

### **The Body of Christ**

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;  
if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.”

*1 Corinthians 12:26*

## **1. OVERVIEW OF ANGLICAN ALLIANCE**

The Anglican Alliance serves to connect and equip the Anglican/Episcopal family of churches and agencies in their holistic mission in the world through development, relief and advocacy initiatives. It seeks a Kingdom vision of a world free of poverty, inequality and injustice, with humanity at peace, living sustainably within environmental limits.

The Anglican Alliance was set up after the 2008 Lambeth Conference, at the recommendation of the Bishops, as an initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion.

The Anglican Alliance’s vision is grounded in, and shaped by, our common understanding of God’s holistic mission and his special concern for the poor and vulnerable. We are called to participate in God’s mission. As a global Communion, this is distinctively expressed in the Anglican Five Marks of Mission. Participants in the Anglican Alliance serve together across the Communion to witness to Christ’s love for all, to respond to human need by loving service, to transform the unjust structures of society, to promote peace and reconciliation, and to safeguard creation. In this way it promotes “whole-life discipleship”.

## **2. ANGLICAN ALLIANCE AND INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP**

The Anglican Alliance is committed to this principle of “whole-life discipleship”. This entails the “intentional equipping of the baptized members to live out their faith with their gifts and skills in everyday life as Christ’s ambassadors”, “living as citizens of the Kingdom in this world.” (*Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making*, pp. 84-86) To be an intentional disciple is to commit to becoming an apprentice to Jesus: to strive to live a life that takes on the approach that he embodied and of which he spoke.

We belong to a Communion in which each of us has differing gifts – as well as needs. In such a world we can both receive and give, woven together in hope and creativity through God’s love. The Anglican Alliance sees this generous vision of shared mission and mutual interdependence lived out on a day-to-day basis throughout the Communion.

Whenever a place is affected by natural disaster or conflict, the local church responds immediately and courageously to humanitarian need, while others across the globe reach out to understand how best to offer support in prayer and action. The Alliance connects and strengthens the capacity of Anglican churches and agencies in the areas of development, relief and advocacy, sharing skills and resources, and working collectively to bear witness to the Gospel’s transformational power.

## **3. OUR JOURNEY SO FAR**

The Anglican Alliance is an initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion. The concept was first articulated by the Bishops from across the Communion at the 2008 Lambeth Conference, with a recommendation to establish a new mechanism for Anglicans to work together in

a concerted and coordinated way for development, relief and advocacy.

ACC 14 in Jamaica confirmed the vision, and, following a two year global consultation, the Anglican Alliance was launched in early 2011. The emerging role of the Alliance was confirmed at the ACC's gathering in November 2012 (ACC 15).

In 2016, ACC passed 'Resolution 16.12: Anglican Alliance':

*The Anglican Consultative Council -*

- a. *affirms the work of the Anglican Alliance in*
  - *promoting a Christian paradigm of relief and development that responds to God's holistic mission in the world and upholds a vision of human dignity, flourishing, interdependence and self-reliance; and*
  - *strengthening the connectivity and sharing of prayer, capacity, skills and resources for development, relief and advocacy through the Anglican/Episcopal family of churches, agencies and networks as part of their intentional discipleship.*
- b. *encourages the participation of all provinces of the Anglican Communion (and ACC members acting as a link, focal point and ambassador) in the activities of the Anglican Alliance, reaching the most remote and marginalised, by promoting two-way communication (through a variety of media and technology) of good news stories and models of good practice from around the Communion.*

This resolution from ACC 16 has continued to shape our work and we look forward to further discussion at ACC 17 to guide our forthcoming agenda.

In 2013 the Alliance was established as a charitable company, owned by the ACC Standing Committee, with a Board of Trustees and an Advisory Council drawn from across the Communion. Its Executive Director and small secretariat are based at the Anglican Communion Office in London. The Alliance has six Regional Facilitators based in Africa (at CAPA – the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa), East Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean. These Facilitators are supported by regional steering groups. The Anglican Alliance team works closely with other departments at the Anglican Communion Office in our shared role to serve and support the Anglican Communion as it responds to God's mission.

