

Education for Discipleship in a COVID World

'Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them.'

Luke 24. 27-9
(NRSV)

For more information on TEAC go to <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/theology/theological-education.aspx>

Jolyon Tricky, Education for Discipleship Co-ordinator

The Church in Zambia has faced the same Covid-19 challenges as other churches across the world, with buildings closed and gatherings restricted. Revd Canon Robert Sihubwa in Lusaka writes that they have learned 'that investment in Discipleship brings a lot of strength to the church to withstand times of difficulties. We have been rolling out Discipleship by conducting sessions with small groups that in turn go on to conduct sessions with smaller groups in their congregations. Investment in small group ministry is to be promoted and is also user-friendly in the new normal'. As communities are sorely tested the value and potential of small regular gatherings for learning, training and mutual support have become clearer (where these are possible, physically or online). They shine a bright light!

Another recent experience also speaks into our new reality, this time in Sudan. Revd Dr Andy Wheeler, a life-long educator with much experience in TEE, is helping to strengthen the 50 year old

Shokhai Bible Training Institute in Omdurman in Sudan. He and the Principal, Simon Kodi, toured Eastern Sudan together. Andy writes how 'We were amazed to find that in a number of places small groups using TEE for discipleship and training were still doing so 30-40 years after they were set up. They had continued for many years without outside support and were truly self-sustaining!'

Seminaries for the whole Church

These two stories, coming out of the Anglican Communion's Season of Intentional Discipleship, address some of the challenges for theological education mentioned in this Bulletin a year ago. One of these was *how to make the theological resources of our training institutions directly available to the whole people of God?*

World-wide responses to Covid-19 have required us to find new ways to train and engage people without gathering in large groups. These have highlighted the cost and complexities of residential training. In adversity the creative Spirit of God has moved us rapidly into

Feedback on 'What do Anglicans Believe?'

See back page

'The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.'

Ephesians 4.11-13 (NRSV)

making much of our teaching and training accessible remotely. We are learning how to do this well and tackling limitations. Yet we have discovered that there are advantages and new possibilities: more people, locally, nationally and internationally are interested in and able to participate, gaining from the storehouse of insight and learning in our theological institutions and staff.

Yet it is not only ordinands and theology students who need to be formed and resourced but rather the whole people of God: local lay and ordained church leaders; lay leaders in business and politics; evangelists and catechists; small group leaders and ordinary Christians seeking to live a Jesus-shaped life.

Is the Spirit of God calling us as theological educators and institutions to new models of training and a new understanding of our role that is more rooted in service of the local Church? Leadership, wisdom, creativity and courage will be needed if we are to embrace these changes, yet those whom the Lord calls he also equips!

Discipleship for all

Another challenge for theological education mentioned a year ago is *how to better equip our students with the tools and skills to disciple and empower the whole people of God for a whole-life discipleship?*

As gathering for worship and teaching has been constrained in recent months (and is likely to remain so), we can recognise that we may have focussed too much and too long upon the *gathered* Church rather than the *scattered* Church. We are also the Church when we are scattered at home or at work or when we meet in a small group. Maybe a dependency has been

exposed and the importance of every Christian taking responsibility for their own discipleship and walk with God has been highlighted. And the primary task of Church Leaders is laid bare: to equip the saints (Ephesians 4.11-13) to live out their faith at home, in their community and in their work.

Theological Education by Extension

As Andy Wheeler's story indicates, TEE has a proven record, world-wide, of training local people and offering effective materials that form disciples and develop Christian leaders.

TEE therefore offers a powerful, complimentary model and strategy through which any theological institution might multiply its ministry and impact, a wonderful tool in the hands of every future leader.

Might the Spirit of God be calling our training institutions to intentionally invest in TEE, train our students in its values and thus disciple and theologically equip the whole people of God?

As we all reflect on this we also need to tackle two other challenges mentioned last year, namely how to integrate study of the Intentional Discipleship Report* into training programmes, and how to increase focus upon deep formation of students as Jesus-Shaped People, adapting forms of assessment to recognise and affirm this.

The Church Divinity School of the Pacific, for example, have re-framed their training to address the first of these (<https://cdsp.edu/>), and some good work on the second can be found at the following website: www.increaseassociation.org/resources/impact-assessment

*www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/intentional-discipleship.aspx

Towards a Symphony of Instruments

What kind of body is the Anglican Communion? How do its constituent parts relate to each other? What is the role of the Archbishop of Canterbury? What place does the Lambeth Conference, the Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates' Meeting have within it? *Towards a Symphony of Instruments* (2015) answers these questions, looking at the various official structures that facilitate the common life of the Communion, called the 'Instruments of Communion'. As the paper says, such polity 'is a proper concern of the Church, deserving of its best study and reflection.'(1.14) This paper provides excellent instruction for students on all this :

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/209979/Towards-a-Symphony-of-Instruments-Web-Version.pdf>

Portuguese and Spanish translation now available from <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/theology/theological-education/theological-education-resources.aspx>

Books on Anglicanism

For a guide to books on **Anglican History** by Dr Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, and a reading list of books on **Anglican ecclesiology** by Prof. Paul Avis, go to the same web page.

