



GEMN Global Conference

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***Mission Connects Us: God, World,
Church***

11-13 April 2018

VTS, Alexandria, Virginia, USA

Canon John Kafwanka

Director for Mission - Anglican Communion Office



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Without Partnership in Mission We Perish:

*Practical Considerations for Mission Partnerships within the Anglican
Communion*

13 April 2018

Canon John Kafwanka

Director for Mission - Anglican Communion Office



Is Partnership a Failed Concept?

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❖ Partnership a Failed Concept

- Partnership – not accepted by many, held with suspicion; abused term
- Partnership - promoted paternalism and dependence relationships
- Partnership – Promoted money and projects & not relationship



Is Partnership a Failed Concept?

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❖ Partnership a Failed Concept

- Partnership - one way
'giving'/'receiving' - from 'rich' north to
'poor' south
- Partnership – Supplier and Implementer
model
- Culprits – Mission agencies, churches
/companion links, etc



Can Partnership be Salvaged?

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❖ Partnership Salvaged

- **Partnership – implies a relationship for a common task**
- **Biblical & Trinitarian Partnership – mutual interdependence**
- **Don't throw the Baby with Bath Water – save Partnership**
- **Not Partnership that condemn people to perpetual recipients/dependant (Dambisa Moyo – Dead Aid)**



Can Partnership be Salvaged?

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❖ Partnership Salvaged

- **Partnerships that empower rather than dis-empower people**
- **Positive & Not Negative characterisation of people and nations – poor (image)**
- **New ways of thinking & behaving – Attitudes and Actions**
- **Partnership – mutual accountability**



Paul & the Philippians Partnership

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- ❖ **A Biblical Model of Partnership – Philippians 1-4**
 - **Paul Founded the Church at Philippi**
 - **Discipleship – primary relationship with Jesus Christ of both parties**
 - **Goal of partnership – to serve the mission Christ (not self interest)**
 - **Paul & Philippians – Shared vision and both contributed**



Paul & the Philippians Partnership

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- ❖ **A Biblical Model of Partnership – Philippians 1-4**
- **Philippi Church Supported Paul – prayer, material & finance**
- **Philippians support – opportunity to serve with Paul not to control him**
- **Partnership – serving Christ’s mission**
- **Partners in Mission – no superior no inferior, no giver no recipient**
- **Paul encouraged broader partnerships among churches/fellowships**



The Church that Lives to Itself will die by itself

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- ❖ **ABC, The Most Revd Michael Ramsey**
 - **Warning statement at the 1963 Toronto Congress**
 - **Relevant for today too, 65 Year Later**
 - ***Without Partnership in Mission we Perish***
 - **God's Mission @the Heart of Toronto Congress**



The Church that Lives to Itself will die by itself

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❖ Toronto Congress

- **Discerning ways of working together in Common Discipleship**
- **Congress:**
- **Call to Responsible Discipleship**
- **Call to Mutual Responsibility and Interdependent in the Body of Christ –MRI**
- **Call to Partnership**



1963 Toronto Congress Partnership - MRI

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- ❖ Archbishop of Canada, The Most Revd Howard H. Clark
- ***What was remarkable about the Congress fellowship was that it challenged us to be radically honest with each other. We tried together to listen, through the addresses and sermons and discussions, to what God is saying to the Church and to the world.***



1963 Toronto Congress Partnership - MRI

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- ❖ Archbishop of Canada, The Most Revd Howard H. Clark
- *I know that for me it means that no longer can I sing of “You in your small corner and I in mine”. In all I do in the service of God my brother is with me, whether he is Asian, African, European or Australian. His needs and opportunities become one judgement upon my work.*



1963 Toronto Congress Partnership - MRI

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- ❖ Archbishop of Canada, The Most Revd Howard H. Clark
- ***Whatever task God is calling us to, if it is yours it is mine, and if it is mine it is yours. We must do it together - or be cast aside together, as God in his absolute freedom goes on by other means to use his Church in hastening his Kingdom***



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❖ World

- **Locus of and for God's Love (God's Mission)**
- **'God so Loved the World' – with all its imperfections, sinful & ugliness**
- **Christians – redeemed sinners - as a community of transforming disciples in the world**



1963 Toronto Congress

Centrality of Mission

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- ❖ **ABY (then): The Most Revd Donald Coggan**
 - ***The church is not primarily a debating society; it is the Body of Christ at work in God's world.....The Anglican Communion has its part in that work***



