

# Vol. 9, No. 4 - 5 May 2015

## ***News from Our Anglican World***

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"America, my friends, is the only country in the world actually founded on liberty -- the only one. People went to America to be free." ~ Margaret Thatcher, British Prime Minister

"God is lavish with his self-giving love. When God acts on the large scale, he takes care of smaller human concerns as well." ~ Bishop N. T. Wright, Theologian and Professor, St. Andrews University.

"Union with Christ is a unique emphasis among the world's religions. No other religion offers its adherents a personal union with its founder. The Buddhist does not claim to know the Buddha,

nor the Confucians Confucius, nor the Muslim Muhammad, nor the Marxist Karl Marx. But the Christian does claim -- humbly, I hope, but nevertheless confidently -- to know Jesus Christ." --- John R.W. Stott

"Heaven is God's sphere of created reality, which as the Lord's Prayer suggests will one day colonize our earth. What matters is that the kingdom of God is bringing the values and priorities of God himself to bear on the greed and anxiety of the world." ~ Bishop N. T. Wright, Theologian and Professor, St. Andrews University.

Two important ACNA meetings took place in the past few days which emphasize the ACNA's interest in, 1) the importance of ecumenical activities, and, 2) issues of race, systemic injustice, and our mission to reach all of North America, including African American communities.

## **Diocese of South Carolina and the Anglican Church in North America Meet**

Leaders from the Diocese of South Carolina, which dissociated from the Episcopal Church in the fall of 2012, and the Anglican Church in North America came together on April 28-29, 2015 for prayer, fellowship, and conversation.

The Diocese of South Carolina was represented by its leader, Bishop Mark Lawrence and the ACNA, by Archbishop Foley Beach, and among other clergy, our own Bishop Sutton. The DoSC, with more than 23,000 members and the ACNA with more than 120,000 members held frank exchanges that examined the possible compatibility of the doctrines the two churches. There is a wide spectrum of polities in the provinces of the Anglican Communion and these differences affect the ways in which dioceses relate to their respective provinces.

The conversations began exploring the practical dimensions of how a diocese and province relate in the structure of the ACNA. Also discussed were the challenges posed by the overlapping Anglican jurisdictions in South Carolina.

All expressed a desire to take steps towards addressing these relational barriers with the recognition that this work is necessary and the parties committed to further prayer and conversation together to seek to share the Gospel as fellow Anglicans in North America. It

is understood that this is only the beginning of a process, the full nature of which, and the full outcome of which, is not known. The parties agreed that the outcome of the discussions be entrusted to the mercy, protection, and guidance of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## **A Conversation on Race and Mission Among African Americans**

In November of this past year, the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri became a further catalyst for ongoing conversations about race across the United States and within the Anglican Church in North America. In response, Archbishop Foley Beach called together leaders from around the Church to discuss issues of race, systemic injustice, and our mission to reach all of North America with the transforming love of Jesus Christ, recognizing that this must include a deeper level of engagement with and among African American communities.

In January, The Rt. Rev. Alphonza Gadsden, Bishop Ordinary of the predominantly African-American REC Diocese of the Southeast, graciously offered to host this dialogue at one of his parishes in Charleston, South Carolina.

Following are excerpts from the ACNA press release, “At that time, we never could have anticipated that the unrest in Baltimore would unfold during the days of our gathering. The leaders of one of our newest church plants, Church of the Apostles in the City, Baltimore, MD were with us for this dialogue. Throughout the day their cell phones rang with firsthand accounts from family members who were the victims of this violence.

We had the opportunity to join them in prayer, interceding for the safety of the police officers, the citizens of Baltimore, and the perpetrators of violence. We have been encouraged by the witness of Baltimore’s clergy who took to the streets in an effort to end the violence that was destroying their communities.”

The discussions in Charleston began with a frank assessment of the current challenges facing the ACNA in our mission with and among African Americans, recognizing the critical changes needed to remain in step with the Holy Spirit in light of the shifting demographics of North America.

“This week we have taken the first steps in addressing as a Province, the need for the intentional inclusion and growth of the African American community in our midst. To this end we:

1. Ask each congregation to pray and work for racial reconciliation in their community,
2. Intend to develop a Provincial team to lead our multiethnic ministries and we encourage the development of regional networks to support those who are called to multiethnic church planting, evangelism, and discipleship,
3. Invite dioceses and parishes to consider how they might actively develop more effective multiethnic leadership pipelines,
4. Invite dioceses and parishes to make a financial commitment to supporting multiethnic leadership.

We invite all who love the Lord Jesus Christ to join us in moving the conversations in our communities forward, so that together, having cleared a foundation, we can build a common future that brings glory to God.”

Significantly, both ACNA Archbishop Beach and Diocese of South Carolina Bishop Mark Lawrence were in attendance. Please pray for the success of this endeavor.

Blessings,

Rudy Schenken

Parish Administrator

Pro Cathedral Church of the Holy Communion

Dallas, Texas

Source: ACNA Press Releases