



Report of the International Anglican Youth Network to ACC 14

Introduction

IAYN is a network of persons involved in ministry among young people at the provincial level uniting young people within the Anglican Communion. The aims of the Network are to:

- raise the profile of youth ministry in the Anglican Communion;
- increase resources and support of youth ministry;
- create a communion in which young people are strengthened;
- develop and support young people in their ministry;
- advocate on behalf of young people to ensure participation within the Church; and,
- encourage the inclusion of young people at all levels in the decision-making of the Church.

The Network is managed by its Steering Group which aims to meet annually. A full gathering of the Network takes place normally every three years.

The Steering Group comprises of one representative from each region, two coordinators and the two ACC youth representatives.

Regions and Representatives

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Steering Group Meeting, Porto Alegre 2006

The Network were appreciative of the hospitality shown by Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, in particular by then Primate Orlando Santos de Oliveira and the Provincial Secretary Christina Winnischofer.

During the meeting the Network welcomed Sue Parks, Lambeth Conference Manager, and the Rev'd Canon Kenneth Kearon, General Secretary of the ACC, who outlined the new shape envisaged for the 2008 Lambeth Conference and the possible role for young adults to act as Stewards. The Network were invited to submit a proposal for a self-select seminar and to join other networks in setting up a display. Following these discussions the Network wrote and reflected its concerns regarding the proposed structure of the Steward Programme, challenging the suggestion that Stewards be drawn only from ordinands, seminarians and other students engaged in theological studies. The Network offered to work with Lambeth Conference Staff in delivering the Stewarding Programme, including recruitment and training.

Members of the Network took the opportunity to consult with young Anglicans serving in the Stewarding Programme at the World Council of Churches Assembly, meeting simultaneously in Porto Alegre. These young adults expressed their concern regarding the profile of the Network amongst young people and the need for communication to be improved. As a result of this the Steering Group committed themselves to publishing a newsletter; creating a logo; and, establishing a webpage (this was facilitated with the professional support of Michael Ade at the Anglican Communion Office[ACO]).

A key task of the Steering Group at this time was to plan in detail for the Network meeting to take place in England during September 2007. It was decided that a Youth Officer and a young person from each province would be invited in order to consider the growth and development of the Network, its contribution to the Lambeth Conference, and to review ministry with young people across the communion.

The Network was also invited to nominate representatives to attend a Global Young Adult Gathering with the Anglican Observer to the United Nations, to take place in New York from 7-11 June 2006. Mr. Wade Aukett, Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia; Ms. Sarah Tomlinson, Scotland; Ms. Neven Abora, Jerusalem & the Middle East; Mr. Richard Whitmill, England; Mr. Odwa Gonya, Southern Africa; Tiana Morel, Seychelles; Mr. Lucas Andrade, Brazil; Ms Laura Amendola, USA; Ms. Rhonda Waters, Canada; and, Ms. Katrina Stevens, Australia attended with Ms Mellisa Sim from Canada facilitating the meeting.

The representatives attending the Steering Group were: Mr. Peter Ball – England (Coordinator); Rev'd John Heberton – Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia (Oceania Region); Rev'd Sam Dessordi – Brazil (Americas Region); Mr. Insar Gohar – Pakistan (Asia Region); Mr. Michael Tamihere (ACC Representative); Ms. Sarah Tomlinson (ACC Representative).

Apologies were received from: Rev'd Douglas Fenton – USA (Co-ordinator); Mr. Sabelo Mashwama – Southern Africa (Africa Region); Rev'd Samuel Barhoum – Jerusalem & the Middle East (Europe/Middle East Region).

Summary of Gathering in England, 2007

The most recent gathering of the Network took place from 3-7 September, 2007 in England – this was the sixth in a series of gatherings started in the 1980s.

Each representative had time to report to the Network on the state of youth ministry in their respective provinces. Time was devoted, both in plenaries and small working groups, to considering specific issues and goals facing the Network including a presence at Lambeth 2008, a response to the formation of an Anglican Covenant, and strengthening the Network in order to fulfil its aims.

