

REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL FAMILY LIFE COMMISSION
TO THE PROVINCIAL SYNOD 2019

The Commission held two meetings during the triennium 2015-2018.

PRESENT WERE:

The Right Rev. C. Leopold Friday	Chairman, Diocese of the Windward Islands
The Venerable Dr. Alson Percival	Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba
Mrs. DeAnna Ralph	Diocese of the Windward Islands
Mrs. Karlene Boyce-Reid	Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
Mr. Lawrence Sylvester	Diocese of Belize
Mrs. Emelda Browne	Diocese of Barbados
Mrs. Joan Jones	Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago
Mrs. Hermin Price	Provincial Mothers' Union
Mr. Kevin Ryan	Anglican Men of the West Indies

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Hartley Dottin	Co-opted Member
Mrs. Jennifer Maynard	Co-opted Member
Mrs. Elenor Lawrence	Provincial Secretary

APOLOGIES

Mrs. Cecilia Askew	Diocese of The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands
Mrs. Lena Edmondson	Diocese of Guyana

The Provincial Family Life Commission (PFLC) which has been a Standing Commission of the Provincial Synod, Church in The Province of the West Indies since 2007, began its deliberations on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at the Anglican Pastoral Center, Diocese of the Windward Islands. Members expressed the view that it would be helpful for the Commission to receive a report from each diocese as to the status of implementation of recommendations made by the Commission.

Therefore the Commission requests that each diocese kindly submit a report to the Provincial Secretary before meetings of the Commission in order that an assessment may be undertaken by PFLC in furtherance of its mandate.

The Commission took a further look at the following matters from its report to Provincial Synod 2015.

1.0 MATERIALS THAT CAN BE SHARED IN THE PROVINCE

1.1 The Commission reiterates its recommendation that the following publications in Dioceses be considered for dissemination and use throughout the Province.

- The Booklet entitled “Two Shall be One” by Canon Dr. Alson Percival of the Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba,
- The Single Parenting Programme from the Diocese of Belize
- The booklet on HIV/AIDS prepared for the Diocese of Barbados by Dr. Henrick Ellis.
- “Helping the child through Adolescence to Adulthood” prepared for the Provincial Mothers’ Union.

1.2 The Commission agreed that the document “Helping the child through Adolescence to Adulthood” should have an appendix. Some ideas were shared with the Mothers’ Union Provincial President, including the need for the assistance of Social Workers/Practitioners to develop the materials which should indicate responsibilities, behaviours, parental intervention alternatives and consequences, all geared to offering adolescents with appropriate guidance and interventions. The Commission recognised that these would require further training in Parenting.

1.2.1 The Commission will seek the approval of Standing Committee for wider circulation of these publications.

1.2.2 The following publications by Caribbean authors will require some study prior to recommendations by the Commission:

- (a) “Answers and Questions Parents ask”, by Dr. Barry Davidson & Dr. Faith Linton;
and in respect of ‘marriage preparation,
- (b) “Before They Say I Do”, by Dr. Barry Davidson.
- (c) Additional materials are to be identified and disseminated to Commission.

2.0 RESOLUTIONS FROM THE PROVINCIAL 2012 TO BE INCLUDED IN A PROVINCIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

2.1 The following five Resolutions from the Provincial Synod were presented to the Family Life Commission for its attention. The Resolutions were on:

- VIOLENCE
- CHILD ABUSE
- SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

- HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- CHRONIC NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

2.2 The Commission identified four thematic areas in these Resolutions. These are violence in all forms, poverty, health and the family.

Three sub-headings are used to guide these presentations, namely-

DEFINITION which sets the parameters and understanding of the thematic area, MANIFESTATION relates to the type of behaviour or activity impacting on the respective area, and

RESPONSE of the CHURCH proffers some recommendations considered by the Commission.

The Commission's findings are as follows:

2.3 VIOLENCE

2.3.1 Definition:

Any act imposed by one individual or group of individuals upon self, other individuals, groups or the environment which causes or results in injury, psychological harm, deprivation, destruction or death which restricts or impedes the rights, freedoms or other lawful privileges to the enjoyment of natural life.

