

DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY 2016

STEPPING UP

Of late Malaysia has been very colourful in news reports throughout the world. The ISIS bombing in Puchong and the arrest of numerous Malaysians supporting and involving themselves with ISIS, the 1MDB episode reported in many countries especially with the Department of Justice in USA, a new political party enters the already congested political arena, the threats of snap elections, rampant shootings in the public and corruption scandals, the banning of Pokemon Go, etc. has stolen the limelight recently. Of course, the Olympic medal(s) has inevitably turn the tables of people's negativism into praise and hope for Malaysia especially the athletes in Rio.

What is God saying to the nation??

1.0 Creation of NEW DIOCESES

At the Diocesan Synod 2015, we have decided to go ahead to multiply into three dioceses, in the order of Northern Region which includes the States of Perlis, Kedah, Penang and Perak; the Central/Eastern Region which includes the States of Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Willayah 1 i.e. Kuala Lumpur; the Southern Region which includes States of Selangor, Willayah 2 i.e. Putra Jaya, Negri Sembilan, Melaka and Johor. (Please see the timeline in the Appendix)

We should be working closely together to see the reality and fruition of the creation of three new dioceses by 2020. Your prayers and working together are utmost crucial. It will probably take a transition of 5 to 10 years before seeing each of the new dioceses coming to a firm grip of the idea, progress and their independence.

2.0 A Season of INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

The Anglican Communion at the 16th Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Zambia in April 2016 has decided to adopt over three terms of ACC or 9 years on the theme 'A SEASON OF INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP' from 2016 to 2015. Many Provinces have also begun to adopt the same theme for themselves. I am the present Chairperson of the Anglican Witness which drives this theme for the Anglican Communion. We thank God that our Diocese has already embarked in the Discipleship Training for the past 5 years. This year the Seminar for Disciple Makers will be held at St Christopher's Church JB from 22 – 24 September 2016. I urge you to attend if you have not attending any before. Some of our churches have yet to begin and embark in it. I personally believe that Discipleship is the answer to serious membership, church growth, church planting, mission, social agenda, and it is the

best way to prepare our members to withstand any extremism be it religious or secular or political or financial.

A Disciple is one who:-

1. Knows the Word of God and can articulate the Gospel anytime and anywhere.
2. Has read through the whole Bible and continue to read it many times over in order to be able to nurture and feed himself and others spiritually.
3. Is concerned socially for the needy and the less fortunate and acts upon it positively.
4. Is concerned for human rights, fairness and justice for all God's people.
5. Is concerned ecologically the state of the environment and nature as God's creation.

3.0 THY KINGDOM COME

The Archbishop of Canterbury has invited all Anglicans throughout the Anglican Communion to enter into a time of prayer and seeking God together as a church annually from Ascension Day to Pentecost Day. Last year in UK alone, over 100,000 people came to different churches all over UK on these 10 days to pray for the world, nation, politics, churches, individuals and particular issues. It began in all the Cathedrals but it has spread to all the other local churches. Our Province has agreed to join in the prayer project 'Thy Kingdom Come' this year. The title suggests a time to pray and seek God's kingdom coming to earth with more intensity and in greater measure, and our response intentionally, deliberately and corporately.

We need to rely upon God's grace for answers, strength and hope.

4.0 BIBLICAL and SPIRITUAL FORMATION

In the process of upgrading and improving our Diocese Biblical and Spiritual Formation, we have finally able to implement it by next year 2017.

In 2017, the Diocese has decided and will be formulating two courses for all people in the Diocese. The Bishop's Certificate of Ministry (BpCM) and the Bishop's Diploma of Ministry (BpDM). The BpCM is geared for those who wish to learn more about the biblical knowledge and eventually serve in the parishes as Lay Reader or Lay Pastor. It is a 10 module course with 5 core modules such as Bible Overview, Old Testament 1, New Testament 1, Christian Doctrines 1 and Anglicanism. The BpDM is geared for those who may eventually wish to be serving in the Local Ordained Ministry (L.O.M.) and also has 4 core modules such as Old Testament 2, New Testament 2, Christian Doctrines 2 and Church History 1. The others are electives where they can choose from any modules of their interest provided. This will help streamline all diocesan trainings for Bishop's license. It is not meant to make it hard for members but instead better. This will be operated by the Diocesan language boards.

For all candidates wishing to be in full-time ministry, a basic Bachelor of Theology or equivalent from recognized seminary or college is essential as the basic minimum prerequisite.

In 2017, the Diocese has also prepared for a Spiritual Formation platform for everyone in the Diocese to be equipped and strengthened in the arena of spiritual disciplines. I have identified Rev David Cox to lead in this arena. He will begin with quarterly School of Spiritual Formation in a diocesan house in Rawang. It will involve training such as contemplation, solitude, fasting, reading, meditation, reflection, journeying with God, etc. From 2017 onwards, all candidates seeking ordination or commission will require to attend such School of Spiritual Formation, apart from the Malaysian Indigenous Clinical Pastoral Education.

+Moon Hing
Archbishop of South East Asia
Bishop of West Malaysia

August 2016

APPENDIX 1

Timeline for the creation of three new dioceses

2016	Regional Assemblies 1 in 3 regions Formation of Sub-Committees - Finance Sub-committee - Legal and Constitution Sub Committee
2017	Creation of Area Dioceses with Suffragan Bishops Diocesan Synod Separate Clergy Retreats
2018	Seeking Permission from Provincial Synod Regional Assemblies 2 in 3 regions
2019	Diocesan Synod and new Synodical term Formation of Pro-tem Regional Assembly Standing Committee - Selection of Bishop Nominees - Choosing of names for new dioceses
2020	Seeking Permission from Provincial Synod (only if there is no dissenting vote in 2018) Consecration of new bishops and creation of new dioceses
2020 – 2025/2030 Transition period	

APPENDIX 2

Syllabus for BpCM and BpDM

1. Begin in 2017 with a maximum module of 5 per year.
2. Every module will require a minimum of 15 hours of classwork.
3. Classwork includes teaching, class activity, reading report, assignment, test, class projects, etc.
4. Attendance will be taken and only those attended a minimum of 80% of classwork will be credited.
5. The lecturers are only those within our diocese with a Bachelor of Theology and above or equivalent.
6. Place and Cost of each module will be determined by each language Board.
7. This is different from STM TEE. There should be not any transferred of credit from and to each other at the moment. Those pursuing credits from STM TEE should complete it with STM.

Modules to be offered as Core Modules:

Bible Overview, Old Testament 1, Old Testament 2, New Testament 1, New Testament 2, Christian Doctrines 1, Christian Doctrines 2, Anglicanism and Church History 1.

Modules to be offered as electives:

Liturgy, Mission, City Evangelism, Preaching, Pastoral Care, Pastoral Leadership, Christian Worship, Interpretation of the Bible, Christian Ethics, Social Ministry, Christian & Relief, Basic Christian Counselling, MICPE, Church History 2, Church Management, Inductive Bible Study, Youth Ministry, Senior Citizen Ministry, Christianity & Arts, Christians & Sports, Lay Reader/Pastor Ministry, Spiritual Disciplines, Major Religions, etc.