Sue Parks, Lambeth Conference Manager, and Deidre Martin from ACO were welcomed and there was a constructive discussion concerning the Network's proposed presence at the Lambeth Conference and its work supporting the Stewarding Programme. (This is commented on later in the report under "Reflections on Lambeth 2008".)

The Network responded to the Anglican Covenant and commended the covenant design committee for its efforts and the encouragement provided in the Draft Discussion Document for the Church to remain open and patient in times of challenge. The Network expressed its concern that the spirit of the Covenant does not reveal all intentions of the process, and this may expose it to a number of different interpretations and possible misuse by parties in the future. The Network felt that the document needed to be reworded to contain clearer intentions and processes.

The Network wondered what the legacy of an Anglican Covenant will be? Will it curtail the mission of the church in the future, and its membership? Should we not be working towards an inclusive Church which celebrates its diversity, as opposed to creating mechanisms for expelling those we do not agree with? Another key question posed in the Network's discussions was: what will happen to Provinces who choose not to sign up to the Covenant? Young people will inherit this document and the Church it may create.

The Network also affirmed the work of the Steering Committee to strengthen the promotion of the Network and the achievement of its aims through more effective communication. Representatives committed themselves to maintaining an up-to-date database of provincial youth workers – a difficult task as the stability of youth positions across the Communion vary widely while some Provinces have a clear stance of not

having youth workers at a provincial level. The IAYN website with comprehensive information about the Network, its history and its work has recently been created. It can be accessed at <http://iayn.anglicancommunion.org/>

Those who attended the gathering were nurtured in their faith through times of worship, which combined distinctive elements from Anglican traditions across the Provinces represented, a day pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham, and through the warmth of fellowship throughout. Strength was also gained through the Network's shared experiences of ministry with youth and young adults in their own areas and were renewed for ministry in their own provinces.

Attendees: Rev'd John Hebenton, Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia; Mr. Michael Tamihere, Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia; Rev'd Steven Shwarzrock, Australia; Rev'd Dessordi Peres Leite, Brazil; Mr. Adel Salah Makar Shokralla, Egypt; Ms. Clare Miriam Tarron, Egypt; Mr. Peter Ball, England; Mr. Richard Whitmill, England; Rev'd Douglas Fenton, The Episcopal Church (USA); Mr. Kwok Keung Chan, Hong Kong; Mr. David Brown, Ireland; Mr. Peter Hammell, Ireland; Ms. Kei Ikezumi, Japan; Ms. Maki Nakamura, Japan; Rev'd Samuel Barhoum, Jerusalem and the Middle East; Mr. Newton Anthony Ekoda, Papua New Guinea; Rev'd Alba Sally Sue Hernandez Garcia, Mexico; Mr. Insar Gohar, Pakistan; Ms. Sarah Tomlinson, Scotland; Mr. Sabelo Mashwama, Southern Africa; Mr. Evans Gogonya, Sudan; and, Mr Andrew Russell, Tanzania. North India, the Phillipines, and additional delegates from Sudan and Pakistan could not attend because of visa restrictions.

Reflections on Lambeth 2008

The Network's presence at Lambeth was marked by its leadership of a self-select seminar; the provision of prayer labyrinth and stations in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral; and a display in a prominent position in the foyer enabling good encounters with conference delegates and raising the profile of the Network. Visual presentations from a number of provinces were on display throughout the Network's time at the Conference. The Network recieved good feedback from many delegates.

There was good attendance at the self-select seminar facilitated by the Network, "Evangelism and Young People", with a positive exchange of ideas. Members of the Network were disappointed, however, to find that their workshop had not been included in the published programme nor advertised.

The prayer labyrinth and stations set up in the Cathedral Crypt were well recieved by visitors and greatly appreciated by the Cathedral staff. The focus of the labyrinth was on the place and voice of young people in the church whilst the prayer stations provided an opportunity for individuals to reflect on their own spiritual journey. Unfortunately, the

distance from the university campus meant that very few Lambeth Conference delegates were able to benefit from this.

The Network was pleased to contribute to the development of the selection criteria for Lambeth Conference Stewards and supported and encouraged applicants from around the Communion. The feedback the Network has received from stewards has been positive. However, there was a concern that the agreed criteria were not universally applied.

