

The Way Forward: Equipping the Saints
Memphis, TN
Organizing for a New Day: Jurisdictional
The Rev. Jim McCaslin
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I. Introduction & Opening Prayer

A. I'm Jim McCaslin, Rector, All Souls Anglican Church, Jacksonville, FL, under the jurisdictional authority of Bishop Joel Obetia of the Diocese of Madi-West Nile in the Province of Uganda. Also serve as Dean of the Anglican Communion Network's Southeastern Convocation.

B. All Souls is also a member of the Anglican Alliance of North Florida (AANF): 16 Common Cause congregations (11 ex-ECUSA, 3 ECUSA, 2 AMiA) with more on the way. Similar to Mid-South Common Cause group hosting this workshop. Other clusters developing in Great Lakes Region, in Los Angeles and Connecticut.

C. Realignment of American Anglicanism continues. Don't know what it will look like: proto-dioceses, affinity networks? Do know that all Common Cause partners are committed to ensuring an orthodox Anglican Province in North America that remains connected to a faithful global communion. Of the U.S. Common Cause Partners, four are structured to allow episcopal jurisdiction: ACN, REC, APA, & AMiA.

D. Owe much to Bishop T. J. and AMiA, the pioneers who've blazed a trail.

II. Bible Study and Prayer

A. A lot we don't know as God shakes up the church, but a lot we do know.

B. Exegete 2 Timothy 1:1-14. Guard the Deposit Entrusted to us.

III. Three Orthodox American Anglican Groupings

A. Pioneers who paved the way: REC, APA and AMiA – “Older” Diaspora

B. Ten Network dioceses and those congregations in ACN convocations that are still part of ECUSA. Other orthodox ECUSA congregations not in ACN.

1. Contain the bulk of orthodox clergy & congregations in the ACN
2. Still attached to ECUSA, jurisdictionally if not spiritually
3. Sitting bishops & some rectors taking flak for not being bolder. Many playing cards close to vest. Many waiting for GC before making a move. Some still fighting to reform ECUSA. Broad spectrum.
4. Misperception now is that they are ACN & therefore ACN is not taking bold action.

C. International Conference created by ACN as bold action before GC.

1. Global South Primates treat Bishop Bob Duncan as de facto American Primate. They've asked him to reassemble faithful Anglican Christians in America. That work is taking place on the big picture level at meetings of the Common Cause Roundtable of both our American and our Canadian partners.

2. +Bob sensed that, in keeping with his mission to reunite us, he needed to invite rectors and wardens of the 70 congregations that have recently left ECUSA for temporary overseas episcopal oversight to meet in KC to inaugurate a new structure where we can work together to rebuild American Anglicanism while still under the temporary jurisdiction of the gracious overseas bishops who've reached out the right hand of fellowship to us. As Archbishop Orombi said, "We look forward to the day when there will be an orthodox province of Anglicanism in the US." Those of us gathered in KS to launch the IC took a major step in that direction. The Primates of Uganda, Kenya, Central Africa, and the Southern Cone who have American congregations not already under REC, APA, or Rwanda through AMiA all support this move.

3. Established the IC before GC for three main reasons:

a) Many congregations being forced out or couldn't stay out of conscience or because parish was simply fracturing under the strain of being under the cloud of ungodly teaching & practice.

b) Saw real danger of continuing fragmentation to the point of congregationalism, with some congregations newly blessed to be under godly overseas bishops beginning to think of themselves as Ugandans, Kenyans, Bolivians or Recifeans.

Thankful to these bishops & hope mission partnerships will continue, but goal is to re-unite American Anglicans in a new structure, not to fragment into overseas jurisdictions.

c) Need to show those who will leave ECUSA that, in addition

to AMiA, REC and APA, the ACN is providing a viable structure for them to move into. The IC is giving folks new hope for the future and showing that the ACN will be taking action to sow the seeds for a new structure.

IV. Specific ACN Services.

A.+Bob Duncan, as ACN Moderator and Common Cause Convenor, is working in an amazingly complex environment to bring all orthodox American Anglicans as closely together as possible in a way that the Global South Primates will bless.

B.Spectrum includes those still in ECUSA, those preparing to leave, those who've left, and those with all our Common Cause partners.

C.As chaotic events of GC unfold, we're working hard to put in place those services needed for a new day. As Bishop Jecko had said, we are building this airplane while we're flying it. And make no mistake, the aircraft is already off the runway whether we think it's time for takeoff or not.

D.We're working to provide necessary services to support mission and ministry as we build and fly the new airplane. Some examples:

- 1.Model new DNA of biblical and prayerful mutual submission.
- 2.Provide resources for mission and ministry planning, such as church planting, overseas mission partnerships, and congregational development. ACN has Tom Herrick and his team who will serve as church planting guides. Jon Shuler of AMiA spoke at the Network's Church Planting Conference just prior to Hope and a Future and so we continue to foster connections with our AMiA colleagues, who major in church planting, just as we're doing here at this workshop. Assist congregations in developing overseas mission partnerships, and, with more Common Cause workshops and other ways of sharing resources, help congregations to develop vital youth and children's ministries and church revitalization programs.
- 3.Serve as liaisons with overseas bishops. Many congregations experienced; many just starting.
- 4.Arrange episcopal visits for confirmations, encouragement, and counsel. Foreign visitor could serve multiple jurisdictions as Common Cause bishops, like T.J., could as well. Ultimately need new American bishops.
- 5.Provide info on new Church pension plan and benefits packages for both clergy and lay staff.

V. Our Common Cause Challenge

A. Keep eyes on Jesus as we're building and flying airplanes in His skies.

B. Remember the One in whom we have believed. Only He can orchestrate this realignment.

C. Give each other grace regarding where folks are on the spectrum of still being in an unrepentant ECUSA and having already left. The issues have their own nuances in each congregations and diocese.

D. Be intentional about working Common Cause at the grass roots level and about learning how we can be careful not to reinvent the wheel in areas where our various Common Cause partners excel, again to mention AMiA and church planting and perhaps in some of administrative areas.

E. While structural and jurisdictional issues sort themselves out, let's really join in Common Cause for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples who make other disciples and plant churches that plant other churches.

F. And may God be glorified in everything we say and do. Amen.