

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF MEXICO DIOCESE OF WESTERN MEXICO

Record of the XLVII Synod

Place: “EL Buen Pastor”, San Martín de las Flores

February 3 and 4 2017

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Place: "EL Buen Pastor", San Martín de las Flores
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

- 1) At 10:00 AM on February the 3rd, 2017, Morning Prayer was held in the Temple "El Buen Pastor" to prepare for the work of the XLVII Synod of the Diocese of Western Mexico of The Anglican Church of Mexico (IAM). After Morning Prayer, the Right Revd. Bishop Lino Rodríguez welcomed all in attendance. The role of delegates was then taken, and there being 64 of 71 delegates present, a quorum was declared and the work continued.
- 2) The proceedings began with the Right Revd. Bishop Lino Rodríguez A. introducing and welcoming the Right Revd. Bishop Francisco Manuel Moreno, Primate of the Province of Mexico of the Anglican Church, and his wife, Mrs. Esperanza Nieves. He also introduced Rev. Carlos García and Mr. Rómulo Ituarte, guests from the Diocese of San Diego, and a fraternal greeting was sent to the Right Revd. Bishop James A. Mathes of that diocese.
- 3) Following the greetings, the Agenda for the meeting was presented for approval, and was approved by a majority.
- 4) The first order of business was to present the missions "El Buen Pastor" and "Catedral de San Pablo" for consideration to become parishes, and the preaching stations "Cristo Redentor" and "San Francisco de Asis" in the Pame region to be considered to become organized missions. After deliberation, during which it was acknowledged that the procedures to be considered an organized mission is well delineated in the church canons, it was moved to accept as parishes or organized missions those that had their documentation for application posted in the agenda and that the Standing Committee follow up with those congregations that had not presented their documentation in a timely and proper manner. The motion passed by a vote of 50 in favor with 3 abstentions. The new parishes and organized missions were then welcomed. It was further noted that in order to avoid irregularities, the proper procedures should be followed with complete documentation, which should include growth plans, the reasons to be an organized mission, and supporting elements indicating conditions for growth. New delegates to the Synod were then named.

Rev. Jesús Olvera informed the Synod that the preaching station “San Francisco de Asís” in the capital of SLP had also sent documents for application on time but that they were not included in the Agenda. Rev. Roberto Aguilar, Synod Secretary, explained that he had forgotten to include them in the Agenda but that he indeed was in possession of them. He thus moved that this preaching station be accepted as an organized mission and that the Standing Committee should review their status as an organized mission as stipulated under the aforementioned agreement. The motion passed by a vote of 38 in favor with 9 abstentions.

- 5) An application to be received as a Parish was presented by the organized mission “San Esteban Martir”. The request was accepted, instructing the Standing Committee to monitor the progress of this congregation and to render a report to the next Synod after interviews with the priest and the congregation. According to the results of the information obtained, their application will be considered for approval.
- 6) Rev. Misael Sainz introduced three new preaching stations, all being in the state of Sinaloa, in the cities of Culiacan, Mazatlan, and Navolato. He further expressed his belief that pastoral care is needed in other congregations already formed in that region. Right Revd. Bishop Lino Rodriguez A. replied that the growth of the church must not be impeded and that the church will go wherever it is spiritually needed. He noted further that this situation should lead us to reflect upon our situation and needs.
- 7) A committee was appointed to send Greetings to the Diocese of San Diego, to the United States Episcopal Church Primate Right Revd. Bishop Michael Curry, the Right Revd and Rt Hon Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, and the different Dioceses of Mexico.
Rev. Robbin de Nagro proposed that annexed to the greeting to the Episcopal Church Primate should be a condemnation to the action of U. S. President Donald Trump of building a Wall along the Mexico/USA border that would divide families and churches. The proposal was accepted by visual majority
- 8) A record of the previous Synod was presented, and after being read and clarifying some legal expenses, was accepted by a vote of 43 in favor and 2 against. It was noted by some delegates of the Synod that the document should be understood as a record and not a chronicle, in as much as it is lacking in formality and that information had been omitted. The opinion was expressed that it had not the seriousness it should have and that the person in charge of the record, Rev. Roberto Aguilar, had not taken his responsibility seriously. It was further noted, regarding the concerns of the issue of Mr. Juan Medina, that it is not a question of asking forgiveness but of following up the

process of his ordination. After discussion, The Report of the Secretary of the Synod was read and accepted by a vote of 56 in favor.

