

Diocesan Gafcon Mission Partnership Application

Introduction

The Anglican Communion is a wonderful gift of God which brings together Christians together from many different nations and cultures to share together in the great task of fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19). Sadly, the witness of our beloved Communion has been distorted by some leaders and Provinces adopting teaching and practices, especially in the area of marriage and sexuality, which are a fundamental rejection of biblical authority and apostolic faith.

In this context, Gafcon has a crucial role in restoring the integrity of Anglican witness and discipleship. The Jerusalem Statement and Declaration of 2008 provides an assured doctrinal foundation, faithful Anglicans who are unable to continue in compromised Churches are kept within the Communion and global fellowship can be maintained without endorsing those who have departed from the faith.

Gafcon's five yearly assemblies have all been occasions of great joy and encouragement as Anglicans around the world have experienced the love of God and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in a fresh way as they have shared in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. But we do not want this rich experience of spiritual friendship and shared mission to be limited to such occasions. Modern technology and international travel have opened up new opportunities for cross-cultural partnerships that stimulate mission, discipleship and development in new ways.

In summary a Gafcon parish or diocesan link includes the following:

- Visits to enable face to face meetings to build friendship and understanding
- Sustaining face to face meetings through electronic communication and social media
- Praying regularly for each other
- Mutual encouragement
- Mutual sharing of gifts including, but not limited to, financial support where appropriate
- A link to the Gafcon Global Mission Partnership Network which seeks to empower every believer to share the gospel and to stimulate reciprocal mission

This form enables a diocesan bishop to set out key information so that the Gafcon Secretariat can match up dioceses and parishes seeking to form mission partnerships. Please use additional sheets of paper if necessary.

Diocesan Information

Name of Diocese:

Province:

Bishop

Name:

Contact details:

Attended a Gafcon conference Yes/No

Attended the Gafcon Bishops Training Institute Yes/No

(Please also include the same details for any Assistant Bishops)

Diocesan Secretary

Name:

Contact Details:

Mothers Union President

Name:

Contact Details:

a) Brief Description of the Diocese's history:

b) Facts and Figures

i. Geographical area:

ii. Number of clergy:

iii. Number of evangelists and Lay Readers:

iv. Average Sunday attendance:

- c) What theological training resources are available to you for:
- i. Ordination candidates
 - ii. Clergy
 - iii. Laity
- d) What specific ministries do the diocese have to reach and disciple:
- i. Men
 - ii. Women
 - iii. Children and Youth
- e) Does the Diocese run any development projects (e.g. microfinance, health training/awareness)?
- f) What are your priorities for the next five years?
- g) What are the main challenges you face?

h) How do you hope an international mission partnership would strengthen mission and discipleship in your diocese?

i) Briefly describe any existing international Anglican or other partnerships

j) Is it the policy of your diocese to ordain women to the priesthood? *(Gafcon does not take an official position on this question, but it is helpful to link dioceses and parishes with the same policy for interchangeability of ministry)*

k) Relationship with Gafcon

i. Has the Diocesan Synod passed a resolution to affirm the Jerusalem Statement and Declaration? If not, is such a resolution planned?

ii. Would it be helpful if a member of the Gafcon Secretariat or a local representative of Gafcon visited your diocese?

iii. Do you already have contact with a Gafcon-aligned parish or diocese which you would like to be linked with?

iv. Do you receive any of the following communications from Gafcon:

- Bishops Bulletin Yes/No
- Regular emails. Yes/No
- Gafcon Quarterly. Yes/No

v. Do you follow Gafcon on:

- Facebook Yes/No
- Twitter Yes/No
- YouTube (Gafcon Channel) Yes/No
- PrayerMate Yes/No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. Please either return it to me as an email attachment or by post to the Gafcon Secretariat, Unit 42/43 Kingspark Business Centre, 152-178 Kingston Road, Surrey, KT3 3ST, United Kingdom. I will then be in touch to suggest options for a possible link.

Rev Canon Charles Raven, Gafcon Membership Development Secretary