



Pastoral Statement

From the Bishops of the Convocation of Anglicans in North America

March 19, 2015

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our coming King.

The bishops of the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA) have concluded a very successful working episcopal retreat in McLean, Virginia. The retreat was led by CANA's Missionary Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Julian M. Dobbs at the CANA Headquarters in McLean, Virginia. In attendance were: The Rt. Rev. Julian and Mrs. Brenda Dobbs, The Rt. Rev. Amos Fagbamiye, The Rt. Rev. Derek Jones, The Rt. Rev. David and Mrs. Mary Ellen Bena and The Rt. Rev. Felix Orji (who participated via video link from El Paso, Texas).

The bishops were honored to welcome The Most Rev. Michael Akinyemi, Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Kwara and The Most Rev. Ignatius Kattey, Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Niger Delta from the Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion].

The CANA bishops spent time in worship and prayer as they considered their call to servant leadership in the Church of God.

At the conclusion of their retreat, the bishops issued the following statement:

Bible Study

In their bible study together, the bishops spent time considering passages from the second letter of the Apostle Paul to Timothy, reflecting upon the gospel of God, the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit, preaching the word of God and the sovereignty of God in times of trial and suffering. The bishops discussed the divine charge found in 2nd Timothy chapter 4 and the priority of preaching from the pulpit of CANA congregations.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; prove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

The Mission of the Convocation of Anglicans in North America

2015 marks the tenth anniversary of the legal incorporation of CANA as an Anglican missionary jurisdiction in the United States. CANA was missionary at its founding in 2005 and she is still missionary today. The Convocation exists not only as a jurisdiction for the 120 congregations and 450



clergy and chaplains who serve as members, CANA exists as a missionary movement called by Almighty God to replant biblical missionary Anglican Christianity across North America. The bishops affirmed this missionary gospel vision is the mission to which CANA has been called by Almighty God for such a time as this.

The Anglican Church in North America

The CANA bishops, as members of the ACNA College of Bishops, renewed their commitment to, and prayerful support of, The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach, Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church in North America. They were especially pleased to receive a report of the warm and significant welcome that Dr. Beach was given when visiting Nigeria for the General Synod of the Church of Nigeria in September 2014.

CANA is honored to be one of the founding jurisdictions of the Anglican Church in North America. The bishops committed to pray daily for the mission of this new province and discussed ways in which CANA dioceses and congregations can support and strengthen the mission of the Anglican Church in North America. The bishops agreed that our best efforts will continue to maintain the highest possible level of mutual concern and cooperation in the deployment of missional strategies that will serve the growth of the gospel and clearly demonstrate mutual respect and partnership with other dioceses of the Anglican Church in North America.

The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion]

The CANA Bishops expressed their grateful thanks to the Primate of all Nigeria, The Most Rev. Nicholas D. Okoh for his courageous and biblical leadership of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) and his faithful witness to the 'gospel once for all entrusted to the saints' within the global Anglican Communion.

The bishops discussed the ecclesiastical relationship between CANA and the Church of Nigeria and expressed their full and united support for the continuance of this relationship as outlined in the protocol of 2013.

The bishops expressed their concern over the religious tension across Nigeria and the loss of life and property perpetrated by the Islamist terrorist group, Boko Haram and called for prayerful engagement on behalf of Christians in Nigeria and everyone whose life and livelihood have been or are being devastated by the attacks of Boko Haram.

Continued



CANA Governance and Religious Freedom

The bishops were pleased to welcome Scott J. Ward, Esquire who faithfully and humbly serves as Chancellor of the Convocation. Chancellor Ward updated the bishops on recent amendments to the CANA By-Laws and noted the changes to the structure of the CANA Council and membership of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees will now be represented by the diocesan bishops of CANA and an elected lay representative from each diocese: The Missionary Diocese of the Trinity, CANA East, CANA West and Anglican Chaplains. Chancellor Ward also briefed the bishops regarding matters of religious freedom given recent legal situations and changes in society.

Conclusion

The CANA bishops called upon all the Faithful in Christ to resolutely serve the Lord and His Church with humility and dedication and to be faithful witnesses in all aspects of their lives to Christ crucified, risen and coming again.

Bishop Julian Dobbs reaffirmed CANA is a missionary jurisdiction and that CANA's core ministry is to declare the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit, resulting in transformed lives through conversion to faith in Christ.

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

2nd Timothy chapter 1, verses 8, 9