2.3.2 Manifestation:

2.3.2.1 Physical abuse: stalking, bullying, neglect, injury, domestic violence.

2.3.2.2 Sexual abuse: rape, incest, molestation, harassment.

2.3.2.3 Psychological abuse: mental, emotional, racial, intellectual, spiritual, controlling, coercing, bullying, profiling, gang forms, social, cultural, financial, stalking.

2.3.2.4 Social abuse: environmental, gang forms, racial, stigma, profiling, intellectual, misuse of social media.

2.3.2.5 Criminal offences: murder, manslaughter, burglary, rape, drug trafficking, grievous bodily harm, use of lethal weapons, gender violence.

2.3.3 Response of the Church:

The Commission recommends that Dioceses:

- 2.3.3.1** Liaise with Government and NGO's to work to eliminate all forms of Violence.
- 2.3.3.2** Sensitize congregations and promote biblical teaching of healing and wholeness through:- Evangelisation; witnessing, including the use of social media; prayer groups; mentoring and counselling; bereavement counselling; encounter groups (families, marriage and youth, intergenerational); stewardship; visitation; empowerment programmes; literacy; promoting reconciliation through conflict resolution programmes and activities geared towards fostering bonds of affection.
- 2.3.3.3.** Special training should be made available to Counsellors in the area of domestic violence. The victim and the perpetrator should be made to experience the love of God in order to eliminate this menace. Support groups must be set up to make ongoing counselling available.

2.4 CHILD ABUSE

2.4.1 Definition:

Any act, or failure to act by a parent, guardian, caregiver, sibling, friend, relative or other adult which inhibits the growth and development of a child.

2.4.2 Manifestation:

2.4.2.1 Physical Abuse:

Child labour, child trafficking, flogging, hitting, beating, grabbing, pushing, corporal punishment.

The Commission recognises that Corporal punishment is a form of Child Abuse and it is still a practice in some sectors of Caribbean Society based on an understanding of Proverbs 23:13.

In the context of the prevalence of such abuse in the Region, we believe that it is important for the Church to provide a new understanding of discipline through the transforming grace of the Gospel, which is that disciplining a child can be achieved without corporal punishment.

The teaching of the Church's understanding of biblical interpretation can inform and influence this process.

2.4.2.2 Sexual Abuse: rape, incest, molestation, harassment.

2.4.2.3 Psychological/Emotional Abuse: shaming, humiliating, ignoring, environmental, social, cultural, intellectual, peer pressure, child labour, child trafficking, witnessing violence.

2.4.2.4 Neglect: Abandonment, education, health, poor nutrition, lack of maintenance, exposure.

2.4.2.5 Spiritual Abuse: Using Biblical references to scare persons.

Spiritual abuse is using spiritual authority inappropriately resulting in a lack of trust in a spiritual leader and corruption of the Gospel message. In specific regard to children and youth, spiritual abuse occurs when those responsible for preaching and/or teaching focus on the young persons' assumed failures and short comings instead of their strengths and potential. It involves the manipulation of their minds and exploitation of their emotions. The result is an undermining of spiritual empowerment.

2.4.3 The Response of the Church:

2.4.3.1 The response is to acknowledge children and young people as individuals, who like all other members, are on a spiritual journey, requiring spiritual nurturing, guidance and support to enable effective growth and development.

2.4.3.2 Those involved in preaching and teaching must actively engage the young congregants through innovative approaches which build on strengths and promotes individual well-being.

2.5 SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

2.5.1 Definition and Manifestation:

Special needs refer to those persons who require assistance for disabilities that may be medical, mental, physical, intellectual and psychological; for example- visual and hearing impairment, autism, Down syndrome, dyslexia, blindness, Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), or cystic fibrosis, physical disabilities and the elderly.

2.5.2 The Church's Response:

2.5.2.1 The Gospel imperative to love one another and be each other's keeper, points us to love and care for all people. Persons with special needs particularly require the support of the Church.

2.5.2.2 Churches should prepare a referral system and actively partner with Agencies/Organizations that cater to persons with special needs. These Agencies are better equipped to provide adequate and effective services for the special needs sector.

