

SYNOD REPORT 2019

“Making Disciples Today
July 27th 2019”

Representative report
Presented by Mrs. Andra Salandy

Purpose of SYNOD

- Review the work of the church for the past year-
The ITACTT Strategic plans 2016-20
- Share information.
- Make decisions/Make plans for going forward
- Election of officers

What is a SYNOD

- It is the assembly (meeting) of the clergy and the laity in the Anglican diocese.

Synod agenda

- The 147th session of the Annual Synod of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago **convened on July 27th -1day**
- The day's activities began with Holy Eucharist at the St Mary's Ang. Church at 7.00am.

Sermon Highlights ⁽¹⁾

- Celebrated by the Bishop of Trinidad and Tobago, the Right Reverend Claude Berkeley with the theme “Making Disciples...Witnessing with Power and Authority”.

Highlights from the Sermon ⁽²⁾

- Reminded us of our responsibility as **disciples and that of discipleship.**
- In the context of the meaning of discipleship, the Bishop in review of our performance, lamented that some of us Anglicans are “persons not wanting to get involved” and that he recognized that there was a ‘hands off’ approach in some instances.

-

Highlights from the Sermon ⁽³⁾

- With this in mind, he once again attempted to appeal to the congregation about the importance of ‘Striving to be faithful’. He made reference to Proper 10 (Book of Common Prayer).

Highlights from the Sermon (4)

He noted too that some of us are very busy and used our 'busyness' to defend our inadequacies.

He reminded us about the story of Mary and Martha and also made reference to Proper 11 (BCP).

Highlights from the Sermon (5)

- He drew the relationship between love and witnessing.
- He addressed the importance of us witnessing to others while emphasizing that effective witness begins with loving from deep within as the starting place.

Highlights from the Sermon (6)

- He then underscored the role of Synod and the need for us as disciples to make **constant adjustment** in the face of the social context our daily lives- issues such as murder rate, stand offs in the city, economy, migrants, delayed justice etc.

GENERAL MEETING

The General meeting-The Bishop's Charge (1)

- Bishop provides - Strategic Leadership
 - Guides the organization- **tackles problems** in the context of:
 - Strengths
 - Challenges
 - Options
 - Responses
 - Effectiveness

The Bishop's Charge ⁽²⁾

- Continued in the same theme as the sermon-
Making Disciples Today

The Bishop's Charge ⁽³⁾

- He addressed the importance of **accountability** -
 - It is multifaceted- applies to money and money matters, as well as to our thoughts, words and deeds.

A repeated call for good stewardship,
responsible action and accountability

The Bishop's Charge ⁽⁴⁾

- **Called on Vestries** to continue to do the church's business with vigilance and normal industry and corporate practice.

The Bishop's Charge ⁽⁵⁾

- **Reviewed Statistics** including Church attendance, Baptisms, Sunday school, Confirmation, Youth Groups, Marriages, Sick and Home bound persons and Funerals to reveal what it is saying to us as a church.
- Funerals outstripped baptisms- negative position.

Bishop's Charge ⁽⁶⁾

- Sunday Schools need to be improved
- Fulfill our role in aspects of the action plan
- Urges us to shift from maintenance mode to missionary mode.

The Bishop's Charge ⁽⁷⁾

- He also reminded us of:
 - the opportunities that we have in working with our schools.
 - that youth ministry is an imperative and must become a priority item in the life of every parish

The Bishop's Charge ⁽⁸⁾

There is not much evidence to show that actual programmes are being created in the parishes to sustain the season of “Intentional discipleship and Disciple making” although the theme is widely used.

The Bishop's Charge ⁽⁹⁾

- In assessing the social and economic situation of our country, he repeated the call to parishes for the development of **creative pastoral initiatives** through counselling, prayer and other strategies, to diffuse the anger, aggression and violence present in our communities.

The Bishop's Charge ⁽¹⁰⁾

- He called for a re-commitment to working with our homes and families for the rule of the kingdom and the well-being of the nation.
 - that parishes should actively explore the provision of short-term shelter opportunities for victims of domestic abuse

Main Business -Reports and Presentation

- Board of Finance
- Buildings and Lands (Property Unit)
- Update on Strategic plan
- Reports by Regions
- AEBM

Takeaways from reports presented

- The financial outlook is quite gloomy
 - Need to:
 - increase income generating activities
 - have prudent cash management
- Prompt payment of assessment and other liabilities by parishes

Takeaways from reports presented (- final

- Parishes must submit data on a timely basis
- Need for us to be more giving- consider **Deeds of Covenants**

Main Business -Elections to Boards and Councils

- Election of Officers - Board of Finance
- Justin Thompson

Thank you for the confidence placed in me to be your representative.

I promise to continue to lead the way in ensuring action in relation to information and decisions made.