Our hope and prayer is that the Networks will be more central in the planning and delivery of future conferences.

The Network's Lambeth Team included: Mr. Jeff Lizardo, Philippines; Ms. Maki Nakamura, Japan; Mr. Odwa Gonya, Southern Africa; Mr. Michael Tamihere, Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia; Ms. Sarah Tomlinson and young adult group, Scotland; Rev'd Dn Peter Ball, England; Rev'd Douglas Fenton, USA; and, Mrs Pam and Rev'd Den Richards, Wales.

Details of Steering Group Meeting 2009

The Network was deeply grateful to the Province of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui for their generosity and warm welcome, and to the Church of the Holy Carpenter, Kowloon for providing the space for the meeting of the Steering Group.

Business included: regional reports, reflections on the Lambeth Conference, the Network's relationship with ACC, discussion of the Anglican Covenant, funding, young people and vocations, Anglican identity, evangelism among young people, and the annual publication of "Buenas Nuevas," a journal to include an essay by a member from each of the five regions. Time was also devoted to reviewing the work of the Network and identifying future goals. Plans are being undertaken to explore the first regional youth gathering in the Asian region.

In addition to the Network's business, the opportunity was taken to visit with the Rev'd Canon Dr. Thomas Pang in the Macau Missionary Area and reflect on the evangelistic outreach and ministry with young people there. The Network also met staff of the Religious Education Centre in Hong Kong. Discussion also took place with Diocesan Youth Ministry Advisors and Workers from across the Province. Members of the Steering Group were particularly delighted to meet formally with the Most Reverend Paul Kwong, Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, and are grateful to him for his invitation and hospitality.

ACC 13 Resolutions

ACC 13 received the report of the Network and thanked it for its ongoing work in support of the witness of young people across the Communion. It also recommended to dioceses and Provinces that they review their provision for ministry amongst young people and ensure appropriate budgetary provision. The Network has to ask what progress has been made and what future actions still have to be taken?

The new staffing arrangements that are in place to support Networks are to be welcomed, and the Network look forward to working more closely with the Anglican Communion Staff, in particular Ms Terrie Robinson.

Future Goals

It is increasingly recognised that the Networks make a vital contribution to the work of the Communion; the IAYN in particular has become more effective in supporting and bringing together those who share responsibility for youth ministry. Its work is to continue through:

Publication of an IAYN Journal: Buenos Nuevos

The journal will aim to educate the church about youth ministry and its importance in the formation of Christian leaders and vocational discernment; inspire people who are working in youth ministry and broaden their experience of youth ministry in the Communion; and, resource youth leaders.

Increase representation at Network Gatherings

Past gatherings have been well attended but the Network would like to see even wider representation from across the Communion. The Network encourages Provinces to strengthen their commitment to send representatives.

Youth Sunday

A number of Provinces already set aside a Sunday dedicated to Young People. The Network would like to see this extended across the Communion. On those Sundays it is suggested that an offering is made to support the work of the Network.

Website

The successful creation and running of the website with the support of ACO, in particular Michael Ade, needs to be built on further. Provinces are invited to submit articles for inclusion on the Network's website.

Steering Group Meetings & Network Gatherings

The pattern of Network and Steering Group meetings has proven to be effective in developing its work and plans are in place for a proposed Steering Group Meeting in South Africa in 2010, a full Network meeting in 2011, and a further Steering Group Meeting in 2012 prior to ACC 15.

Provincial Contributions

The success of the Network is dependent not only on the commitment of its members but also the financial support it receives from the Provinces. While a number of Provinces respond to the annual Advent request for financial support (US\$200), many do not. The good work that has been achieved so far can only be built on, and extended further, if even more Provinces are willing to contribute.

We recognise that not every province would be able to afford this, and that some Provinces might be able to afford more. So, we encourage each Province to contribute as much or as little as they can.

IAYN Resolutions

Four resolutions have been submitted to ACC 14 for its consideration.

Asia Regional Youth Conference

On the suggestion of Archbishop Kwong the Network will explore the possibility of facilitating a regional youth conference in Asia. In addition to strengthening the Asia Region's youth work, it is hoped that this will serve as a model for the other four regions.