2.5.2.3 Parishes should establish support groups who may be trained to provide on the spot care for those persons falling in this category,

as well as maintaining a data listing of the needs of individuals, including the elderly – many of whom experience profound loneliness and abandonment.

2.6 HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

2.6.1 Definition:

Human trafficking is defined as the illegal movement or transfer of persons; including the recruitment, abduction, transportation and harbouring of persons by means of force, coercion or deception for the purpose of exploitation.

2.6.2 Manifestation:

Sexual Exploitation, prostitution, isolation, threats, fear, rape, restricted mobility, underpaid labour, unlawful working conditions, child labour, pornography, poor physical and mental health, confiscation of personal possessions and other documents, restricted communication or contact with other persons.

2.6.3 The Church's Response:

2.6.3.1 All people are created in the image and likeness of God and are worthy of respect and honour.

2.6.3.2 Human Trafficking is to be rejected as it destroys human dignity.

2.6.3.3 Churches should liaise with Government and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to assist victims in efforts to provide effective release, rehabilitation and re-entry to Society.

2.6.3.4 Churches are encouraged to work with Government and NGO's to mitigate that which facilitates this practice.

2.6.3.5 Parishes should sensitize their congregations to the various forms of Human trafficking.

2.7 NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

2.7.1 Definition:

This is a medical condition /disease defined as Non infectious, Non transmissible among people.

2.7.2 Manifestation:

It is manifested in conditions such as: Arthritis, Diabetes, Cancer, Stroke, Chronic Respiratory ailments, Cardio Vascular illnesses, Hypertension, Heart Disease, Asthma and Obesity.

2.7.3 Response of the Church:

With reference to the proclamation of Our Lord Jesus Christ that we should have life and have it abundantly, we consider it our duty, through social outreach ministries, to help all persons to experience that abundant life which our Lord offers us. Emphasizing healthy lifestyles and promoting proper care of ourselves and our environment.

2.7.3.1 The Church should, through its healing ministry, challenge all persons to practise healthy lifestyles by considering how they exercise (1 Tim. 4:8), eat, drink and rest daily. Also recognizing the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit and ensuring a greater appreciation of life: “to have life and have it more abundantly.”

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2.7.3. 2 Encourage/ Host / Make referrals for regular medical check-up through various Health Agencies/ NGOs for Parishioners and Parish Community.

3.0 THE WAY FORWARD

3.1 The Anglican Congress held in August 2013, under the theme: “Challenges of the Caribbean Family-The Church’s Response” produced the document entitled “The Way Forward”. The document highlighted Congress’s recognition and acceptance of a shared Provincial Vision. It was carefully noted that development of such a vision would require input from several elements which constitute the Church at all levels namely, **Provincial, Diocesan** and **Parochial** and acknowledged that this would take some time.

3.2 The approach by the Church was however highlighted from the three perspectives mentioned above and three of the recommendations were referred to this Commission for consideration.

3.3 Consequently, the Congress indicated that the recommendations in their document were framed within the context of a particular vision for the Church in guiding its mission to the family and outlined this vision as it relates to the family in the following six areas:

- A Church which is grounded, for its guidance, in the Holy Spirit;
- A Church which treats family as a gift from God
- A Church which lives and proclaims a gospel which is relevant to the peculiar needs of the Caribbean family
- A Church which demonstrates that it has a mission and ministry to all families;

- A Church which specifically affirms and values the expression of Caribbean families where members express faith in God, expect love and forgiveness, discipline is fair and children are nurtured to become independent and responsible.
- A Church which is committed to proclaiming that “Christ lives and faith works”

3.4 The Provincial Standing Committee referred the following recommendations to the Family Life Commission

3.4.1 The Family Life Commission of the Provincial Synod should be mandated to examine the impact of the Constitution and Canons and Ritual Notes on the full participation in the sacramental life of the church on the basis of the family form in which they live.

3.4.1.1 The Commission was unable to examine the Constitution and Canons and Ritual Notes for any impact in the sacramental life of the Church. The Commission recognises that these topics are outside our mandate and recommends the referral of these topics to the Doctrinal Commission.

3.4.2 The Family Life Commission of the Provincial Synod should be mandated to crystallize and document a definition of the Caribbean family particularly as it relates to the Church’s ministry and disseminate this to all Dioceses.

