

# The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Synod of the Anglican Diocese of the West

## A Brief Report and Summary

*By the Rev'd. Canon Isaac J. Rehberg, Communications Officer*

Earlier this month on June 6-9, 2019, the Rt. Rev'd. Dr. Felix C. and Mrs. Lilian Orji hosted the seventh annual synod of the Anglican Diocese of the West at the Crown Plaza Toronto Airport in Toronto, Ontario. Special guests for the synod included the Most Rev'd. Ali Buba Lamido, Dean of the Church of Nigeria, and the Most Rev'd. Dr. Epharaim Ademowo, Dean Emeritus of the Church of Nigeria.



The synod began with a fundraising dinner for the Archbishop and Mrs. Ademowo Missions Fund (AAMF) on Thursday night. Ven. Scott Seely, Diocesan Canon Archdeacon for Church Planting,

introduced the AAMF with a presentation titled “To All Nations, Tribes and Tongues: Mission and Church Planting in the Anglican Diocese of the West (CANA).” Ven. Seely described the “Four S’s of Church Planting: Spirit, Sower, Seed, and Soil” as a methodology for planting churches and spreading the gospel throughout our communities. He also presented a model for funding new church plants that integrates the planter, launch team, regional archdeaconry, and the diocese, that ensures viability of new church plants before diocesan funds are applied (see photograph below). The stated goal of the fundraising dinner was to raise at least \$10,000 as an initial seed for the AAMF. According to Ven. Seely, the total pledges and donations from the dinner was approximately double the goal.

Backend Diocesan Funding 14

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
<b>Planter</b>	\$12k+	\$12k+	\$12k+	\$12k+	\$12k+	\$60k
<b>Launch Team/Core Group</b>	\$10k+	\$15k+	\$20k+	\$25k+	\$30k+	\$100k
<b>Archdeaconry</b>	\$5k+	\$5k+	\$5k+	\$5k+	\$5k+	\$25k
<b>Diocese</b>	x	x	\$5k+	\$7.5k	\$10k	\$22.5k

On Friday morning Bishop Orji gave his Episcopal Address titled “Living for God in a Beautiful, but Broken World: Love God and Your Neighbor.” In the address, Bishop Orji discussed the clarification of the canonical residence of CANA dioceses as solely in the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) in addition to some of the history and misinformation that had been

circulating regarding the clarification. The bishop also discussed his relocation to the Houston area, the establishment of a second cathedral, and introduced the AAMF and the new Annual Diocesan Youth Essay Competition. In the main body of his address, the bishop exegeted Matthew 22:34-40, the passage that contains the Summary of the Law. Finally, Bishop Orji commended the Diocesan Customary that was included as an appendix to the address. Attendees of the Synod received a printed copy of the Episcopal Address, and electronic copies were later emailed via the diocesan mailing list. Additional electronic copies of the Address can be requested by email ([fatherisaac@allsaintsanglican.net](mailto:fatherisaac@allsaintsanglican.net)).

Friday morning also included diocesan business, conducted by Mr. Christopher Milner, the diocesan Chancellor. Two resolutions marked the business section. First, the revised Diocesan Constitution and Canons were accepted unanimously. Second, the Synod voted for Bishop Orji to request the Church of Nigeria House of Bishops to elect up to five suffragan bishops from among candidates appointed by Bishop Orji. If approved by the house of bishops, these suffragan bishops will assist Bishop Orji in missionary work throughout the diocese.



Additional news included the announcement of a diocese-in-formation within CANA for distinctively Reformed parishes worshipping according to the traditions established by the Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. The diocese-in-formation would begin as a non-geographic archdeaconry and included two newly-received parishes at the time of the Synod.

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Christian Worldview and the host of the BreakPoint radio show and podcast. Additionally, Rev'd Stonestreet is a deacon in our diocese serving at St. George's Anglican Church in Colorado Springs, CO. The first plenary addressed what it means for human beings to be created in the image of God, and the consequences of the Fall on that image. The second plenary addressed the way the text and story of Scripture can address the context of our times. The third plenary addressed outrage culture and was titled "Outrage is not a Strategy."

Sunday afternoon concluded the synod with a Festal Eucharist at All Saints Anglican Church, Mississauga, Ontario. Bishop Orji was the celebrant and Archbishop Lamido was the preacher. In addition to a celebration of the Feast of Pentecost, this Eucharist included an investiture of the Knights of St. Christopher and the Admission of Women into the Women's Guild and Mothers' Union.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Synod will be held in Houston, TX in July 2020.