#### 4. OVERVIEW OF OUR WORK

The Anglican Alliance has three pillars of work to support the Communion within the context of the Anglican Marks of Mission:

- **Development** – identifying and communicating examples of good practice, sharing learning and expertise and building capacity for holistic mission and sustainable asset-based development.
- **Relief and Resilience** – providing a convening platform at times of humanitarian crisis for the local church to connect with agencies and churches across the Communion for prayer and practical support for the most vulnerable; building resilience through disaster preparedness and mitigation.
- **Advocacy** – connecting and resourcing Anglican leadership and groupings along with affected communities to speak out on advocacy issues; brokering wider coalitions.

Based on regional consultations and ACC resolutions, with guidance from our Board and Advisory Council, the Alliance has three global priorities in which it works to support Anglican churches and agencies worldwide. These priorities will be refreshed, through regional consultation and at ACC-17:

- **Responding to the most vulnerable:** working to end modern slavery & human trafficking; addressing issues of migrants, refugees and internally displaced peoples; supporting people affected by disasters and conflict and building resilience to disasters.
- **Promoting equality** – supporting the empowerment of women and youth, including sustainable livelihoods and asset based community development.

- **Building a just and sustainable world** – building commitment for the Sustainable Development Goals; advocating for climate justice, sharing strategies to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and to ensure food security.

## 5. HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016–2019: DEVELOPMENT

Before the Alliance there was no Communion-wide mechanism for sharing learning and building strategic responses. Different relief and development agencies promote valuable clusters of learning with their own partners, but the Anglican Alliance is able to engage right across the Communion to build collaboration, especially at the regional level. Building on the models of best practice within and beyond the Communion, the Alliance works to share skills, gather and generate technical and theological resources to support the work, and promote collaboration and external partnerships. Crucially, the Anglican Alliance is not an agency funding programmes on the ground. It adds value by building and sharing capacity. Here are some examples of our work in key areas since 2016:

**Local Church and Community Transformation (CCT):** This inspirational cluster of community development approaches promotes holistic and integral mission, enabling local churches to reflect on the Bible and on God's calling for them to work with their communities, using their shared assets to foster human well-being. These processes unlock local potential and reverse aid dependency. It has become a distinctive mission approach of churches and agencies in many parts of the Communion and represents a central area of shared learning through the Alliance. We have accompanied CAPA in its regional initiative on CCT (Umoja) since 2011 drawing in other agencies. In 2017 the Alliance organised an inter-regional visit to the Episcopal Church of the Philippines to study their asset based community development (ABCD). In July 2019 we will convene a meeting for practitioners from East and South Asia, hosted by the Church in Myanmar, to compare learning from these approaches. The Anglican Alliance connects with the range of mission and development agencies involved in these asset-based approaches, including the Mothers' Union, which has adapted the concepts for its global MULO consultation. The Anglican Alliance also promotes this approach with local churches in Europe responding to refugees and migrants, bringing in the expertise of Episcopal Migration Ministries.

**Tackling human trafficking/modern slavery:** We have developed a distinctive approach for churches to promote safe migration and tackle human trafficking. Since 2016, the Alliance has convened regional consultations in Africa (twice), Latin America, South Asia and East Asia and has given technical support to training in the Church in Canada and the Diocese of Jerusalem. The aim is to raise awareness and build capacity and regional networks. The Alliance has a strong partnership with the Salvation Army and Caritas International and convenes the regional consultations ecumenically. This initiative shows how the Alliance can serve as a global catalyst, connector and capacity builder on thematic areas. We have helped to set up a research initiative to study the effectiveness of this work by local faith communities. Agencies and academic institutions from the UK, US and Asia are involved in this Joint Learning Initiative. We have also worked with the Church of England Clewer Initiative and others to create the Freedom Sunday resources.

**Agents of Change study programme:** In 2017 we completed a major revision of the Agents of Change learning materials to align the materials with biblical resources and asset-based approaches. This study programme comprises eight modules on skills for faith-based community development, including issues of inclusion, consultation, safeguarding and project management. It is free to access for all Anglicans. In 2017 and 2018 the Alliance conducted introductory workshops in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Vanuatu, with further roll out in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, with cadres of students graduating in each place. The Pacific churches are adopting Agents of Change as a training tool for clergy, lay and youth leaders.

