



Highlights of diocesan news in printable format — August 3, 2022

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From Bishop Hughes

Reflection and requests on the eve of Lambeth

Bishop Hughes sent this message to the diocese on July 25 to address a controversial issue at Lambeth that arose as she was traveling there.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.
– Psalm 121, Book of Common Prayer, p. 779

Dear Beloved People of the Diocese,

I write from England on the eve of the start of the Lambeth Conference. Walking around the historical sites of Anglicanism I find it helpful to remember who I am, who created me, and who watches over my every step now and forever.

Lambeth 2022, a decennial gathering of bishops from across the Anglican Communion, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, has been delayed by conflict within the communion for an initial two years and then for another two years due to the pandemic. As I shared with the clergy and wardens of our diocese, I have been looking forward to connecting with classmates leading dioceses in other parts of the communion and to supporting the ministries of the first and only women bishops in Kenya, Japan, and Mexico.

My initial excitement was diminished when gay and lesbian bishops were told their spouses could not attend. It has been important to me as an ally that

these bishops and their spouses have the unwavering support, care, and protection of the House of Bishops. These bishops have expressed the primacy of presence and how important it is to be present at Lambeth, even so, and will participate fully. I am one of many bishops that stand with them.

Then what a shock and disappointment it has been to discover, in the midst of traveling to Lambeth, that the agenda will include a revisit and vote on a resolution from Lambeth 1998 that condemned homosexuality, same gendered marriage, and barred homosexual people from ordination. The same resolution clearly stated that while the majority of the communion supported this thinking, not all of the Lambeth 1998 bishops agreed, "we confess that we are not of one mind."

The ensuing years have proven this last statement to be true. The Anglican Communion is not of one mind and yet we remain in relationship with each other. Do we need to have continuing communication about the place of all God's beloved people in the life of our church? Yes, we do.

It is difficult to understand why the Archbishop of Canterbury delayed informing participants about "Lambeth Calls," which replace the resolutions of previous meetings. Learning about voting just days before the conference begins does not instill trust. Still, this action opens the door to conversations that need to continue. These difficult conversations illuminate the struggle for dignity and safety in parts of the world where homosexuality is a crime

punishable by law, in some places even by death. These conversations can generate a spark of hope in places where hope is a much-needed balm.

Even so, I find it outrageous that these matters are being put before this gathering once again without regard for the damage this may cause to LGBTQ+ people and with little notice to organize a proper response. I am not satisfied with only being outraged because I am certain that all of us are called to do more than express opinions. We are called to action.

Our Presiding Bishop will gather the bishops of the Episcopal Church together on the second night of Lambeth 2022. I expect we will pray, talk, ask questions, listen, and formulate responses that speak to our desire and love of God and a church that has room for all people. The primacy of presence, staying present and engaged, is crucial. If the Episcopal Church chose to stay away, then those who need others to speak for them, lose our voice. Our presence is not simply for ourselves. Deciding to be present at Lambeth is action we bishops are called to take in solidarity.

The first action that I ask you to take is simple and vital: Please pray for all attending the conference and for God's presence and guidance in our time together. Your daily prayers will be a blessing to Lambeth 2022.

The second action each of us can take is to be honest about our own home. For the last few years in the United States we have been experiencing a growing intolerance towards all sorts of people. LGBTQ+ people in particular have been openly concerned about safety, freedom to marry, freedom to raise children, freedom to work, and what sort of welcome we offer in our churches. What steps do we as individuals and churches need to take to ensure that all people are safe and thriving? We cannot assume that some local, state, or federal authority or court will ensure these things. Our shock, outrage, and hurt must lead to action or this trend of intolerance will continue and grow.

Finally, remember who we are. Remember who created us. Remember that God watches over our every step now and forever more.

Grace and peace,

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes
XI Bishop of Newark

Posts from Lambeth 2022

Bishop Hughes is posting reflections from the 15th Lambeth Conference on her Facebook page. They are collected here in chronological order.

Eve of Lambeth – July 26

Much prayer, conversation, and work has led to a changed draft [of the Lambeth Calls]. It truthfully names where we are as churches associated with each other but in different settings and culture. We do not agree about human sexuality and we remain in conversation and relationship with each other.

The passage in The Human Dignity Call, has been changed and no longer seeks to reaffirm 1.10 Lambeth 1998. Additionally, each bishop can vote “No, I do not agree” to any call. Grateful for the many hands that worked on this, for being heard, for the countless people who continue to pray, and for so many bishops remaining in the conversation and at the table.