Rt Revd Sarah Mullally
London Diocese

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❖ 2018 Easter Message – the Body of Christ, the Church:

- ***And what type of community should that be? One which is compassionate, kind, humble, meek, and patient; one which has clothed itself in love which binds everything together in unity (Colossians 3:12-17).***



Rt Revd Sarah Mullally

London Diocese

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❖ 2018 Easter Message – the Body of Christ, the Church:

- ***Pope Francis has said this about his vision for the Church – for the Roman Catholic Church, but it will do for us too, ‘I prefer a Church that is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.’ (from Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel)***



Rt Revd Sarah Mullally London Diocese

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- ❖ **2018 Easter Message – the Body of Christ, the Church:**
 - ***the power of the cross is in the service of others, and the power of the cross is that Jesus Christ was a revelation of God’s love for his world in which God would be glorified.... I pray that together we live in the service of others following the pattern of Christ.***



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The Body of Christ – ‘Church’:

- **All of Together – Gathered and dispersed community**
- **Christianity in all its Diversity – language, accents, ethnicity, tribe, region, nationality, denomination, doctrine, gender, sexuality, etc**
- **All partners in God’s Mission in the World – Power of the Holy Spirit**



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The Body of Christ – ‘Communion’

- Resourced differently but all are resourced
- Each possess only a part of God’s gifts
- Every resource is God’s gifts for God’s mission in the World
- Anglican Communion – (imperfect) gift for Common Discipleship/Mutual Interd



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❖ Desmond Tutu

- ***we are made to live in a network of interdependence with one another, with God and with the rest of God's creation. We say in our African idiom: "A person is a person through other persons." A solitary human being is a contradiction in terms. A totally self-sufficient human being is ultimately subhuman. We are made for complementarity. I have gifts that you do not; and you have gifts that I do not.....So we need each other to become fully human.***



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❖ Desmond Tutu

This is also true of different nations: that one people has particular gifts, distinct world view, a cultural ethos, which is not necessarily superior to those of other people. It is just different and needs to be balanced by those of other peoples. So we find, for instance, that Africans have a strong sense of community, of belonging, whereas Occidentals have in contrast a strong sense of the individual person. These attributes, in isolation and pushed to extremes, have weakness.....'



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❖ Diversity

- **Diversity – God’s gift to humanity and the World**
- **Communion’s greatest strength**
- **Also point of weakness**
- **Invest in its value**



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❖ Missionary God

- **Who is a missionary?**
- **Did Missionary become too professionalised & vocation for few?**
- **Do our church structures render for receiving missionaries?**
- **How ready & willing are we to listen and learn from others?**



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❖ Missionary God

- **there are things we shall never know about Jesus Christ and the written Word unless we hear from and see what they do in the ever-new contexts.**

Rowan Williams



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❖ Missionary God

- **the fullness of the Gospel cannot be fully comprehended and propagated by one Church or region, no matter how rich in resource such Church or region might be**



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❖ **Without Partnership in Mission we Perish**

A totally self-sufficient human being is ultimately a sub-human.

We are made for complimentarity. I have gifts that you do not; and you have gifts that I do not. So we need each other to become fully human.....and to realise the fullness of our potential. God is smart, making us different so that we will get to know our need for each other



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❖ Key Partnership Principles

- Collaboration
- Shared Vision
- Diversity/Interdependent
- Mutual Accountability & Respect
- Sharing - Receiving & Giving
- Mutual Listening and Learning



❖ Summary:

- **Mission based/inspired partnerships (not material)**
- **Mission as a calling to the whole people of God**
- **Knowledge of the Triune God and ourselves become clearer through others - thus growth (Ephesian Moment!)**
- **Through others, we are energised for local & global mission**
- **Every context/people/Church has resource to share & we can all receive & share**
- **We are stewards of God's gifts for mission in the world - Partners in God's Mission**
- **Mutuality - prayer, learning, accountability, sharing**



Reflections

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- **What surprised you and why?**
- **What encouraged you and why?**
- **What is the experience in your context?**



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Questions for Reflection....

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- **What makes a mission companionship or partnership relationship viable and credible? Share an example from your experience.**
- **What pitfalls should we look out for to avoid dependence and paternalistic relationships in the Anglican Communion? Share an example from your experience.**
- **Money can symbolize value, accomplish work and express power. This reality can foster an assumption that those who do not have money have nothing to give. What are other ways in which value and power can be expressed in mission? Share an experience of when you received in mission from people who had little money.**



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