3.4.2.1 The Commission, defining the Family offers its “CONCEPT OF THE FAMILY” as an appropriate proposition, namely:

In Caribbean societies the family is characterized by various forms and structures: the nuclear family, the extended family, the blended family; households headed by single women, single men, grandparents and siblings. The Church should play the leading role in affirming and upholding the dignity of all persons. The Church advocates the Christian ideal of one man and one woman legally and sacramentally joined in matrimony. The Church, therefore, should actively encourage and promote the Christian Family through education and practice.

This Concept is recommended for further and wider circulation throughout the Province.

3.4.2.2 The Commission recommends that methods be applied to gather statistics relevant to the practices in households and relationships in order that the church may be armed with the knowledge of a true *sitz-im-leben* to which she may appropriately respond.

3.4.3 The Family Life Commission of the Provincial Synod should be mandated to study and document the Caribbean Church’s perspectives on marriage and family

taking into account the ministry of the Church in proclaiming the gospel to all persons in the various forms of family relationships.

3.4.3.1 The Commission recommends that the Province does some research work on “the present view on marriage in the Province and how the Church can respond/minister” The resulting Questionnaire should include matters relating to the Caribbean Church’s perspectives on marriage and family, taking into account the ministry of the Church in proclaiming the gospel to all persons in the various forms of family relationships. It is proposed that a Questionnaire be disseminated throughout the Dioceses of the Province for their responses which will be studied, analysed and the findings documented with the view of developing programmes geared toward the solution of any problems/challenges presented through the responses. Ms. DeAnna Ralph and Mrs. Karlene Boyce-Reid were charged with developing the Questionnaire for the Commission approval.

These materials were referred to in paragraph **1.3.1, 1.3.2 & 1.3.3**, above.

3.4.3.2 The Commission recognises that funds will be required for the various programmes of training and, the production of booklets and pamphlets as required by recommendations for specific training requirements and recommends that the Standing Committee takes this into consideration.

3.5.1 The Commission further considered matters and recommendations emanating from Congress 2013, particularly the ‘BASES FOR THE WAY FORWARD’ and ‘THE CHALLENGES OF THE CARIBBEAN FAMILY’ as they relate to the Recommendations at the Provincial, Diocesan and Parochial levels. In furtherance of building and deepening human relationships, particular attention was paid to these recommendations, especially as the Church seeks to embrace the ‘FIVE MARKS’ of Mission as set out below:

- i To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- ii To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- iii To respond to human need by loving service
- iv To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- v To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

3.5.2 The Commission considers that Parishes should study and document the realities of Family life, identifying the needs within each Parish. The data so collected could be collated by the Diocese and projects and programmes formulated to satisfy the needs of the respective Parishes. In so doing, parishes must also be aware of the

complexities with regard to household leadership and generally to issues in respect of Family Life.

3.6 In respect of **THE WAY FORWARD**, the Commission offers the following observations and comments on the recommendations under the categories of Provincial, Diocesan and Parochial:

3.6.1 THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL:

3.6.1.1 In furtherance of the 'CONCEPT OF THE FAMILY', the Commission recognises the need for age-specific educational material in order to bring the Church's ministry into effect to Caribbean family relationships in their various forms and suggests:

- a) that collaboration with educational institutions and other resource agencies be initiated in light of the trends in the technological environment, the computer, iPod, iPhone, Tablets, etc., and the use of social media for an effective ministry;
- b) that a Provincial curriculum for the Sunday school be developed. This curriculum should cater to all ages from kindergarten, through primary, junior, senior, intermediate, young adult to adult. The Commission recommends that where such curricula already exist at the diocesan level that these are shared.
- c) that Commissions on Ministry review and strengthen their programmes to reach members who are not sufficiently grounded in the faith, providing opportunities for further Bible study.

Funding for such initiatives will be a requirement for implementation.

