

Resolution on Partnerships with Belize and Tanga

Resolution:

Resolved, that the 200th Convention of the Diocese of Ohio endorses the continuing partnerships with the Anglican Diocese of Belize in the Province of the West Indies and the Anglican Diocese of Tanga in the Province of Tanzania until Diocesan Council or Convention discern a different direction, and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Ohio's Commission on Global and Domestic Mission be empowered to continue with its Tanga and Belize Sub-Committees to oversee these partnerships by encouraging and supporting the participation of persons and congregations in the Diocese of Ohio.

Rationale:

In 2011, at the 195th Convention of the Diocese of Ohio, resolutions were passed endorsing the formation of companion relationships with Belize and Tanga beginning in December 2011 and continuing until December 2016 unless terminated by mutual consent.

The expiration of the 2011 resolutions offer an opportunity for the Bishop in consultation with the bishops in the companion Dioceses and the Commission for Global and Domestic Mission to evaluate the work to date and discern the next steps for these relationships. In particular, there has been significant turnover in those involved in the Tanga relationship on both sides.

In recent years, a group of teachers from Parishes around the Diocese of Ohio traveled to Belize at the request of the Diocese of Belize to help the teachers at the Anglican Schools offer a week-long summer Reading Camp for 7-8 year olds. The success of this program led to the Diocese of Belize offering their own Reading Camp. It also encouraged the development of the Science Success program, requested by the Diocese of Belize. Dr. Matt Teare, a professor of education at Cleveland State University, and a member of St. Luke, Chardon, leads that in a planned four-year program to create lead-teachers at each of the 19-some Anglican Schools in Belize. In support of this effort, a pen-pal program has been developed that connects teachers in Ohio with teachers in Belize. This Pen-Pal program encourages the teachers in Belize with ideas for student and classroom projects in the Anglican Schools.

The Episcopal Church Women have been involved in a school feeding program, and have helped establish a Clothesline project modeled on one at St. Timothy, Perrysburg. These projects take on an added urgency after hurricane Earl had a direct hit on Belize City.

In May of 2016, three people from Belize joined members of the Diocese of Ohio at the Global Episcopal Mission (GEMN) Conference, and have forged relationships that continue to bear fruit as we imagine joint projects going forward. Currently, the young

people who connected at the GEMN conference are working to bring Happening to Belize.

These contacts have established and maintained strong friendships and considerable enthusiasm. The result is a desire to continue to find dynamic ways to develop our relationships and partnership with the Diocese of Belize.

The Tanga mission partnership builds on a long-term existing relationship, beginning during Bishop Burt's tenure, between the Anglican Diocese of Tanga, Province of Tanzania, and parishes in the Diocese of Ohio. Trips to Tanga have been conducted in intervals with adults and college-age young people from multiple parishes. Adult representatives from Tanga have visited the Diocese of Ohio also on several occasions. A representative from the Diocese of Ohio lived in Tanga for several months, making connections and aiding in the delivery of three separate shipments of medical equipment and supplies to the St. Raphael Hospital in Tanga. Communication and relationship building have continued during and around changing leadership in both partnership areas. Reaching out and continuing to connect will provide sustainable linkages and growth through challenging times.

Submitted by the Commission on Global and Domestic Mission