



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT
PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

February 2, 2016

Dear Colleagues in God's Mission:

I am writing to invite you and members of your congregation to attend our annual **Episcopal Church in Connecticut Mission Conference: "Walking Together: Living God's Mission"** on **Saturday, March 5, from 9 AM to 4 PM** at St. Paul's Church on the Huntington Green (25 Church Street) in Shelton, CT.

Every year, we members of the Companions in Mission Committee pray about a theme and conference speakers several months ahead of time. In September of 2015, we agreed on the theme of "Walking Together". In recent days, these words have taken on new meaning following the primates gathering at Canterbury in January. As you know, there were many strong differences of opinion discussed at this meeting. But against almost all predictions, the primates voted unanimously to continue to "walk together" in Christ. A big question on many peoples' minds is: "How do we continue to walk together given the differences we embody as a global family of churches?"

Many of us have discovered the answer to this question in hands-on partnerships in God's mission. We cannot resolve the many differences of opinion on contentious issues, but we can agree to work together with our brothers and sisters in Christ who live in cultural contexts very different from our own. As Bishop Ian and Bishop Laura said in their recent letter, ***"In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut we are blessed with dozens of parish-based partnerships in God's mission around the world from Kenya to Nigeria, from Haiti to Ecuador. Through the Companions in Mission Network, Sustainable Development Grants, Companions for Mission Publication and Communication Grants and countless other ways the Episcopal Church in Connecticut engages in lasting and transforming mission relationships with sister and brother Anglicans around the world."***

One of our conference keynote speakers is **Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion**. He will be speaking on "Walking Together: the Power of Mission Partnerships". Archbishop Josiah brings a world-wide perspective and has a deep understanding of the cultural and theological divisions within the Anglican Communion. He has a unique perspective on what divides and what unites Anglicans around the world. As Secretary General of the Anglican Communion he was present at, and helped to facilitate, all of the sessions of the recent primates gathering. At the same time, he has a very long history in promoting mission partnerships between parishes and diocese in England, Canada, Australia and Nigeria. Both he and Bishop Ian will be available for questions and conversation during the workshop time.



Our other keynote speaker is **Colin Murphy, Former Chief Executive of the Glencree Center for Peace and Reconciliation** in Northern Ireland. He has worked with for peace and reconciliation amongst divided Roman Catholics and Protestants in his native land. He will speak from his practical experience in bridging gaps that seem to be irreconcilable.

We live in interesting times. In our national politics and in our ecclesial politics, we hear voices of fear and recrimination. And yet as followers of Jesus we are called to be voices of hope and reconciliation. Our vocation is to walk together in mutual respect as sisters and brothers in Christ in the midst of our cultural and theological differences. Please join us for conversation and learning at our annual mission conference as a commitment to “walking together: living God’s mission”.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Rev. Tom Furrer
Chair, Companions in Mission
Episcopal Church in Connecticut

PS. from Bishop Ian: “I strongly encourage all members of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut to attend our annual mission conference. There is no better opportunity in the whole Episcopal Church to learn about our partnership in God’s mission with sisters and brothers in the worldwide Anglican Communion. Come and be inspired.”