



05 August 2022

**Letter S 15 / 22**

Dear Parish Family

More than 650 Bishops across the Anglican Communion have gathered in Canterbury, England, for the 15<sup>th</sup> Lambeth Conference. The theme, “God’s Church for God’s World” guides the conference as bishops spend time in prayer and studying the Bible together, focusing on 1 Peter; as well as conversing with each other about global, socio-political and religious challenges facing not only the world, but also the unity of the Anglican Church as a whole. I must say, this time I am following with great interest, the daily conference summaries and images coming through via Lambeth Facebook Page.

My observation thus far, from all the daily reflections and discussions, is that it seems that the ongoing conversation on Human Sexuality remains the dominant topic of Lambeth 2022. It further seems that the members of the Anglican Communion are in different places over the issue. A phrase uttered by the more conservative group of bishops, “we may be gathered together but most certainly cannot walk together”, was quite a grim statement for me to grasp. But then again, I don’t want to come to my own conclusion, until I get hold of a copy of the full text which indicates the context in which the statement was made. To say the least, I am waiting in anticipation.

However, there are Bishops who feel that the time for conversation is long overdue and the church must be fully and completely inclusive, up to the point of marriage for same sex couples. So, it seems that the conversation still continues, and hopefully at the end of Lambeth more information will be disseminated across the Anglican Communion.

What I would like to suggest, is that we continue to pray for our spiritual leaders as they gather, and that God will hold their different views. I like the comment made by one of the Archbishops in one of the summaries: “It’s okay, it is thoroughly diverse work, and it’s all God’s work.”

On a personal note, this is my view in a nutshell. We cannot put God in a box. God did not stop interacting with all of God’s created order in the last chapter of the book of Revelation. God is continuing to reveal Godself in ways and means beyond our comprehension.

This is all for now.

*With love,*

**Selwyn**