



## **ANGLICAN INTER FAITH COMMISSION REPORT**

*20-22 February 2018, All Saints Cathedral Cairo, Egypt*

### **Introduction:**

The Anglican Inter Faith Commission was requested by the Primates at their meeting in Canterbury 2016, then presented to the Anglican Consultative Council in 2016 in Lusaka (resolution 16.10) and launched at the Primates Meeting in Canterbury in October 2017.

The inaugural meeting was hosted by the chair, The Right Reverend Dr Mouner Anis at All Saints Garden Conference Centre in Cairo.

On the first day, the Commission met His Eminence Dr Ahmed El-Tayeb, The Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif and His Holiness Pope Tawadros II of the Coptic Orthodox Church, in order to take their counsel at the outset of this meeting. The Grand Imam welcomed and commended the Commission and said: it is crucial at this time to have a Commission like this. He expressed his hope that this Commission would work to deepen understanding between faith communities. He further reflected that ignorance of each other's faith and the increasing pressure from the secular world are challenges for people of all faith communities.

His Holiness Pope Tawadros II shared about the history of peaceful coexistence of faith communities within Egypt. He urged the members of the Commission to think about how they can ensure this happens also in our time. His Holiness Pope Tawadros II was particularly encouraged that President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has established a Cathedral at the new administrative capital of Egypt.

The Commission noted striking examples of programmes organised by the Diocese of Egypt and North Africa of working together for the common good at the grassroots level.

### **Structure of the Commission:**

The Commission was drawn together by The Secretary General, The Most Reverend Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon in consultation with The Most Reverend Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury who also appointed the chair.



The initial meeting comprised of members who were nominated by their Primates from various regions of the Anglican Communion.

**The vision and proposed actions of the Commission:**

• **RELATIONSHIP:**

*To prioritise building and cultivating relationships of mutual trust and respect with people of other faiths as a priority for the Communion.*

**Action:**

1. Encourage provinces and dioceses to evaluate the relationships they have with other faith communities.
2. Identify ways to strengthen these relationships.

• **UNDERSTANDING AND EDUCATION**

*Acknowledge the ignorance that is prevalent in regards to other faiths and the importance for Christians of education to move towards a greater understanding of our neighbours.*

**Action:**

1. Develop and disseminate resources that can help Anglicans in local communities to understand other faiths better.
2. Ensure that the curricula for courses, theological colleges and seminaries include the study of and engagement with other faith traditions.

• **ADVOCACY**

*To raise awareness in various contexts of different levels and forms of persecution and discrimination of faith communities across the world.*

**Action:**

1. Develop an interactive forum to enable communication across the Communion, to facilitate wide-spread awareness of existing and emerging issues.



2. To speak with and for the marginalised and the voiceless through standing in solidarity with them, praying for them and practically supporting them.

- **ANGLICAN INTER FAITH NETWORK**

*To build and embed networks in each Region, Province and Diocese of the Communion for inter faith engagement.*

**Action:**

1. Hold local meetings for mutual encouragement and sharing information and resources.
2. Develop projects that enable people from different faith communities to work together for the common good, especially at the grassroots level.

**Next Steps:**

It is anticipated The Commission will convene 2 times a year. There will be another meeting on the 14-16 November 2018 in Carthage, Tunisia at which the Commission members will be expected to report back on how they have developed the Anglican Inter Faith Network.

We encourage Regions, Provinces and Dioceses to start working on these recommendations.