3.6.1.2 The Commission concurs with the following recommendations in this section:

- a) that pastoral care to families should be included in the training of students and seminarians in the region;
- b) that the declaration of a "Decade of the Family" to focus more attention to the various forms of Family which are/or may be emerging in the Caribbean;
- c) that a "Provincial Wellness Sunday" be on the calendars throughout the Province in light of the emphasis on healthy and healthier lifestyles and the attention being placed on Non-Communicable

- Diseases;(UN). The day designated is the Sunday, which falls within the Octave of the Feast of St. Luke, the Physician.
- d) that strong support be given to all efforts within the Province, Dioceses and Parishes to:
 - i. prohibit 'Smoking' in public places and declarations to eliminate the practice;
 - ii. support efforts to have early screening for all forms of cancer and to encourage regular monitoring of this disease;
 - iii. to eliminate the 'abuse of alcohol', given its impact on attitudes and behavioural consequences.
 - iv. To eliminate the use of sugar and salt.
 - e) that in the context of evolving Labour Laws within the Province, consideration be given to Employment Rights; Health and Safety at work legislation and their importance to Clergy, Diocesan employees and generally the impact on Family life.

3.6.2 THE DIOCESAN LEVEL:

The Commission concurs with the following recommendations from Congress 2013:

3.6.2.1 Creative Forms of Ministry: The Committee endorses the recommendation to use Creative activities such as liturgical dance, drama, sign language, paintings, poetry and songs. These forms should be promoted by the Diocese and material be made available to the Parishes. Each group of persons must be treated with respect to where they are psychologically, spiritually and socially. The Church Bulletin should be used as a teaching tool and should reflect reasonable creativity and attractiveness.

3.6.2.2 The Church should therefore be constantly equipping its members for effective ministry. **Some means of equipping are:** Bible study, seminars, workshops, training in the use of new technology, training in the use of musical instruments which should be a continuous exercise. Dioceses must require leaders, both ordained and lay to engage in ongoing professional development. In order to make this possible the Diocese must be prepared to finance the cost and therefore make provision in the Annual Budget.

3.6.2.3 We endorse this recommended approach of **partnering** with NGO's and other similar Agencies. Given that we are called to cater to the needs of all persons, we will do well to embrace other entities which are

designed to meet the challenges faced by Caribbean families. We must be eager to embrace partnerships with both Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations, in the areas of parenting, socialization, poverty alleviation, education, child development and nutrition, domestic violence and abuse, disaster mitigation, health, housing and acknowledge that aspects noted herein are happening in some Dioceses.

3.6.2.4 Dioceses should collaborate with family based NGOs in the sharing of information and the preparation of materials. The preparation of manuals should be such that the materials could be easily read and comprehended by all persons regardless of their level of academic achievement. Where possible the electronic medium should be employed.

3.6.2.5 Each Diocese should be intentional in its efforts to meet the pastoral need of all families. The nature of the Caribbean family presents sets of circumstances which require, the love of God to be at work in us so that the first inclination of the Counsellor is professional, working to help, and not to condemn people. Training in this area should be mandatory for Clergy in particular at Seminary. This would involve the Dioceses making necessary budgetary provision.

3.6.2.6 The ministry to young people must be carefully undergirded with their commitment to Christ so that their participation in the life of the Church is motivated by their relationship with Jesus Christ. With this as the foundation, the Dioceses should be ever ready to provide the opportunities for the youth to be always visible at Diocesan events, playing important roles especially on occasions such as Patronal Festival, Opening of Synod and Diocesan Family Days. It is especially important for the Dioceses to inspire support to youth Ministries which seek to attract other youth by way of Concerts, Sports and artistic expressions. Events planned by the youth should be placed in the Church's publications.

3.6.2.7 Given that the Church is called to minister to persons in all strata of society, it has no option other than to cater to households of single persons, those in institutional care and the incarcerated. Our aim as the Church is to embrace these persons as part of the family of Christ. We may embrace these persons through appropriate counselling, visitation by various Church Organizations, providing assistance for improved living conditions, the provision of Church literature using forms of electronic media where possible, assisting with transportation to and from Church Services and other related activities.

