

## THE COMMUNIQUÉ

### Missionary Diocese of the Trinity - A mission Outreach of the Church of Nigeria The 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 1<sup>st</sup> Synod, held August 22-25, 2013 at Anglican Cathedral Church of Resurrection 8350 Ditch Road Indianapolis, Indiana

The 1<sup>st</sup> session of the 1<sup>st</sup> Synod of Missionary Diocese of Trinity was held from Thursday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2013 to Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, 2013 at Anglican Cathedral Church of the Resurrection, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA under the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit and the able leadership of the Rt. Rev. Amos Fagbamiye Lord Bishop of the Missionary Diocese of the Trinity and the president of Synod. The Theme of the well-attended synod was “**Laying the Foundation for the Missional Church**” taking from these two key scriptural texts:

- a. *They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)*
- b. *I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. (Rev. 3:8)*

The Synod studied and analyzed the theme deeply and extensively deliberated on many contemporary, national and international issues. **Delegates attended the synod across the United States of America and Canada effectively making MDT the largest single diocese in North America that stretched across two nations**

### Congratulations & Appreciation:

1. The Synod congratulate the diocesan (Rt. Rev Amos Fagbamiye) and Mama Abike Fagbamiye for providing effective leadership for the largest Anglican diocese in North America. The Synod also appreciates the presence of the Most Revd Robert Duncan, the Primate and the Archbishop, Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) who presided over the Holy Eucharist at the Synod Opening Service on Thursday, August 22, and also formally declared the Synod open with a prayer on Friday, August 23. Synod equally acknowledges with gratitude the presence of The Rt. Revd. Martin Minns (retired) Missionary Bishop of the Convocation of Anglicans in North America CANA (2007-2013) and now Deputy Secretary/Executive Director of the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans; The Rt. Revd Oluranti Odubogun, the Diocesan Bishop of Ife,

Nigeria who delivered the sermon at the Opening Eucharist Service; The Rt. Revd. Julian Dobbs, Diocesan Bishop of CANA East; The Rt. Revd. Dr. Alexander C. Ibezim, Diocesan Bishop of Awka (CONAC) who delivered the sermon at the Synod Thanksgiving Closing service;; Prof. Robert Dibia - Dean and Professor of Public Policy and Public Management and Editor Journal of International Politics and Development at the Indiana University Kokomo who was the key speaker at the Synod inaugural lecture-“Getting Serious About God’s Work; Dr. Schmidt and Dr. Nelson both of the Indiana Wesleyan University, Indiana; and Synod recognized in absentia, The Rt. Revd Felix Orji-Diocesan Bishop of CANA West who had to cancel his visit in the last minute to attend to health issue.

2. The Synod was pleased to receive with a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude goodwill messages from the following Church dignitaries:
  - a. The Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of the Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion (CONAC), and Bishop of Abuja, The Most Revd. Nicholas D. Okoh
  - b. The Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), The Most Revd. Robert Duncan
  - c. The Most Revd Edmund Akanya, Archbishop of Kaduna and Bishop of Kebbi, (CONAC)
  - d. The Most Revd. Emmanuel A. S. Egbunu, the Archbishop and the Bishop of Lokoja (CONAC)
  - e. The Most Revd. Dr. Segun Okubadejo, Archbishop of Ibadan Province and Bishop of the Diocese of Ibadan North (CONAC).
  - f. The Rt. Revd and Mrs. S. O. Aderin – Retired Bishop of the Diocese Ondo (CONAC)
  - g. The Rt. Revd. Dr. Peter Awelewa Adebisi, Retired Bishop of the Diocese Lagos West (CONAC)
  - h. The Rt. Revd Dr. Segun Adeyemi, Bishop of the Diocese of Kwara (CONAC)
  - i. The Rt. Revd Martin Minns, Retired Bishop of CANA/ Executive Director-Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans
  - j. The Rt. Revd. S. O. Adekunle, Bishop of the Diocese of Ile-Oluji, (CONAC)
  - k. The Rt. Revd Dr. Alexander Chibuzo Ibezim, the Bishop of the Diocese of Awka (CONAC)
  - l. The Rt. Revd Emmanuel O. Adekunle, the Bishop of the Diocese of Egba (CONAC)
  - m. The Rt. Revd Julian M. Dobbs, The Bishop of CANA East, USA
  - n. The Venerable & Mrs. Luyi Akinwande, Archdeacon, Ebute-Meta Archdeaconry, Diocese of Lagos Mainland (CONAC)
  - o. MDT Chancellor, Barrister Muiyiwa Soba (Nigeria)

3. **MEMBERSHIP IN ACNA AND COMMITMENT TO MISSION:**

Synod welcome and satisfied with approval of Missionary Diocese of the Trinity (a mission outreach of the Church Nigeria) as a constituent member of Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) while remaining as full fledged mission of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) to provide haven for Nigerian Anglicans and other nationalities who desire true orthodoxy and Anglicanism in North America. . The Synod reiterated its commitment to the Mission of the diocese to build a Christ-centered, multicultural, multiracial, Bible-based church that believes in the apostolic teaching and is sensitive to human needs. The need to redefine and/or re-determine those who are truly Anglicans becomes urgent, imperative and compelling.

