

### **Motion No. 3**

#### **Arusha Call to Discipleship**

**Proposer: The Revd Adam Pullen**

I had the privilege of representing the Church of Ireland at the World Council for Churches Conference on World Mission and Evangelism, 'Moving in the spirit: Called to transforming Discipleship,' held in Arusha, Tanzania, hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. It was from this conference and days of dialogue and discussion that the 'Arusha Call to Discipleship' was composed and offered to member churches for consideration and action.

The Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, on behalf of the World Council of Churches based in Geneva, Switzerland, convenes the conference and set the themes of the conference and the location. This conference was intentionally held in the global south and sought to include insights and voices specifically and particularly African.

The overall theme of the conference was "moving in the Spirit: called to transforming discipleship". The Bible passage for the conference was "if we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Within the conference each day had a sub theme:

- Journeying together: Celebrating and Lamenting,
- Following Jesus: becoming Disciples,
- Becoming disciples: Transforming the world,
- Transforming the world: Equipping Disciples, and
- Equipped Disciples: Embracing the Cross.

In addition there were a number 'Warsha' workshops based on the themes migration, evangelism, life in all its fullness, diversity, and formation. Also there were three 'Sokoni' or 'market places' based on youth, Gender Justice, Mission from the Margins.

There were 1,024 delegates from all across the world, from 242 different churches, that varied from Greek and Oriental orthodox to African Pentecostal churches and a large contingent from the Anglican Communion.

The conference organisers endeavoured to ensure there was a good representation of youth, women and the Global South. As you can see I did not fit those categories yet I was grateful to hear a broader perspective from these groups.

From these 'warsha', 'Sokoni', worship which was very varied and lively and from contributions from many eminent speakers, that the call to discipleship was composed. One that was particularly challenging and striking speaker was His Holiness Mor Ignatius Aphrem II, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, and Supreme Head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church.

He spoke of embracing the cross and most challengingly he spoke of the Orthodox Christians in Aleppo during the time of ISIS/Daesh. How only one Christian man remained during the fighting and desperate horror. How he saw first-hand how the people of the Church returned to ruins and not only began to rebuild their lives and church how they also helped rebuild lives across the city regardless of creed or religion and how this has brought the different Christians together and open doors not previously open to the majority Muslim community.

From each day, all the strands and all the contributions the harvesting Committee compiled and drafted the Arusha Call to Discipleship to reflect and echo the voices and concerns of those gathered in Arusha as a call to the wider church. The 'call' went through a number of drafts until it reached the final version you have before you. The WCC has an unusual way of discerning the deciding voice of conference! Each draft was put before the whole conference to be either warmly welcomed with an orange card, or not liked with a blue card. It was only when there was a near total majority of orange cards was the 'Call' adopted and released as you have it now. As you can imagine it took some time and we are not asking you to approve this motion in the same way!

### **Motion No. 3**

#### **Arusha Call to Discipleship**

**Proposer: The Revd Adam Pullen**

It was, and is encouraging to hear and see such a focus and concern for discipleship and evangelism from across the world, and across the Churches. This practically resonates with the recent work of the Council for Mission and our focus on the Five Marks of Mission. Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure, a gift to us from the 1984 ACC. Each of these five marks can clearly be heard in the Arusha Call to Discipleship. Indeed the Anglican Communion through the ACC has called on Provinces to a season of Intentional Discipleship. Therefore there will be meetings of the representatives from the five Provinces in the Europe Region respond to and engage with the Communion's call to Discipleship to which I and Very Rev Tim Wright will be attending. Together we will ask: "How we live Jesus-shaped life, (which) will vary from nation to nation, culture to culture, generation to generation (so that) whatever our context, we can strive to live out – and be transformed by – these characteristics of Jesus-shaped life (known as the Five Marks of Mission)?"

Therefore in conclusion the 'Arusha Call to Discipleship' represents a call to us, disciples in the church of Ireland. Part of the body of Christ across the world in our various traditions and ways of worship to find it within ourselves a solidarity with those on the margins, be it, persecution, poverty, geography, economics or climate challenges. Together we are disciples of Christ and all parts of the body of Christ. I commend this motion to synod, and hope you will affirm the same by accepting the motion you have now before you.