

## **ANNUAL DIOCESAN SYNOD - 2014**

### **RESOLUTIONS FOR SYNOD**

#### **Resolution No. 1 - Re: General Banking Facilities**

Whereas the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands may from time to time require General Banking Facilities, not limited to overdrafts, e.g. Letters of Guarantee;

Be it resolved that this Synod authorise the Diocesan Financial Board to arrange General Banking Facilities at the National Commercial Bank (Jamaica) Limited or any other Bank registered under the Banking Act for a total amount not exceeding Two Million Dollars in Jamaican Currency (\$2M) should the need arise.

Moved by: Michael Fennell, OJ (The Hon.)

Seconded by: Denzil C. Barnes (The Rev Canon)

PASSED

#### **Resolution No. 2 - Re: Stewardship**

Whereas the Synod of the Diocese of 1998 gave its approval to a policy on Christian Stewardship;

And Whereas the vision then was for the Diocese to become a growing church in which individuals, groups and congregations could begin to consciously practice Christian stewardship as a way of life;

And Whereas Christian Stewardship is the Christian's response of love and thankfulness to the redemptive love of God in Jesus Christ;

And Whereas it is acknowledged that Christian Stewardship proceeds from a personal relationship with God arising out of a relationship with Jesus Christ as Saviour, Redeemer and Friend;

Be it resolved that this 144th Synod of the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands calls on the Bishop in Diocesan Council to re-activate without delay the Diocesan Stewardship Programme by:

- appointing a Diocesan Stewardship Coordinating Committee with the same and/or preferably revised frame of reference as set out in Synod Journal of 1999,
- arranging seminars for Lay Readers to be the principal carriers within congregations,
- updating the present Stewardship Manual
- identifying and enlisting resource persons for leadership and action
- accessing and making available resource material on stewardship.

Moved by: Mr. O'Dayne Plummer

Seconded by: Mrs. Audrey Anderson

PASSED

### **Resolution No. 3 - Re: Review of the Method of Assessment**

Whereas the ingivings (Contributions) of the Congregations of the Diocese are declining;

And Whereas the method of Assessment is burdensome on a declining membership;

And Whereas the burden is compounded by the declining income (Pensionable) of ageing congregation in an austere economy resulting in a decline in the givings;

And Whereas as of December 31, 2013 only sixty percent (60%) of the Assessment was met by the Congregations of the Diocese;

And Whereas the outstanding debt from Assessment is greater than one hundred and ninety million dollars (\$ 190M), and increasing;

Be it resolved that this 144th Synod mandate the Diocesan Financial Board to establish a Task Force to review the current formula of Assessment and cause such formula to provide alternative methods which would incorporate new categories in the definition of Assessable Income versus Non-Assessable Income;

And Be it further resolved that the 145th Annual Synod of 2015 consider the recommendation and or recommendations for implementation.

Moved by: Serrano A. Kitson (The Rev. Canon)

Seconded by: Sterling Soares (Lay Rep – St. Andrew Parish Church)

PASSED

### **Resolution No. 4 - Re: The Discontinuation of Interest charges on the late payment of Assessment**

Whereas the majority of intake of Church is derived from Free-Will-Offerings;

And Whereas interest is charged for late and non payment of Assessment;

And Whereas it is impracticable to collect interest charges from its membership;

And Whereas Churches find it extremely difficult to pay both the regular assessment and interest charges;

Be it resolved that this Synod considers and approves that Church House discontinues with immediate effect the charging of interest on outstanding assessment.

Moved by: Denniston Brown

Seconded by: Leslie Mowatt (The Rev)

WITHDRAWN

### **Resolution No. 5 - Re: HIV and AIDS Policy**

Whereas Synod of 1999 passed a Resolution aimed at sensitizing and educating congregations concerning HIV and AIDS;

And Whereas the Synods of 1999 and 2000 passed Resolutions for the establishment of a Diocesan HIV and AIDS Committee;

And Whereas the Diocesan HIV and AIDS Committee has been carrying out activities consistent with the Synod mandates;

And Whereas Research has been conducted on an Impact Assessment of the response among selected congregations in the Diocese;

And Whereas such research has shown the need for the establishment of a Policy on HIV and AIDS to guide ongoing educational and sensitization activities;

Be it resolved that this 144<sup>th</sup> annual Synod of the Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands requests the Bishop in Diocesan Council, through the Board of Mission and Ministry and the Department of Missions to:

- (a) Establish a Policy on HIV and AIDS and
- (b) Establish procedures to monitor and evaluate the Policy, and
- (c) Implement programmes that will foster an effective response to the epidemic

Moved Garth A. Minott (The Rev)

Seconded by Patrick G. Cunningham (The Venerable)

PASSED

**Resolution No. 6 - Re: Establishing a Committee on Social Justice**

Whereas discussions concerning human rights are topical in the global arenas well as in the local context;

And Whereas the Anglican Consultative Council (The ACC) in a Resolution at its fourth meeting called on Provinces and Diocese to study and apply Human Rights Commissions in response to the A.C.C. Resolution;

And Whereas such Commissions exist to educate members on matters relating to social justice, of which human rights is one component;

And Whereas such Commissions oversee education for social justice in Church and Society;

Be it resolved that this 144<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands requests the Bishop in Diocesan Council, through the Board of Mission and Ministry and the Department of Mission, to establish a Commission on Social Justice which will:

- a. Create terms of reference for operation
- b. Establish mechanisms to share best practices with other such Commissions in the Anglican Communion, the Province of the West Indies and the Jamaica Council of Churches
- c. Report to the Department of Mission on an annual basis on all its activities, and
- d. Establish a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the programmes and interventions.