Essay Competition

Here is information about a WCC essay competition for young people on the theme 'The future of interreligious dialogue'. Please pass this on to your students: <https://www.oikoumene.org/news/wcc-announces-essay-competition-for-youth-the-future-of-interreligious-dialogue>

Consultations on Theological Education 2021

Principals, Deans, Directors and academic staff are invited to three international consultations of two hours each on Zoom, with key note speakers and discussion:

1. 'Collaboration between Seminaries and Church-based Theological Education - Opportunities and Challenges'

with **Yak-hwee Tan, Tim Green** and **Bishop Umberto of Brazil**

- **February 23rd** for Western zones - 3pm GMT/12pm Brasilia/8am San Francisco
To register go to <https://bit.ly/35M8yTb>
- **February 25th** for Eastern time zones – 8am GMT/11am Nairobi/13.30 Delhi/7pm Sydney.
To register go to <https://bit.ly/31XG4V8>

2. 'Learning and Teaching Online - Opportunities and Challenges'

- **April 20th** for American time zones - 4pm BST/12pm Brasilia/8am San Francisco;
Register: <https://bit.ly/36yoQ2f>
- **April 22nd** for African/Asian time zones – 8am BST/10am Nairobi/12.30pm Delhi/6pm Sydney Register: <https://bit.ly/2IAyHw2>

3. 'The Curriculum in Theological Education - What is needed?'

- **May 25th** for American time zones - 3pm BST/11am Brasilia/8am San Francisco
Register: <https://bit.ly/2UomBc7>
- **May 27th** for African and Asian time zones – 8am BST/10am Nairobi/12.30pm Delhi/6pm Sydney Register: <https://bit.ly/3lG0rOs>

Interpretation available (Spanish, Portuguese and French for American time zones, and Portuguese and French for African and Asian time zones).

Aims: To produce guidelines for future working and alignment of institutions with diocesan church-based training across the Communion, to be published on the Anglican Communion website and in the TEAC Resources Bulletin.

What Do Anglicans Believe?

Some Feedback on TEAC's new study guide

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/theology/theological-education/theological-education-resources.aspx>

Bishop Philip D. Baji, Dean, School of Theology and Religious Studies, St John's University of Tanzania:

I write to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the very valuable document about Anglicanism... and for being able to use it freely and to pass it on to others as well. I hope more information will continue to be produced to make the Anglican Church known more clearly worldwide.

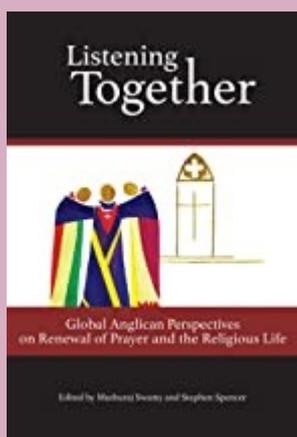
Rt Revd Jaona Ranarivelo, Bishop of Antananarivo, Madagascar: Thank for this important document. It will be a great resource and blessing for our Anglican community facing many challenges today.

Rev Eduardo Chinchilla, Chair of the Latin American and the Caribbean Commission for Theological Education and from Diocese of Costa Rica: I have several observations:

- I like very much the use of the method of see-judge-act, this method makes us confront our reflection of faith from reality and illuminate reality with faith itself, inviting us to action to transform our environment.

- I am very pleased with the ecumenical spirit in quoting the World Council of Churches and the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission (ARCIC), the International Anglican-Orthodox-Eastern Commission, that maintains the ecumenical vocation in which the whole church and especially its ministers must be formed.

- It has a very clear and didactic language that is extremely easy to approach.



Paperback published September 2020:

Listening Together: Global Anglican Perspectives on the Renewal of Prayer and the Religious Life. Edited by Muthuraj Swamy and Stephen Spencer. The third in the 'Preparing for Lambeth' series, published by Forward Movement, available from **Amazon.co.uk £11.41** (\$15 paperback from Amazon.com; Kindle \$7.99)

Also available from Amazon.com

Walking Together: Global Anglican Perspectives on Reconciliation

Witnessing Together: Global Anglican Perspectives on Evangelism

Kindle \$5.21

TEAC Resources Bulletin

in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese

July 2019

Introducing TEAC

November 2019

Education for Discipleship

March 2020

Reading the Bible in Context

June 2020

Studying Anglican Doctrine

Available at

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/theology/theological-education.aspx>

Contact the TEAC Team

Stephen Spencer, Director for TEAC, based at the Anglican Communion Office in London,

stephen.spencer@anglicancommunion.org

Paulo Ueti, Assistant Director for Lusophone, Francophone and Spanish speaking regions, based in Brazil

paulo.ueti@anglicancommunion.org

Jolyon Trickey, Education for Discipleship Co-ordinator, at the Anglican Communion Office in London

jolyon.trickey@anglicancommunion.org

Muthuraj Swamy, Project Manager for Theological Education for Mission, based at the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, UK

Muthuraj.Swamy@anglicancommunion.org