

## **ACM Report of Communion Partners Conference/Retreat 2024**

Orlando USA – 8-11 January 2024

In 2023 we were introduced to the Anglican Communion Alliance (ACA) Canada. Over the year we had a couple of Zoom meetings and were invited to a cross-Canada Zoom meeting with a number of conservative/orthodox Anglican leaders. They were very interested to hear about ACM.

Through this connection, we were then introduced to a larger Anglican organisation called Communion Partners of which ACA then became members and is now known as Communion Partners Canada.

Communion Partners originated in the USA Episcopal Church as a response to a growing disquiet with some of the political and theological decisions that were being made in the USA (Church fellowships being evicted from their buildings etc etc). There are a number of Dioceses and areas that are now affiliated: Honduras, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Alaska, Dallas, Florida, some Canadian Dioceses. It was primarily a Bishop led organisation but is becoming open to other Anglican leaders.

Much like ACM, Communion Partners are committed to remaining within the worldwide Anglican Communion seeking to be a positive presence for unity, theological integrity and mission.

Because of our connection with Canada, an invitation was extended to ACM to attend the Communion Partners Annual Conference/Retreat in Orlando Florida in early January 2024. Bishop Steve Maina (ACM protector Bishop) and Rev Fraser McDermott (National Chair) attended. The conference gathered 75 people from a number of Dioceses and Provinces/Areas. Present were a number of Bishops (e.g. Bermuda, Dallas, Florida, Dominican Republic, Honduras, a retired Nigerian Archbishop, Canada, and The Arctic!)

The conference enabled delegates to receive a global perspective on Anglicanism and the workings of many behind the scenes in working a way forward in increasingly complex times for the Church. Presentations were heard from some bishops, a theologian on a global council, and a report on a meeting recently held in Cairo. We also heard Zoom presentations from a Church of England Evangelical Council and a report from a UK conservative bishop.

Rev Fraser was invited to present a paper to the conference about ACM, its birth, continuing ministry and its growing influence in national Anglicanism. He also urged the conference to seek ways in which a global alliance may be created to:

- bring together many voices from many nations that desire to stay within the Worldwide Anglican Church;
- to lobby with one voice and be a positive influence in global and synodical dialogue and also the Lambeth Conference
- seek ways in which we can support those who may find themselves in hostile Provinces and Dioceses.

- See if Canonical provisions could be made similar to those here in New Zealand which allowed for the creation of ACM.

Bishop Steve also encouraged delegates to find ways in which we could work together. The presentation was well received and was a source of great encouragement for those in attendance.

Bishop Steve and Rev Fraser connected well with the delegates and we look forward to a positive developing relationship with Communion Partners in the years to come.

Links:

<https://anglicancommunionalliance.ca>

<https://communionpartners.org>