3.6.2.8 While marriage encounter programmes could be considered an option, we are convinced that marital preparation is of greater importance in that, it sets the stage for persons to effectively deal with what may arise in marriage. We recommend that each Diocese should therefore ensure that all persons planning marriage are required to participate in at least ten (10) hours of preparation so that the essential components may be covered. For example, i) Communication; (ii) Sex; (iii) Money management; (iv) Parenting; (v) Worship; (vi) Managing Conflict; (vii) Love; (viii) Trust; (ix) Understanding. However, in relation to the established marriages, Dioceses should constantly be providing relevant opportunities for the bonding which ought to occur between husband and wife. Such opportunities should include celebrating significant milestones, renewal of vows, conducting workshops and seminars setting up married couples fellowship. Each Diocese should seek to establish a cadre of resource persons suitable for facilitating these activities.

3.6.2.9 We endorse the statement in the final paragraph, soliciting progress reports on the implementation of the above initiatives.

3.6.3 THE PAROCHIAL LEVEL:

3.6.3.1 The following means were identified for preparation of household heads as spiritual leaders:-

- a) Training sessions for laity as visitors;
- b) Selection of community visitors;
- c) Provide the visitors with skills for enabling household heads to be spiritual leaders in the households;
- d) Resources should be acquired across the Region, Diocese or Deanery, as applicable;
- e) Training materials could be developed or sourced and adapted to meet the needs of the Parish;
- f) Mode of visitation should be determined by the Parish.

3.6.3.2 Regular/structured educational sessions on Marriage and Family:-

- a) Parishes need to determine the human and material resources required to meet these objectives. Will these resources be provided through the Diocese or by the Parish?
- b) Specific consideration should be given to issues of sexuality, dating, relationships and individual calling: marriage, singleness, celibacy as they relate to young people.

3.6.3.3 Male sessions:

The Commission concurs with this provision and recommends further that an initial session be convened at which 'a way forward', including any needed resources, may be determined.

3.6.3.4 Groups on Family Life Sub-committee of Parochial Church Council (PCC):

The Commission recommends that

- a) The Diocese should formulate Terms of Reference for such sub-committees;
- b) Each Incumbent, through the PCC, should be required to report on the activities of this sub-committee to the Diocesan Committee on Christian Family Life.

3.6.3.5 Examining and understanding Parish Communities:

The Commission recommends that along with the stipulations of recommendations **3.6.3.1** and **3.6.3.2** above, the Incumbent together with the Family Life sub-committee of the Parochial Church Council should prepare and provide material for the Parish Profile.

3.6.3.6 Educational, Training and support sessions for men, women, teens and singles:

It is recommended that

- a) These sessions should be executed separately for each category as personal and sensitive matters may be involved.
- b) Sensitization programmes, specifying Gender issues should be implemented for Clergy and Laity. These programmes would be

geared to meeting requirements for resources as set out in recommendations 3.6.3.1 and 3.6.3.2 above.

3.6.3.7 “Out of control’ Children”

The Commission notes that seemingly “out of control” children should not define only those in institutional care but any child who may be deemed ‘out of control’ and recommends:

- a) That Incumbents devise measures to include this category, wherever they may be found, in their Parish ministry
- b) That where such institutions exist in Parishes, appropriate stipulations for staffing, supervision, health and safety be put in place.

3.6.3.8 Use of Technology:

This provision may engender special appeal to younger members of the Parish and consequently the following recommendations are offered:

- a) Special training be conducted for those who will manage the medium as well as for members of the congregation as users.
- b) Maintenance and supervisory procedures must be firmly established as control measures for the integrity of the medium.

3.7 Discussions on Resolutions

We note the psychological, sociological, spiritual and cultural variables of life which, by their effects on families through personality development and interpersonal relations, can also affect social structure and that these be taken into consideration at Provincial, Diocesan and Parish levels.

4 Other Recommendations

4.1 The Commission registered concern regarding the lifestyles of clergy either after retirement from active ministry or who fall terminally ill.

4.2 We note the psychological, sociological, spiritual and cultural variables of life which, by their effects on families through personality development and interpersonal relations,

5. Conclusions

5.1 The Provincial Family Life Commission Re Action Plan 2018

5.1.1 The Commission recommends:

- A. Teach self-reliance skills and promote entrepreneurship to break the dependency syndrome and to empower people to stand as equal with others.
- b. help persons to discover their skills or life plans. Members of the church to mentor and train.
- c. Organise a career workshop with business persons within the church, engaging NGO's, governmental organizations and private sector.
- D. address issues of economic disenfranchisement and social degradation
- e. Teach people to be strategic in business by creating a business plan and managing according to the plan.

