The Lambeth Conference rests awhile beside spiritual oasis

The Lambeth Conference headed the words of St Mark and came “then apart to rest awhile” in a vigil which began at 3.30pm on Thursday and continued through the Friday which began at 3.30pm on Thursday “then apart to rest awhile” in a vigil which began at 3.30pm on Thursday and continued through the Friday which began at 3.30pm on Thursday.

Business of the Conference effectively ceased with the commencement of the first service and speech was kept at a minimum. Simple meals were served in the dining halls and some Conference participants fasted during the period.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said he hoped Lambeth participants would “see this as a spiritual oasis in our programme to prepare us for the final eight or nine days when we form our resolutions on a spiritual cushion of prayer and meditation.”

The opening liturgy included a meditation on the nature and power of love by Jean Vanier, founder and director of the L’Arche network of communities for people with learning disabilities and other challenges. He was accompanied by members of the Eagles cheer squad before Friday’s plenary session.

TODAY’S KEY EVENTS

7.15am Eucharist
9.30 - 11.00am Morning Prayer and Bible Studies
11.30 - 11.30am Spouses’ regional meetings
11.30 - 1.00pm Section Preparation Time
3.00 - 5.00pm Presentation 4: “Bis into the world”, Mission and Evangelism Today and Tomorrow
3.30 - 5.30pm Sections
5.45pm Evening Prayer

Two bishops awarded honorary doctorates

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Mexico’s bishop thrives on big challenges

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Pilgrimage to Walsingham

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Resolutions in shape for plenaries from staff reports

After final editing this weekend, resolution texts are now ready to come before the Lambeth bishops for debate and voting in this week’s plenary sessions.

Bishops have scheduled time-slots today for reading of reports, as well as texts of both sectional and regional resolutions.

Leadership and secretariat staff in each of the Conference’s four sections worked late into Friday night and Saturday evening to finalise texts for the bishops’ discussion, debate and voting, scheduled to start in tomorrow’s plenary session, set for 3.30-5.30pm.

Additional plenary sessions are scheduled for 11.30am-1pm and 3.30-5.30pm on Wednesday, and 3.30-5.30pm on Thursday.

Christian-Islamic relations and other interfaith-related resolutions from Section Four, “Called to Be One,” are expected for consideration tomorrow afternoon. Urban evangelisation will be among topics discussed on Wednesday morning.

Resolutions from Section One, “Called to Full Humanity” whose topics of consideration include the environment, Please see Resolutions page 4

Pentecostals ‘have much to teach us’

by Nan Cobbey and Randall Lee

Rapidly expanding Pentecostal “emerging churches” are at the centre of ecumenical discussions at the Conference.

“I want to underline the significance of this” said Bishop Stephen Sykes (Ely, England), vice-chair of the section on dialogue with other churches.

“For the very first time the Lambeth Conference is taking seriously the vast quantity of Christian people who assemble in new churches and independent Christian groups,” Bishop Sykes told a

Please see Pentecostals page 4

Listen to young voices, bishops told

by Lisa Barrowclough

Bishops came face to face with the energy and enthusiasm of the young on Friday in a string of events designed to highlight the Church embraces youth.

A troupe of cheerleaders, the Ascension Eagles, cheered the speakers and set a fast-paced session.

Under the banner of a “Youthful Spirit,” planners of the day aimed at encouraging bishops to listen to the voices of the young.

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Please see Pentecostals page 4
Vigil continues from page 1 of the Canterbury community of L’Arche, and said he felt humbled to be the voice of those who have no voice to the “good shepherds of the Anglican Communion.”

People “with mental handicaps, disabilities are amongst the most oppressed people of our world,” Mr Vanier said. When asked whether he had visited institutions, asylum which are really places of death…places where these very special people are crushed and hurt, broken, with no voice And yet, they are precious persons.”

Three bishops responded to his reflections. Bishop David Andres Alvarez-Velazquez (Puerto Rico) outlined the beginning and end of L’Arche community and said the vision presented by Jean Vanier speaks to “our particular ministries: the vision presented by Jean Vanier.

Mr Vanier’s words about community challenged the Conference to adopt patterns of servant-leadership. “Servant-leadership” is not easy, he said. “Jesus is saying, ‘I want you to exercise your authority in love...in truth and forgiveness.’”

Explaning the biblical account of Jesus washing his disciple’s feet, Mr Vanier suggested that the bishops should expect the unexpected: “Jesus is always surprising us. He doesn’t like it when we fall into little habits.”

The ritual, he said, “was a gesture of communion” but also a lesson. “It’s teaching us how he wants us to exercise authority. Jesus is saying we must...serve each of others. Jesus came to transform the pyramid into a body.”

For bishops but also for all people because “each one of us exercises power in some way,” the ritual holds a powerful message that “we are called to walk the downward path, we are called to be small.”

The solemnity created by Mr Vanier’s measured words, occasional music of guitar, oboe and voice, and the soft lighting in the plenary halls set the stage for two concluding ceremonies of commitment and discipleship.

