

GAFCON

Review of 2016

“Gafcon is enabling the Anglican Communion to be fit for God’s purposes in the twenty-first century. We are uniting Anglicans around the world in faithful witness to Jesus Christ and recovering Biblical truth where it has been compromised. There is much still to do, but we give great thanks to God for his grace at work among us.”

Archbishop Nicholas Okoh, GAFCON Chairman.

Here are some highlights of 2016:

EQUIPPING

The inaugural Gafcon Bishops Training Institute conference in September at the Brackenhurst Conference Centre near Nairobi, Kenya, led by Director the Rt Revd Dr Samson Mwaluda, was very encouraging. Nearly thirty recently consecrated bishops attended from five different countries, for eight days of fellowship, networking, teaching, robust discussion and fun. The next conference is planned for May 2017 and there is already a waiting list.



We have also upgraded the Gafcon website this year so that all our supporters can be informed and equipped through regular high quality content.

GUARDING

In January the Gafcon Primates, including Archbishop Foley Beach, played a leading role at a meeting of the Anglican Communion Primates in Canterbury called by Archbishop Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Here, the assembled Primates voted overwhelming to apply disciplinary measures to the Episcopal Church of the United States, following its official adoption of same sex ‘marriage’. While these ‘consequences’ (as Archbishop Welby preferred to call them) were not followed through as the Primates intended, this meeting clearly established the Gafcon Primates as the leading voice for orthodoxy in the Communion and they were widely quoted by the BBC and other international media organisations.





Meanwhile, violations of the collegial and biblical mind of the Communion on marriage and sexuality, as expressed in Lambeth Resolution I.10 of 1998, have continued in the Church of England itself as revisionists established 'facts on the ground'. Last month, Gafcon UK courageously drew international attention to this trend.

GATHERING

An expanded Gafcon Primates Council met in Nairobi in April which included representatives from ten provinces. While they were meeting, a new branch of the movement was inaugurated in New Zealand, following the example of Australia where a new branch was formed in January.



In their Communiqué, the Primates announced that Gafcon 2018 would be held in Jerusalem, returning to the place where the Gafcon movement began. They said 'We are excited to gather for worship that represents the breadth of the Anglican Communion, as we come together under the authority of the Bible. The conference will provide teaching from God's Word, fellowship that spans continents, break-out sessions that teach on the themes of mission, discipleship, and evangelism, especially in places where persecution is rife.'

WITNESSING

The historic Jerusalem Statement and Declaration of 2008 concludes with the words 'The primary reason we have come to Jerusalem and issued this declaration is to free our churches to give clear and certain witness to Jesus Christ'. Everything we do has this desire at its heart. Our provinces all owe their existence to this missionary impulse and it remains central to their life. Now, partnership in the Gafcon movement helps to stimulate new mission initiatives worldwide. Here are just two examples:



- The Anglican Church of North America has now linked up with the Gafcon aligned Diocese of Recife in Brazil and Anglican Church of South America to form 'Caminemos Juntos', an evangelistic and church planting initiative. Archbishop Ben Kwashi spoke at their October conference which already involves twelve nations and aims to reach people across the Americas.
- In September, the Anglican Mission in England (AMiE), which is a Gafcon missionary society, announced plans to pioneer twenty-five new local churches by 2020 and two hundred and fifty by 2050.



"Thus far the LORD has helped us."

1 Samuel 7:12