4. **NEWS AROUND OUR DIOCESE:**

- a) Synod highly praised and praised the Almighty God for His faithfulness and mercy to have led and sustained the MDT since its inauguration a year ago especially in the many experiences and testimonies of God’s steadfast love, provision and supplies, and the grace and strength to enable us all overcome various challenges and teething problems in our missionary journey as individuals, families and as a Church and a Diocese.
- b) The Synod Congratulate the Cathedral Church, the Cathedral clergy and the standing Committee and members of the Cathedral on the acquisition of the 20,000 Sq ft befitting Cathedral Church and land purchased this year which is the location of the synod.
- c) As biblical examples of the Missional Church, the Synod encouraged all Churches and Congregations in MDT to draw inspiration from the diverse cultural context and life style of the community of faith in Jerusalem by the teaching of the apostles, the learning of the believers, the unity and common life of prayer and breaking of bread together in homes, and also the role model of the “small but powerful faithful witnessing” Church in Philadelphia described (Acts 2:42-47) and (Rev. 3:8) respectively.

5. **GLOBAL CHURCH**

The Synod identifies with the struggles of the global Church and deeply grieves and empathizes with all fellow Christian brothers and sisters who are being persecuted particularly in places like Nigeria and Egypt at this time; Synod prayed for God’s strength, comfort and courage for them and the quickening of their freedom and peace. The Synod is also distressed by the increase of brutality against Christians in some parts of the Northern States of Nigeria in the name of religion and strongly condemns it. We believe that every Nigerian is made in the image of God and deserves to be treated with respect. The experience in the United States of America and Canada where religious affinity is seen as less divisive is to be commended. Synod Call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to do

everything in his power to curb the menace of Boko Haram group and work on improving the image of the Nigeria at home and abroad. We call on the Federal Government of Nigeria and all citizens to uphold tolerance in their religious practices.

6. **WOMEN AND YOUTH:**

- a. The Synod was enthused by the vision and mission of the Women Ministry under the dynamic leadership of Mama MDT and Synod resolved to approve all the women's recommendations and initiatives as reported to Synod including the establishment of Mothers' Union and Women's Guild in every Parish and Congregation; Synod also resolved to endorse the plans of the Women to form and establish in MDT a parallel organization to the Girls Guide in the Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion for the spiritual growth of our girls and young women in USA and Canada.
- b. The Synod commended the Women for their annual "Wave of Prayer" program; Synod was inspired to approve the initiative of the Women to establish Prayer and Bible Study groups among the women of the Diocese.
- c. The Synod was highly impressed from the reports of the Youth delegates chaired by the Diocesan Protocol Officer. The Synod approved the initiatives and recommendations of the Youth delegates with regards to networking the youths of the diocese and that every Parish should give due recognition to the youth ministry and its development; Synod approved that youths be encouraged and given any necessary financial support to actively participate and be involved in the life of every Parish and Congregation.

7. **ABUSE OF HUMAN GENDER:**

a) The Synod condemned out rightly the abuse of human gender and appealed to governments of United States and Canada and leaders of countries and all those in authority including all medical practitioners and especially surgeons to discourage the change of human gender to the opposite through surgery and medical procedures because Synod believed that this is an ungodly act and practice which is not only offensive to God but also set embracement and confusion about gender in the human society.

8. **2014 SYNOD:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 1<sup>st</sup> Synod is scheduled for Thursday July 17 through Sunday July 20, 2014.

9. **CONCLUSION**

To the extent that this First Session of the First Synod of the Missionary Diocese of the Trinity was remarkably successful and inspirational, we encourage all Christians, especially politicians at national, state and local levels, to rise up and exercise righteous leadership as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We have all been called to guard and proclaim the Gospel – it is the hope of our salvation and the only way of reconciliation for our broken world. *“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen!”*

Signed

The Revd Canon Elias O Eniade

The Synod Clerical Secretary –

Mr. Chidiebere Odoh

The Synod Lay Clerical Secretary

Barrister Wilfred Aka

The Registrar & Ag. Lay President of Synod

Rt. Rev Amos Fagbamiye

The President of Synod and Diocesan Bishop