I admit I still feel nervous, but dinner and sleep will be a big help.

Day 1 – July 27

Looking back on the first day. A lot of walking, a lot of stairs, and therefore a lot of being careful with my knees. It has forced me to take things slowly and be intentional about movement. Not being able to keep up with a fast moving crowd has made for good conversation with others who need to move slowly or that choose to join my pace.

The highlight of my day was meeting my Tuesday zoom group for the first time after being on calls discussing our ministry and studying 1 Peter together. One of them is a classmate from seminary. For VTS 2005 friends our classmate

Bishop Given Gaula – Diocese of Kondoa was in my group!

Finally — Mr. Bishop, as he is fondly called by some folks in our diocese, is my rock. Glad, once again, that I said “yes.”

Day 2 – July 28

This day was so full of meaning and activity.

Bishops everywhere you look all over Canterbury Cathedral, when our day ended the streets were a sea of purple shirts. The spouses were at U of Kent all day as we went on separate retreat days. It was a good and prayerful entry into our time here.

Two highlights: Meeting Bishop Aime' Joseph Kimararungu of Gitega in Burundi. His diocese has received two Alleluia Fund grants from the Diocese of Newark to build a well and sanitation service in a community without reliable water sources. I asked how the project had worked out and part of the success was the project led to planting a church. Wow! We have made a plan to stay in contact here and long after the conference ends.

Dr. Esther M. Mombo was one of the speakers and asked the question that needs to be asked and answered around the full communion. Whose kingdom — the Church's, the Empire's, or God's? So fun to be in the room with her again. Trinity – Ft. Worth folks will remember her for preaching and teaching during her year in residence at Brite Divinity School.

Sitting and chatting with Dr. Mambo and Bishop Emily Onyango, the first woman elected to the Episcopacy in Kenya, was a great joy and full of insight. It was one of several moments where I felt grateful, humbled, and blessed by ministry of faithful women around the world.

Even with all the joy and high spirits of this day, I remain aware that we have hard work to do. I am grateful for your prayers.

Day 3 – July 29

I was determined to capture the sound of 650 bishops, musicians, speakers, and staff singing on

our second day of retreat. I tried and what played back did not even come close to capturing it. I have that same difficulty with naming all that I see, hear, experience, and learn at Lambeth.

There are more grace filled and blessed moments than I can count. It seems the delight of being together continually fuels our interactions. While it is sad and odd for some to choose not to receive communion in response to the presence of LGBTQ+ bishops and allies, the vast majority of us prayed, sang, and received communion together. The Holy Spirit was not limited by our disagreement. She turned up and continued her work in and through us.

Retreat ended at midday and the afternoon was all about the spouse group photo followed by the bishop group photo. Three hours to set up and two minutes to get the photo. Spirits were high, the afternoon was hot, and once again I was humbled by the company I am keeping.

Then the day kept going with the Archbishop of Canterbury's first address. It was just what I needed to hear. And if you love God and are worried about the world we live in, please go online and listen. He gave a message meant for Lambeth and that spoke to every believer. In essence he said, this is not the time for infighting, but rather the time to deal with the terrific challenges facing humankind right now. I agree and am convinced church fights are an instrument of evil to keep us from our calling to bring God's love, mercy, and healing to the world.

It was a long and wonderful day. I am humbled to be one of the 97 in the women bishops photo. God does amazing things.

Bishop Hughes appears at 3:44 in this highlights video from Day 3 at Lambeth.

Day 5 – July 31

Sunday at Lambeth was spectacular. Worship was a beautiful expression of who we are and how we love God. Multiple languages were used for readings, prayers, and song. Classical choral

anthems, praise songs, the Zinafe choir singing in Zimbabwean, African drums, a contemporary band, and the organ all added to an expansive expression of Anglican worship. It was glorious, diverse, and inspiring.

I was surprised to see how much is being made in news sources of the global south bishops who have chosen not to receive communion. Let me be clear, their number is small and most bishops, that means hundreds of bishops are receiving communion. Yes, the division is obvious, but even more obvious is the genuine caring and affection growing among all of us. I do not know how the Holy Spirit gets her work done, but I can tell you she is busy drawing us into deeper relationship with each other. I trust her to help us navigate division. I have more to say about the rest of the day but I want to wrap this one up with one more thing about the opening Eucharist.