First, members of the congregation were invited to come forward to write on slips of paper any hindrances to their spiritual journeys. My pathed in prayer after depositing their paper slips, which were finally carried outside and ignited.

Bishop Carlos Lopez-Lozano, of the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church, said he was disappointed that so little Latin music was performed.

“It practically doesn’t exist in the liturgies,” he said. “We feel a little discriminated against...that our point of view as Latinos is not particularly understood. We haven’t as much influence in this conference as the North Americans and British.”

Bishop Julio Holguin-Khoury (Dominican Republic) said with a grin: “We are like Cinderella—we’re still in the kitchen.”

Bishop Holguin added that he was pleased with the contacts he has made with bishops from around the world, which he called “a blessing.” But he too, lamented the dearth of translators. “Most of life here is spent in small groups” where translators are available. In his Bible study he included six bishops from Africa and one from Canada in addition to himself and the accents were “very difficult” to understand, he said.

Bishop Hector Tito Zavala (Chile), attending his first Lambeth Conference, said he hopes Latin American bishops would be more involved in both the issues and planning of the Conference next time.

The bishops hope to initiate a call for a special millennium project during the Conference this week.
Despite its isolation, Mexico is resource to the world

Mexico’s Bishop Carranza thrives on big challenges

by Carol Barnwell

“I was taught how to pray at church... but I was able to talk to the Lord from the heart and the soul,” Bishop Sergio Carranza-Gomez says of his childhood in Mexico City.

Bishop Carranza was born 65 years ago, on April 13, and has been called an extension of his great-uncle, Bishop Ciriaco Carranza, who served from 1967-95. Carranza says: “He told me he was used to see the Lord and to pray to him. He also taught me about the poor and “those who have no hope.”

Throughout his life, Bishop Carranza has been involved in many ministries and has been a resource in Hispanic ministry for the Anglican Communion. It has sent Christian education teachers to the companion diocese of Texas to help with Hispanic work and offers summer programs and conferences in being Anglican within the Hispanic culture.

Although he joins other Spanish-speaking bishops in feeling sidelined by Africa at the Lambeth Conference, Bishop Carranza says he was “pleased and humbled to be part of the Bible study planning team.”

He says the Bible study was planned to prompt conversation as “Christians, as Anglicans then as bishops to share our stories in light of what St Paul says: ‘It’s Christ’s ministry which is shared with us. He uses our weakness to show His power and when we are weaker, we are stronger.”

Honorary doctorsates for N'andyal, Taiwan bishops

Bishop Gondi Theodore Abraham of N’andyal (South India) and Bishop John Chien of the Diocese of Taiwan (Episcopal Church, US) received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divine from the Virginia Theological Seminary during a special academic convocation July 27 in Canterbury Cathedral’s Crypt Chapel. Bishop Peter James Lee (Virgin. U.S.), chairman of the seminary’s board of trustees, presented the degrees consecrated in 1994, Bishop Gondi Abraham and spoude, Frederik S aktahun.

Abraham has shaped his ministry to place emphasis upon youth work, adding lay leadership, ecumenical relations and especially work with the poor and “those who have no helper,” seminarians say. Consecrated in 1998, Bishop Chien is known for his administrative abilities, patience, pastoral skills and visionary leadership, the seminary notes. As bishop he has expanded ordained and lay ministries and fostered theological education. —from staff reports

Celebration songs tomorrow

An international selection of recording artists will come together for a multicultural musical celebration tomorrow night at the Market Place. The event winds up Bishop Carranza’s programme of events.

The celebration will be held in the St. Columba Hall from 8.15pm, and features the Miserable Offenders, priest-troubadour Garth Ewitt, the Feast of Life Choir, and the Yesuvin Adimaahal Tamil ensemble.
There are 65 of them, but only 33 are pictured here. The rest were running errands, delivering messages, staffing the plenary halls and the Spouses' Village.

We need encouragement," said one, "we need support and assistance."

Another challenged the Church "to go where the people are—to the pubs, the schools and the streets." Ending the plenary, Bishop David Moxon (Wakato, New Zealand) challenged the bishops to "return to your dioceses resolved to meet personally with a group of young people, to listen to them, to ask them about their hopes and visions and the way they understand the world, to pray with them, to open the scriptures, and to break bread with them within six months of this Conference."

There is a very long dialogue between the papacy and the Pentecostal churches, from the 1970s onwards," Bishop Sykes added. "So the fact that we are taking this group very seriously means we are following the example of the papacy."

Virtually every part of the Communion has indicated significant challenges in dealing with these new churches, said Bishop French Chang-Him (Seychelles), chair of the subjection.

The fact that many of these churches have rejected the ecumenical movement makes the challenge even greater, Bishop Chang-Him added.

Questioned by reporters about the impact of the Conference's discussion on homosexuality for inter-church dialogue, Bishop Jabez Bryce (Polynesia), chair of Section Three, had an immediate and precise answer: "The section wants to make very clear that no province of the Anglican Communion has changed its standing on this matter.

"They still endorse the marriage between a man and a woman. They have not changed that at all and we want to reaffirm that in our section."