**Sport for Peace and Development:** Following the Vatican conference, 'Sport in the Service of Humanity', in 2018 the Alliance piloted a six-day workshop in Rwanda on Football for Peace and Development with Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. This gathering included 30 young church leaders working in relevant contexts in Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda.

## 6. HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016–2019: RELIEF AND RESILIENCE

Before the Anglican Alliance came into being, there was no global coordination in bringing support and prayer for national churches at times of humanitarian disaster. Offers of support and requests for funding proposals would come from many sides, and the local church would often be overwhelmed by the demands for proposals and stories. Now the Anglican Alliance connects with churches immediately the crisis hits. It communicates their calls for prayer and support to the Communion and convenes conference calls with a committed group of partner agencies for coordinated support, as required. Increasingly the Alliance is promoting a resilience approach, working with agencies to help build the capacity of dioceses and provinces to prepare for and manage disasters and mitigate their impact. Some examples of responses in 2016-2019 include:

- **South Sudan:** We continue to convene this protracted relief response, working with SSUDRA, with a focus on humanitarian relief, a cash transfer approach and some recovery activities. The Provinces' sustained and impressive humanitarian response has provided lessons on how the Alliance can offer effective support. We promoted their work on girls' education in emergencies.
- **West Africa:** We worked with several agencies to assist with the major response to the Ebola crisis. We later convened a roundtable to distil learning from the churches' interventions.
- **DRC:** The Primate and Bishops worked with the Alliance developing a staged response, supported by Anglican agencies, assisting dioceses affected by conflict. We also shared the learning from West Africa on responding to Ebola outbreaks.
- **Refugees/IDPs in Great Lakes:** We worked with dioceses receiving refugees and IDPs in the Great Lakes, including in Uganda and Congo, to assist refugees from South Sudan and IDPs within DRC, and in Tanzania supporting Burundian refugees.
- **Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Malawi:** Climate change has brought both drought and floods to these countries. We visited Tanzania to learn more about the approaches trialled by the Province, including seed banks and grain banks. We worked closely with the dioceses in Malawi and Zimbabwe, coordinating some support for food assistance for the most vulnerable.
- **Caribbean:** We coordinated the Communion's support to the affected dioceses after the 2017 hurricanes. In early 2019 we held a regional training in disaster preparedness and resilience.
- **Peru and Colombia:** We helped bring prayer focus and support for these dioceses following floods and landslides. The solidarity with Peru was poignant, since it was the Bishop of Peru who first advocated for the Anglican Alliance back at Lambeth 2008.
- **Vanuatu:** We highlighted support needed for help for those displaced by volcanic activity.
- **Madagascar:** We worked closely with the new Primate and three dioceses after the cyclone. Small support for the response led to a larger programme of work on building resilience.
- **Gaza:** We mounted an appeal for Al Ahli Hospital following an upsurge in casualties in Gaza.
- **Refugees in Europe:** In 2016 we supported a continent-wide survey of local church responses to refugees. We helped convene a major conference in Cologne, Germany for the Diocese in Europe, with representatives from the Episcopal Convocation in Europe, churches in England, Wales, the Middle East and the US and ecumenical partners to discuss church action with refugees. We support on-going information exchange in Europe as well as in the Middle East.
- **Other areas:** The Alliance monitors the news and Relief Web to check for emergency situations so it can be immediately in touch to offer prayer and solidarity on behalf of the Communion.
- **Disaster risk reduction, resilience, preparedness and management skills:** Training in these areas can significantly mitigate impact and promote effectiveness of a rapid response. The Alliance helped to set up a global meeting on this issue in Zimbabwe in 2018. It has also supported learning from the Church of Ceylon with its strong disaster preparedness work.
- **Surge Response:** Working closely with the Communion agencies, we are currently piloting a "Partners in Response" initiative in East Africa and the Pacific to test how technical support from within the region can be deployed to dioceses during the early, critical phase of a disaster.
- **Reconciliation:** We liaise with colleagues at Lambeth Palace who lead on the reconciliation activities, which often operate side-by-side with our relief work.