Moved by: Garth A. Minott

Seconded by: Sean Major-Campbell (The Rev)

PASSED

**Resolution No. 7 - Re: Establishing a Comprehensive Human Resource Policy**

Whereas there is no comprehensive Human Resource Policy for the Diocese;

And Whereas, the Canons and the Policy Manual for Clergy Persons and Church Workers do not address the medical fitness for employment and retirement under medical disability and its computation for pension;

And Whereas the age for retirement for Supplementary Ministers are also not contained in the Canons and the Policy Manual;

And Whereas there is no stipulation in the Canons and the Policy Manual for an annual or bi-annual review and updating of the records pertaining to Clergy and Church Workers and other employees of the Diocese.

Be it resolved that the 144<sup>th</sup> Synod mandate the Diocesan Council to establish a working committee incorporating qualified Human Resource practitioners to formulate a draft Human Resource Policy Document to be reviewed by the Diocesan Council and Financial Board;

And Be it further resolved that a final Human Resource Policy Document be submitted to the 145<sup>th</sup> Synod for approval and implementation.

Moved by: Sirrano Kitson (The Rev. Canon Major)

Seconded by: Hartley Perrin (The Very Rev. Canon the Hon.)

PASSED

**Resolution No. 8 - Re: Strengthening and Fostering Vocations through a Process of Discernment in Local Congregations.**

Whereas the Catechism speaks to local congregations as key stakeholders in the Mission and Ministry of the Church;

And Whereas the said congregations are the context within which people first identify the call to exercise vocations in the Church;

And Whereas congregations have traditionally nurtured vocations when they have been identified;

And Whereas Rectors or Priests-in-charge have been integral in helping to identify and foster such vocations;

And Whereas congregations, through the Church Committees, are requested to recommend persons to the Bishop when interest in a specific vocation is expressed;

Be it resolved that this 144<sup>th</sup> Synod requests that the Bishop in Diocesan Council mandates each congregation to establish a Vocations Committee with a view to:

- a. Identify and foster vocations
- b. Provide basic education in ministry.
- c. Recommend those who so desire to the Rector/Church Committee for pursuing full time or non-stipendiary ministry in the Church

And Be it further resolved that the Commission on Ministry be mandated to provide a format for such reporting by the Vocations Committee and be mandated to receive annual reports from congregations using the said forms.

Moved by: The Rev. Canon Georgia C. Jervis

Seconded by: The Rev. Garth A. Minott

PASSED

### **Resolution No. 9 - Re: The Jamaica Church Missionary Society**

Whereas the report of the JCMS was not afforded the time for a full treatment of mission and evangelism;

And Whereas the Diocese is fully in support of the five Marks of Mission as a forward thrust;

And Whereas the Diocese needs to engage the present and envision a Future, fully immersed in Mission and Evangelism;

BE IT RESOLVED that this 144<sup>th</sup> Annual Synod of The Church in Jamaica and The Cayman Islands mandates each Region to convene a Special Regional Meeting to fully take the Report of the JCMS and establish a comprehensive plan for Mission and Evangelism for 2014.

Moved by: Franklyn Jackson (The Very Rev.)

Seconded by: Leslie Mowatt (The Rev.)

PASSED

### **Resolution No. 10 - Re: Education**

Whereas it is recognised that education is one of the most effective means of addressing diseases such as an economic growth, social disintegration, crime and violence and rampant disregard for the sanctity of God's creation which now afflict our land Jamaica;

And Whereas the Anglican Church has made a major contribution to the provision of education at all levels for over two centuries;

And Whereas this 144<sup>th</sup> Synod received a most depressing set of information on education in our Anglican schools;

And Whereas time did not allow for any discussion on the presentation;

Be it resolved that this 144<sup>th</sup> Synod:

- a. Instruct that the texts of the presentation be circulated to members of Synod and the various Anglican Education Institutions as soon as possible.
- b. Directs that a reports from the Committee with recommendations, be made to Diocesan Council within six months
- c. Directs also Diocesan Council consider and make recommendations for actions to the 145<sup>th</sup> meeting of Synod.

Moved by: Ambassador Byron Blake

Seconded by: Mr. Vivian Crawford

PASSED

### **Resolution No. 11 - Re: The implementation of the Policy on the Environment**

Whereas we are part of God's creation made in the image of God;

And whereas it is recognized that the environment has been significantly undermined by human activity;

And whereas the 142<sup>nd</sup> Synod approved a resolution to establish a committee to develop environmental guidelines for churches;

And whereas the Policy on the Environment has been prepared;

BE it resolved that the policy be approved by the Diocesan Council and disseminated widely to regions, deaneries and educational institutions;

And be it resolved that a comprehensive programme be developed to implement recommendations of the Policy on the Environment;

And be it resolved that the youth be an integral part of the development, implementation and sustainability of the programme;

And be it further resolved that the Policy on the Environment be continuously monitored over a three year period and an evaluation report be submitted to Synod three years after implementation.

Moved by: Rev. Charles Danvers

Seconded by: Dr. Trevor Hope

PASSED