5.1.2. Partner with family life agencies (Government and non-governmental) agencies.

- a. To assist persons with social issues/challenges and respond to the needs of families, including the issue of breakdowns in relationships and the attendant effect on children and their development.

5.1.3. Endorse the resolutions from Family Life Commission Report 2012.

- a. To address violence in all forms, poverty, health and the family.

5.1.4. The Committee commends the following to the Province for action by Dioceses:

A: CARE AND COUNSELLING

B: HEALTH ISSUES

C: BEHAVIOURAL ISSUES

D: CAPACITY BUILDING

5.2 ON RESOLUTIONS FROM THE ANGLICAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCILL

5.2.1. ACC RESOLUTION 16.02: WOMEN and MEN IN Church and Society

The Provincial Family Life Commission (PFLC) concurs with the proposal to continue to empower Women and Men, Boys and Girls and to urge them to live and work in relationships that reflect Christian values of love, dignity and justice through

1. Fostering greater awareness of gender equality and norms as they reduce or minimize unjust structures and enhance power sharing;
2. The reduction of all forms of gender-based violence and by developing programmes/activities which promote greater understanding of gender roles;
3. Greater appreciation of the talents, gifts and resources of women and girls in their contributions and involvement in Church/Community;
4. Exploring gender-based ministries with the view of a greater awareness of gender relationships as may be experienced in Liturgy, Bible Study, Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage with emphasis on right relationships and intergenerational aspects of God-given dignity for all persons.

5.2.2. ACC RESOLUTION 16.03: GENDER EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

1. PFLC concurs with this Resolution in respect of
 - (a) Equality in decision-making positions for both Men and Women both within the Church and the wider society;
 - (b) The ending and prevention of trafficking in persons as was referenced in the report to Provincial Synod 2015.
2. PFLC accepts that there are just relationships and that 'Men and Women' are equally valued by God. These relationships should be fostered and enhanced wherever possible.
3. PFLC acknowledges the progress which is ongoing across the Province in promoting and facilitating Gender equality and Roles in a wide section of human endeavour as evident in the positions held by Women in traditional male-dominated fields and thereby encourages support for UN Sustainable Development Goal of empowering Women & Girls.

5.2.3. ACC RESOLUTION 16.08: RESPONSE TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

PLFC acknowledges that CLIMATE CHANGE impacts negatively on our communities and urges Dioceses to implement programmes which promote awareness of CONSERVATION and sustainability of scarce resource and commodities, such as Water and Food together with the enhancement of good agricultural practices as these may affect livelihood and communities.

PFLC urges instructional programmes in schools and across the Province in such areas as preservation and maintenance of the environment and well as appropriate means of household disposal practices.

5.2.4. ACC RESOLUTION 16.12: ANGLICAN ALLIANCE

PFLC offers prayerful support to the work of the ANGLICAN ALLIANCE and will endeavour, through the Dioceses, to make contributions to 'Relief Efforts' as may become necessary.

5.2.5. ACC RESOLUTION 16.33: REDUCING ACC CARBON FOOTPRINT

While PFLC considers the option of the use of modern technology as viable and a worthwhile measure for reducing expenditures on Provincial/Regional meetings, it is unable to determine the disposition of any 'savings' which may result from this option.

5.2.6. YEAR OF INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP:

PFLC concurs with any proposal which will redound to bringing Families, Communities and Congregations closer together and will foster endeavours that will engender a deeper appreciation of the power of prayer as we seek to bring others to Christian values and as we respond to the call of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PFLC notes the period of this DISCIPLESHIP as extending from Lent 2018 to Advent 2019.