What I wished the media picked up was the stirring sermon given by Bishop Vicentia Kgabe Lesotho, South Africa. If you love God and want to know how to show that love in your ministry, go to the Lambeth Conference site and listen to it. Her closing words will stay with me for a long time. "As I conclude, my prayer is that during our time together and beyond,
May God's name be hallowed and not ours!
May God's will be done and not ours!
May God's kingdom come and not ours!"

Day 8 – August 3, 2022

Over the past week I have been learning just how deep and wide the bonds of friendship and affection are between the provinces of the Anglican Communion. We are not connected by legislation, confessional statement, theological treatise, rules, central authority figure like a pope, or canon law.

We are connected because of our love for Jesus and our desire to be together. These connections are informed by Holy Scripture, the Book of Common Prayer, and nurtured by years, in some

cases decades or centuries, of shared ministry. This communion of churches, clergy, and people is a unique and special community.

For just over a week now I have watched Archbishop Justin Welby do what leaders of groups of every kind have been doing since the start of pandemic. He is working very hard to keep our community, the Anglican Communion, together. It is a complicated task.

Against a backdrop of colonialism in which British missionaries evangelized the people of colonized lands and alongside a growing recognition that the voices of underrepresented groups must be heard, comes the conflict around human sexuality. As one of my brother bishops explained to me, "the missionaries brought us Jesus and the church. They taught us to have one wife and that marriage is a sacramental rite for one man and one woman. So this is what we do and believe." Across the globe those lessons were learned and incorporated into local customs and traditions.

Meanwhile Anglicans in western countries have spent decades studying, praying, writing theology about the place of LGBTQ+ people in our church and world. We believe that all people are beloved creations of God. For us, all means every single person, including LGBTQ+ folks too. Our ministry with, by, and for LGBTQ+ people is an important part of who we are as church. This is what we do and what we believe.

Today we looked at the Lambeth Call on Human Dignity. This call ignited a firestorm a two weeks ago as it recalled Lambeth 1998 resolution #1.10 that was prescriptive and restrictive towards LGBTQ+ people. Additionally, with little notice about the Lambeth Calls and its process, we were informed that we would vote on on those documents.

Since the bumpy start of the conference, Archbishop Justin has offered several new versions of this call and other calls. Each day since the program began, includes a presentation about one

of the calls. The Archbishop has spoken with candor and consistently sought our feedback and input on the calls. Various creative attempts at voting have been tried and eventually abandoned for more time in conversation and intentionally seeking our feedback.

Archbishop Justin's leadership has become more expansive and expressive each day. He speaks in a forthright manner while firmly guiding us to face the facts of where we are now. A vital component of the Archbishop of Canterbury's ministry is to unite the communion. Helping us to grapple with the differences of beliefs and theologies we hold within the communion is a truthful approach to a complex situation.

I do not know if he can keep us united, but I openly admit that I am pulling for him. I am pulling for us. I hope we decide that our relationships are more important than our rightness. I hope we can live our individual calls to ministry despite the differences between us.

Archbishop Justin ended his talk with us yesterday with this quote from the Lambeth Call on Human Dignity, "As Bishops we remain committed to listening and walking together to the maximum possible degree, despite our deep disagreement on these issues." That is what this week has been about. That is what the Anglican Communion is about. And it seems to me, that is what every facet of life is about. I have great hope for us and for the whole wide world.

Stories from Our Congregations

Second Afghan refugee family arriving today – and they need a car

Last year, we shared the story of several churches that partnered to renovate an unused rectory to host a family of Afghan refugees. This year, some of those same churches have renovated a second

unused church building to host a second Afghan refugee family. Last week, they put the finishing touches on the house and held a celebratory barbecue, at which the Rev. Michael Muller of St. Peter's, Mountain Lakes blessed the house. Plans are for the new family to move in today!

This is an inspiring story which we will be sharing in detail in a future issue of *The VOICE Online* – and there is still a chance to be a part of it! While the new family will have a great house to live in, they are still in need of a car. If you are able to make a tax-deductible donation of a used car, please contact the Rev. Michael Muller at mmuller.stpetersml@gmail.com.

Diocesan Announcements

Clergy ministry transitions

Departures

- **July 25 – The Rev. Robert Solon,** Priest-in-Charge, St. John's, Passaic

Episcopal House summer closings

Summer Fridays: From July 1 through Aug. 26, Episcopal House will close for the weekend at 1 PM on Fridays.

Week before Labor Day: All members of the Bishop's staff are using their vacation time to take off the week of Aug. 29 – Sept. 2, closing Episcopal House until Tuesday, Sept. 6.