centres, and the Mothers Union, to name several priorities.

Anglican/Episcopal churches elsewhere in Africa are similarly involved in issues of national justice, peace, and civil society: The Church of the Province of Central Africa took a courageously outspoken stance against the pre and post election violence of the Zanu-PF/Mugabe supporters in Zimbabwe. Similarly, Southern Africa Anglican Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, upon returning to Cape Town after a visit to Zimbabwe in June, stated publicly, the levels of intimidation in the country underlined "the crucial importance" of deploying large numbers of international election monitors.

African partners also continue to speak of the urgent need for formal theological education among laity, priests and church leaders, for the development of academic

seminary training, and for assistance with the actual costs of being the church. The Anglican Church of Canada continues to be in good relationship with all African partners and tries to respond with financial, material and prayer support to specific requests for accompaniment. Informal conversations about current tensions in the Anglican Communion do take place, often. Primatial GAFCON imperatives regarding relationship with North American Provinces are differently implemented by Provincial officers and diocesan bishops. The resulting 'mixed message' about relationship and partnership in mission is curious but not surprising given Anglican polity and local churches interests in partnerships for mission and ministry. *Partnerships* continues to choose conversation and relationship with partners in the absence of explicit directives to the contrary. Further reflection on this is included in *Towards an Understanding of Partnership in Mission* (#63-11-10-08), prepared by staff for use in an informal conversation hosted by the Diocese of Toronto, at the Lambeth Conference, with African bishops.

From Anglican Church partners in the Caribbean, Central and South American we have learned that the Seminario Evangélico de Teología en Matanzas, Cuba, will celebrate its 62th Anniversary in October. The Metropolitan Council of Cuba (MCC), Episcopal Church in Cuba, will hold its next meeting just prior to the diocesan synod scheduled for February 2009. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Metropolitan, and The Rev. Dr. Michael Pollesel, General Synod General Secretary, will attend both meetings.

Global Relations continues to support the costs of the Episcopal oversight of the Rt. Rev. Miquel Tamayo, Bishop of the Diocese of Uruguay and of the Episcopal Church in Cuba. In November 2007, under the leadership of Bishop Tamayo, the Diocese of Uruguay was the lone dissenter from the decision of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of the Province of the Southern Cone (IACSA), to withdraw from relationship with the Anglican Church of Canada, and The Episcopal Church. Global Relations continues partnership with the Diocese of Uruguay.

Elsewhere in South America, the Diocese of Recife, Episcopal Church in Brazil, has begun to re-establish itself, following the former bishop's transfer of all diocesan properties and resources to the jurisdiction of IACSA. The Church of the Province of the West Indies continues reconstruction of church properties in the wake of Hurricane Ivan, 2005. In Haiti, work continues in the rebuilding of both the country and the Episcopal Seminary. Global Relations is currently supporting the work of Canon Oge Beauvoir, Principal, Episcopal Seminary, and the seminary's lay training program.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, we seek improved communications and stronger relationship with existing partners, especially where Provincial officers are not our primary contact people, such as in the Church of the Province of the West Indies.

News over the summer from Anglican and ecumenical partners in Asia, the South Pacific and the Middle East has been both disturbing and hopeful. Partners in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Israel, and Palestine have repeatedly reported escalating state and rebel violence. The peoples of Orissa, Northern and Eastern Provinces (Sri Lanka), Gaza and the West Bank are in particular peril. In each country, church and faith based

organizations, including the Church of North India, Christian Conference of Asia, Church of Ceylon, and Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East have called for justice, peace, and political solutions to long standing, deeply entrenched tensions. Global Relations has worked ecumenically within KAIROS and other networks, and with faith-based organizations globally, in solidarity with partners for international pressure for the restoration of peace with justice.

A clarion call has been issued from partners in the South Pacific to all justice seeking people; to fight against the global warming that is causing irreversible climate change in Oceania. Anglican and ecumenical theological colleges and universities continue to grow and strengthen in local, accessible, contextual training for ministry. The pastoral care and counselling ministries of Anglican religious women and men continue to lead their countries to healing from the trauma and grief resulting from past civil tensions and natural disasters.

Conclusion

As the Anglican Church of Canada continues to seek relationship and accompaniment with Anglican, Episcopal and ecumenical partners around the world through national, diocesan and parish *Partnerships*’ programs and resources, Global Relations will serve this purpose through the activities listed above.

Global Relations will, with national and diocesan/synodical staff and volunteers, also seek more effective ways of sharing partners’ analyses, issues, processes and priorities in the development of *Partnerships*’ programs and educational resources. The transition within *Partnerships* to an integrated Ecojustice and Partners in Mission program (if that’s where we’re going) is a ‘works in progress’. Global partners can and do offer valuable insights and experiences in processes of restoring and revitalizing the church for mission and ministry.

Global Relations will continue to listen, share and reflect with others in emerging conversations, globally and in Canada, about new models, relationships, and theologies of mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Mann, Coordinator
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September 11, 2008