## 7. HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016–2019: ADVOCACY

The Alliance does not undertake advocacy work itself, but rather works to help equip and connect the voices in the Communion, both leaders and those in communities most directly impacted by the issues. Before the Anglican Alliance, there were different advocacy campaigns, usually catalysed by individual Primates or by Communion Networks - such as the Environment, Justice and Peace, and Women's and Family Networks. The Anglican Alliance seeks to uphold and sustain those initiatives and build capacity and connections with external actors to enhance their impact. Our work includes:

**Helping connect Climate Justice advocacy:** There is a range of advocacy and awareness raising initiatives in the Communion focusing on climate justice. These speak into the Communion and out from the Communion into governments and society. These initiatives include the Anglican Communion Environment Network's promotion of the Season of Creation and the carbon / plastic fast for Lent with Green Anglicans, the Eco-Bishops' statements, as well as numerous provincial level activities. The Anglican Alliance works with colleagues at the Anglican Communion Office, Lambeth Palace and key groups in the Communion, aiming to synergise these initiatives and connect with wider Christian campaigns, including Renew our World.

**Sustainable Development Goals:** This strategic work is developed in collaboration with the Anglican UN Representative. We are developing theological resources and Bible studies linking the SDGs to the Anglican Marks of Mission, as requested by the Primates' Meeting. Later in 2019 we are convening a global meeting of theologians and practitioners to develop these materials, in partnership with the Ujaama Centre at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal in South Africa. We have also supported work on theology and development in Mozambique and with the Asia Theological Academy.

**Ecumenical collaboration:** We participate in annual ecumenical meetings of the heads of denominational relief and development agencies. This has strengthened relations and built platforms for collaboration on relief work, but also on joint advocacy and policy work on migrant and refugee issues. Along with our Anglican UN colleagues, we have worked ecumenically on advocacy around the UN's Global Compacts on Migration and on Refugees. In 2018 the Alliance spoke on an inter-faith panel on the UN Migration Compact, hosted by Caritas Internationalis and the Holy See Mission to the UN, at the United Nations building in New York.

## 8. OUR CONNECTING AND CONVENING ROLE

The Alliance's global mandate provides a convening role in the Communion. As set out in ACC Resolution 16: 12, communication is at the heart of our role, sharing the good news of faith in action. Through our convening role, the Anglican Alliance enables linkages and gatherings across the Communion to encourage and inspire one another and deepen shared commitment to holistic mission. It offers a forum for the churches and agencies to share technical expertise on relief, development and advocacy and to plan joint action. The regional facilitators are central to this connecting function, as they gather regional groupings to guide and support collaborative work.

## 9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The achievements of the Anglican Alliance truly reflects the profound contributions of all those in churches and agencies around the Communion who participate in its activities. The past three years have seen the Anglican Alliance work collaboratively to flesh out its role and mandate. Launched in 2011, the Anglican Alliance is now widely recognised as a platform for deepening and connecting the holistic mission of the churches across the Communion, sharing their models of whole-life discipleship. As this report shows, the past three years have been intense and demanding for the Alliance team. The level of humanitarian crises has risen significantly as communities face the impact of natural disasters, climate change and conflict – and sometimes all three. But at the same time the

generosity and vision of the churches to come together to assist those in need, to promote sustainable development and to advocate for justice is a source of endless inspiration and hope.

These shared actions in the world are living signs of *koinonia* - the New Testament vision of mutual sharing and caring, of fellowship, of being in relationship for the common good of the people of God – a visible expression of what it means to be Church.

The coming years present great opportunities for the Anglican Alliance to support the holistic mission of the Communion's provinces and agencies, as they reflect a Kingdom vision, responding to human need, challenging unjust structures and promoting sustainable development in harmony with creation. We seek the guidance of ACC 17 in refining our priorities and invite ACC to:

- **Affirm the mandate of the Anglican Alliance in connecting and equipping the Anglican/Episcopal family of churches, agencies and networks in their holistic mission and intentional discipleship, by sharing prayer, capacity, skills and resources for development, relief and advocacy.**
- **Highlight emerging issues of priority concern for the Alliance's next five year strategic plan.**
- **Commend and communicate our role within provinces and in regional contexts for shared learning.**
- **Mandate the development of an ACC strategy on the Sustainable Develop Goals, to guide Communion-wide engagement on the Goals – both advocacy and implementation - from 2020 to the 2030 target date.**

Thank you for your attention and encouragement. We look forward to hearing your views at ACC 17.

Revd Rachel Carnegie, Executive Director, and the Anglican Alliance team