



Our Vision: To be a vibrant God-centred Anglican Church, clearly growing spiritually, numerically and holistically



GtC UPDATE

First Quarter – May 2016

Decade of Intentional Discipleship

WIDESPREAD approval greeted the Anglican Consultative Council's (ACC) unanimous call for "every province, diocese and parish" in the Anglican Communion to "adopt a clear focus on intentional discipleship." Meeting last month in Lusaka, Zambia, the ACC also requested that the Anglican Church make resources available for people to be effective in making disciples of Christ. Basing its decision on the Gospel and theological imperative "to make disciples," the ACC believes that a focus on intentional discipleship will help people to be Christians not only on Sunday but throughout the rest of the week in both family and work life. The ACC wants to empower parishes to go beyond evangelism to helping Christians to grow in their faith and witness.



In addition, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has put discipleship and the formation of disciples at the forefront of his ministry. At a recent Lambeth Lecture, he said, "I want to start by saying just two simple sentences about the church. First, the church exists to worship God in Jesus Christ. Second, the Church exists to make new disciples of Jesus Christ. Everything else is secondary."

Wholeheartedly backing the vision of Archbishop Welby, the ACC Standing Committee formed a task team (GtC's Trevor Pearce represents Southern Africa, Tanzania and the Indian Ocean) to explore a broad, biblical and contemporary motivation for holistic and intentional discipleship in a diverse and broken world. Its findings was so well received by the Archbishop and by the ACC that a call for a "Decade of Intentional Discipleship" was made (however, the focus *DOES NOT* have to be limited to a decade).

Bringing It Home

About 80% of the people of South Africa claim to be Christian, but this is not reflected in the huge economic disparity and the general behaviour of our population. It is very evident that the Christian faith, whilst being pervasive, desperately needs to be deepened. Our nation needs to be discipled, and it is the job of the church to do so. A few years ago, our Synod of Bishops took a decision to motivate discipleship across our Province as a means of deepening the faith of Anglicans in a holistic fashion. In addition, one of our passions at GtC is helping people to make disciples of Christ. Thus, given the fact that the ACC has taken a momentous decision to encourage every province, diocese and parish in the Communion to engage in intentional discipleship, the leaders of Anglicans Ablaze would like to use the 2016 conference to bring discipleship making to the forefront of the ministry of our Province. We are very excited about this opportunity and about what an intentional 10-year focus on discipleship could mean for our church and nations. We hope you are excited too.

What is the ACC?

Created by a resolution of the 1968 Lambeth Conference, the Anglican Consultative Council is one of the four 'instruments' of the Anglican Communion. The Council consists of bishops, clergy and laity and meets every three years. At the meeting in Lusaka, Archbishop Thabo, along with a delegation from our Province, represented ACSA. The role of the ACC is to facilitate the co-operative work of the churches of the Communion, exchange information between provinces and churches and help to coordinate common action. It advises on the organisation and structures of the Communion and seeks to develop common policies with respect to the world mission of the Church, including ecumenical matters.