

# Anglican Youth in Southern Africa (AYSA)

## Provincial Youth Council (PYC)

**Diocesan Consultation : 1 – 5 July 2015 in Modderpoort, Diocese of Free State**

### SUMMARY CONSULTATION REPORT - 2015

The theme of the Consultation evolved around two initiatives, viz.

1. **#reclaimingouryouth** : an initiative which seeks to retain our existing youth, reclaiming youth who have left, mobilising inactive youth, and to bring in the harvest of young people into the Kingdom of God, and,
2. To mobilise the energy and creativity of our young people in our NEW STRUGGLE against inequality and the challenges of poverty, unemployment, health, justice and the environment.

#### 1. Introductions

In a video message, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba personally encouraged the youth to take the lead in the NEW STRUGGLE and to seek ways to abolish the inequalities in our societies, and especially the inequality of *opportunity*.

Bishop Dintoe continued this motivation in his charge, that the youth need to take responsibility for their own futures and also need to reach out to other youth in their communities.

The Provincial Youth Chaplain also strongly encouraged the youth leadership to take the lead developing ministry opportunities. His homily during the opening Eucharist set the tone for what is to follow later.

The President also provided a very motivational talk comparing the youth to a giant puzzle. Each of us are a piece in that puzzle and we need to be united and fitted together in order to be the picture God want's us to be. He encouraged us to seek out the "missing pieces" and to add them to the puzzle so that the picture can be complete.

A broad overview of the Consultation can be found on the AYSA website at <http://aysa.org.za/index.php/pyc-consultation-2015/>.

#### 2. Pastoral Standards and Code of Conduct

Tony Lawrence gave an overview of the Pastoral Standards and Rules for Conduct at the Consultation. He also explained why a written agreement of the Code of Conduct needed to be signed by each of the delegates, and what the consequences would be in the event of a breach.

### **3. Reports from the Dioceses**

One of our key activities on Consultation, is to hear and receive reports from each of the Dioceses. The challenges and issues which Dioceses face, were workshopped in order to determine ways of overcoming these.

The issues which occurred most frequently across the Dioceses, are the following:

1. There's a lack of support by the Clergy at Parish level.
2. There's a lack of time and finance investment in children and youth ministries.
3. There's a lack of leadership training and development.

These issues are workshopped, and the outcomes and suggested solutions are posted here :

<http://aysa.org.za/index.php/what-are-the-real-issues-in-the-dioceses/>.

### **4. Chaplains Breakaway**

Revd Calvin Frans held a separate session with all the Chaplains to discuss matters of mutual interest.

### **5. AYSA – an understanding.**

Shane Thomas gave an overview of the AYSA structure and clarified the need to unify all children and youth related ministries under AYSA.

### **6. Training Workshops**

The following 3 workshops were conducted concurrently. The Council was split into 3 equal groups for each of the delegates to attend one of the following:

1. Proposal Writing for Fund Raising – a workshop facilitated by Tony Lawrence which sought to help delegates to design a written fund raising proposal.
2. Anglican Rosaries – a workshop facilitated by Revd Chris Seupe of the Diocese of Pretoria which sought to teach the delegates the meaning of the structure of the Rosary as well as how to assemble the various beads.
3. Youth Liturgy – a workshop facilitated by Revd Donny Meyer, which sought to develop a better understanding of the Anglican Liturgy and how it can be used for the youth ministry. The workshop also produced a Youth Benediction prayer as well as a Youth Creed.

### **7. Business Meeting**

The usual business section covered previous minutes, the Financial Report, Projects (Project2013 – Development of a curriculum framework for spiritual development of children and youth), General activities (Anglicans Ablaze Conference, Consultation 2016, etc.), etc.

It was agreed that the 2016 Consultation be held in the Diocese of Lebombo.

## 8. Social Workshop

The Consultation discussed a few areas of social responsibility issues which the Church needs to help address in our communities. Some of these included unemployment, inequality (in opportunities) and lack of morality.

## 9. Conclusion

The Consultation was closed with an outreach visit, spending time with some people of the community. We also got an opportunity to see the places of interest: the cave church and the spring of healing water.

## 10. Resources

Reports, handouts, presentations, etc. can be downloaded from the AYSA web site at :  
<http://aysa.org.za/index.php/post-pyc-consultation-2015-resources/>

*PYC Executive  
September 2015*

