

HOW TO USE THESE STUDY GUIDES IN PREPARING FOR THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE

A 'Lambeth Call' is what the Bishops of the Anglican Communion at the Lambeth Conference 2022 will want to say about a key issue for the Church and world. It includes specific calls which others will be invited to take up and act upon.

- As you read through the calls and study notes, do you recognise what is being said, especially what is being proposed in the Affirmation section?
- Could you support it at the Lambeth Conference?
- Can you see ways in which the Specific Requests (the Calls) can be put into practice in your province or diocese and, if so, how? If not, why not?
- There will be opportunities during the conference to share your answers to these questions before the conference decides on whether to adopt or adapt the Call.

LAMBETH CALL: MISSION AND EVANGELISM

All Christians are called to share their faith and give an account of the hope that is within them. Evangelism is the proclamation of our faith. All our mission and evangelism begin with the mission of God. As Anglicans we have a gift to share with those in our context and culture. God loves us and it matters that we share that love and therefore that message with others.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 As those called to serve Christ in episcopal ministry in the Anglican church we rejoice to announce this call for Evangelism.
- 1.2 The people of God are chosen, set apart, equipped, and sent for into God's world *'that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light'* [1 Peter 2: 9]. For we who are recipients of God's great mercy in Christ, we who have been given *'new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead'*, we who have an *'inheritance that can never spoil or perish'*, have been filled by the Holy Spirit *'sent from heaven'* who turns us from serving ourselves to announce the beautiful gospel – which angels have longed to look at – to all. Our unity of spirit, our lives lived in response to the grace that is ours, our suffering, our commitments, service, hospitality and hope are lived that all may glorify God who comes as judge of all people.

2 Declaration

- 2.1 Every church across the Anglican Communion joyfully shares this vocation to declare the good news of God's salvation of the world in Christ Jesus. Our first mark of mission commits us:
- 2.2 To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
- 2.3 Evangelism is the proclamation of the gospel of the one who was dead but is now alive – Christ Jesus and the Kingdom of God he inaugurates. Empowered by the Holy Spirit every Christian is a witness to Jesus Christ.
- 2.4 *Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you;¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence [1 Peter 3: 14-16]*
- 2.5 All of our mission and evangelism begins with the mission of God; God is the great missionary who chooses in creating and redeeming love to be for us. Christ Jesus is the great evangelist who, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is working constantly, faithfully and radically to draw all people to himself. Pope Francis states; *'it is first and foremost the Lord's work.'* Empowered by His Holy Spirit, He calls his people to work with him, as his agents of the good news.
- 2.6 Every church in our Communion has its origin in the mission of God. In 597 St Augustine arrived in Canterbury, sent by Pope Gregory the Great, to herald the good news. Our Communion is testament to the vocation and power of the good news of Christ in every country and culture. Each church was first established because God sent someone to proclaim the good news of Christ and, through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, the church was formed in response.

2.7 As those called to oversight, we are those charged with leading the mission of the church; we are an apostolic sign of Christ's commission to preach the Gospel to the entire world.

3 Affirmation

3.1 Before God, it is our firmest conviction that throughout God's world the need has never been as obvious, as necessary and as crucial that all whom God has made to hear of who God has revealed himself to be in Christ, and the salvation God has won for all. The good news of grace and mercy, of forgiveness and repentance, of presence and belonging, of reconciliation and stewardship, of hope and eternity is a message which the world is dying without hearing. But it is to this fallen world that the gospel is addressed. "God loves human beings. God loves the world. Not an ideal human, but human beings as they are; not an ideal world, but the real world" [Bonhoeffer]. Because of God's great love it matters that people have never heard the good news in a way they might understand and respond to. God's work in Christ is for all, God's call is on every person's life.

4 Lambeth calls – specific requests

- 4.1 Each province, each diocese and every church to seek fervently to be renewed by the wonder and power of good news of Christ.
- 4.2 Each province, each diocese and every church commit to prayer, listening and discernment, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to discern how to bear faithful witness to Christ and authentically proclaim the gospel. Praying for the Holy Spirit to work in hearts and minds that the message of the gospel would be received and bear fruit.
- 4.3 In obedience to Christ's every single church and worshipping community commits themselves to actions which purposefully present the good news of Christ so that all might hear the call of Christ and follow Him.
- 4.4 Every Christian joyfully understands themselves to be a witness of and to Jesus Christ. And pray that through their witness each one might see one person come to faith in one year.
- 4.5 That we pray for each other in this ministry. We commit to listen to, to learn from and find encouragement together in this call.
- 4.6 For Bishops to be equipped and enabled to lead in evangelism. Following the apostolic example we are to lead God's church in God's world in bold proclamation.
- 4.7 For the role and gifts of evangelists to be cherished, trained and sent.
- 4.8 For a new commitment to church planting, creatively and sacrificially bearing the gospel.
- 4.9 For the churches that are persecuted to be supported in every possible way, that they may be given grace to withstand the suffering and stay faithful.