Given the preference for the Family to be the foundation of Society and the necessity for heads of households to provide leadership in the family setting as well as in the wider society;

1. The PFLC recommends that in the household, a period of time be set aside daily for prayer;
2. That children in households be given the opportunity to lead the prayer session in the home so as to enable them, devotionally for continued intercessory life developing in them, a close relationship with GOD as they become examples of Spiritual growth for their peers and themselves;
3. That households grounded in devotional periods should encourage others households to adopt periods of prayer and devotion as they seek to transform lives and thereby facilitate a greater sense of spirituality.

5.3 Missional Imperatives For the Anglican Church in the Caribbean by the Most Rev. Drexel Gomez.

5.3.1. The PFLC concurred with the recommendation from the 39th Triennial meeting (2015) of the Provincial Synod of the Church of the Province of the West Indies (CPWI) that the paper be adopted as a guide to Anglican Identity and mission imperatives. The Commission saw great value in incorporating elements of the paper such as the Marks of Mission, Anglican Characteristics, Anglican Gifts and Imperatives as strategic guidance in its work in confronting current socio-economic and political challenges that impact on the welfare of the family.

5.3.2. Members of the Commission embraced recommendations which encouraged greater advocacy, civic involvement in the design and influence of governmental policy and programmes in the area of Human development, harnessing the resources among Caribbean Anglicans in the Diaspora, effective use of social media for promotion of the word and for witness and those which urged strengthened collaboration and partnership with Civil Society, other Christian denominations and the non-governmental sector in responding to human need.

5.3.3. The PFLC accepted the obligation for the church to be courageous and prophetic in its work and use its gift as “Pastorate to the Political” to guide the political culture of the region thus ensuring the paramountcy of truth and justice in the region’s governance. It acknowledged the urgency of the development of leadership to bring a greater Christian presence in our Society.

5.3.4. The Commission expressed the desirability for periodic review and assessment of the impact of the various declarations, strategies and actions employed in promotion of evangelisation and discipleship. Members expressed the need for greater feedback from parishes and dioceses to enable outcomes to be considered in future planning.

5.4. The PFLC Recommends that:

5.4.1. Parents are made aware of the importance of building family fellowship. This is created by dialogue and learning opportunities between parents and children, in which each gives and receives. By means of love, respect and obedience towards their parents, children participate in the development of a truly human and Christian family. They will be aided in this if parents exercise their authority with respect, love and care, that is, they see their role as parents as part of their discipleship in Christ which enables them to seek the human and Christian well-being of their children, and as a service aimed at helping them acquire a truly responsible freedom. This means that parents are to be open to listening to their children and acknowledge that the learning process is mutual.

5.4.2. Since selfishness, discord, tension and conflict, attack and at times seriously wound the stability of the family and from time to time may result in varied forms of division in family life. Family members are called to acknowledge the need to participate

in the sacrament of Reconciliation and in the Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ, which offers to the Christian family the grace and the responsibility of overcoming every division and of moving towards the fullness of communion willed by God.

5.4.3. Since parents bring children into the world, they have an obligation to educate them. Consequently, parents must acknowledge that they are the first and foremost educators of their children. Their role as educators must not be taken lightly. As such parents are entrusted with the responsibility to create a family atmosphere so motivated with love and reverence for God and others that a well-rounded personal and social development will be cultivated among their children. Therefore, it can be said that the family is the first school of those social virtues which every society needs.

5.4.4. Families must be encouraged to promote:

5.4.4.1. Dignity: it is one of God's gifts to human beings in creation – it gives us the right to be valued solely because we matter to God.

5.4.4.2. Belonging: The notion of belonging has its roots in the Hebrew Scriptures. The people of Israel belong to God and are held within his loving focus. Belonging is also central to God's redemptive activity in Jesus. He calls us to belong to him and, in him, to each other.

5.4.4.3. Forgiveness: enables the future, because within a family, relationships can be recovered, restored and renewed. Yet for a family to flourish, such forgiveness has to be accompanied by a repentance which moves a family and its relationships in a new direction, away from those things which have hurt, damaged or abused. At its best, the family is a redemptive community, where we experience the character of God's forgiveness through the forgiving love of those of whom we are part.

DISCUSSIONS

All Members of the Commission participated in the discussions at the meeting. The discussions were very interactive and inclusive of ideas based on the members' experiences.

Kevin Ryan
Secretary

The Right Rev. C. Leopold Friday
Chairman