- 9) The Presiding Bishop of the Province of Mexico, the Right Revd. Bishop Francisco Manuel Moreno was invited to address the Synod. He expressed his concern that there are difficulties in the church, including a lack of vocation and leadership and a lack of passion and spirituality, but he emphasized that these problems would not be enough to stop our work towards the future. He then expressed words of encouragement to continue advancing. The Primate Bishop was asked to schedule a meeting with the upper echelons of the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church, demanding from the Roman Church a respect for our documents and sacraments such as baptism, confirmation, etc. in the same way that we recognize and respect theirs. The Primate Bishop said that three things are needed for us to be properly recognized: First, that the name of our church should be in sight so that all know we are there; second, that our clergy should use their clerical collars so that they can be identified; and third that when problems of not being recognized arise, we should go directly to the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church with a letter explaining the issue and talk with them. He further said that each Bishop of the Anglican Church of Mexico in their region should approach their corresponding Roman Bishop, since many Roman Catholic Bishops do not follow the Pope's guidelines.
- 10) After a recess, the Secretary of the Synod, Rev. Roberto Aguilar, presented reports from various individuals and committees and explained the methodology to be followed to analyze them. He divided those present into four groups and gave Reports to each group to be analyzed.
 - a. Team 1 analyzed and gave a brief summary of the Bishop's Report, the Fourth Region Archidiaconate Report, and the Ecumenical Relations Report. Reporting on the CETSA (Centro de Estudios Teológicos San Andres) report, they commented that contributions by each congregation should be increased. They also noted that the seminarians were not known, after which Bishop Lino introduced them and gave them words of encouragement.
 - b. Team 2 analyzed the Standing Committee Report, noting that the issues dealt with are named but that the Standing Committee did not go into detail about them and that there were no results noted for those issues. It was suggested that the Standing Committee properly assume its role and prepare a bi-monthly report to be presented to the diocese. They also asked the Standing Committee to meet more often and to have contact with the new preaching stations and organized missions, as well as with the parishes. They were also asked about the results of pending ordination processes. The Team also did not agree with how the process of leasing properties was handled. They noted a

hopeless feeling in general. Analyzing the UTO Reports they noted that their report showed that they have been working, although there had been poor response from the congregations. The Team also asked why they had to send a thousand pesos to the province. They noted that the Report of Extra Diocesan Relations was concise but the responses seemed slow, being required to be responsible and co-responsible.

- c. Team 3 analyzed the Report from the Commission on Ministries noting that it contained misspellings and translation defects. They asked about the motivational workshop and how the ordination processes are proceeding. Mr. Raul Flores commented that the workshop was still in process, having already been structured, but that subjects are missing and details were still being fine-tuned. He also detailed the ordination processes of Mr. Trinidad Palomera, Mr. James Powers and Mr. Juan Medina. From the analysis of the Christian Education Report it was concluded that there is lack of coordination between the different congregations and the work trying to be done and that support from clergy is missing. They suggest that there should be a Christian Education Officers in each region. The Communications Report overall is well written, but that some information of the Synod was missing and that the web page was not updated so that information would arrive in a timely manner. They also noted that a historical file is needed. As for the Statistical Report, the Team noted that it was incomplete and not updated.
- d. Team 4, making remarks about the archdiocese of the second region, noted that work was not completed, believing it was due to the vastness of the region. It was suggested that regional meetings should be reassumed before the synod and that pastoral letters be sent. Regarding the Evangelism Report, it was suggested that follow-up to each church be carried out, that Sunday Schools be organized, that there be more interaction between the Bishop and the Churches, that there be more educational assistance to the Churches, and that temples be open daily. From the Ecology Report there was only a brief review.

As for overall concluding comments, it was noted that the Reports and proposals for this synod did not reflect a continuation of the record of the past synod and that processes that had been outlined from previous synods were not reflected in this year's reports. Further, questions were asked as to why reports were missing, inasmuch as it is required that all Reports are to be submitted. A question also arose concerning the state of affairs of Rev. Miguel Zavala, and our Right Revd. Bishop Lino Rodríguez A. said he had had a

meeting with him in Tijuana and that Revd. Miguel Zavala felt sorry for not having a fruitful ministry, this being the reason for him to retire from the Church.

The Reports were approved enmass, 41 votes in favor of accepting them with 1 abstention.

- 11) Mr. Milton Gómez moved that the agreements originating in the synod should be followed up on. His motion passed with 50 votes in favor. The comment was also made that lay delegates should be involved in this follow up. The Bishop said that it was the responsibility of the Standing Committee to watch over the proper function of the committees.
- 12) Missing reports were asked for, especially the Statistics Report and the Finance Report, noting that they should be available in advance so that delegates might go over them in advance. The Right Revd Bishop Lino Rodríguez A. said that these Reports are very necessary and that he is responsible for the missing information not being on time. He expects that they will be complete for the next year.
- 13) The issue of the Nomination Committee then arose. The Right Revd Bishop Lino Rodríguez A. said that last year two people were appointed, Revd Ramón Rios and Mr. Dana Faris, to form a nominating committee. He reported that they had been working with other people during the year and have a proposal as to whom should be on this committee and that such committee required final approval by the synod. With that approval, they will be able to begin work searching for the next Bishop.

Mr. Dana Faris summarized the activities that the Nomination Committee had been engaged in, emphasizing that they had called other people to work with them. He explained that he and Revd Rios had met with the Right Revd Bishop Lino Rodríguez to discuss concerns and to agree to continuing working with the chosen people until their approval by the synod. A meeting was also held with the Standing Committee where their work was presented. Mr. Faris presented the proposal that an extraordinary synod should take place for the election of the new bishop, the date to be determined. He also explained that a survey had been carried out in all the congregations to determine what the people of the Diocese desire in a new bishop. The survey concluded with positive results.

A list of names was then presented to complete the Nomination Committee. After a brief debate members of the committee were approved by a vote of 55 in favor. The approved Committee consists of Revd Ramón Ríos, Mr. Dana Faris, Revd James Priddy, Revd Pablo Ramos, Miss Celia Castillo, Miss María Antonieta Hernández, Mrs. Ofelia Quintanar, Mr. Loyal Snyder, Mrs. Mary Dale Wilson and Mr. Raul Flores.

14) The Right Revd Bishop Lino Rodríguez A. concluded the session, saying that his leadership in the Church had been with achievements and failures, but that due to his age it was time of retirement. He expressed his hopes to end leaving the management of the Church in other hands and explained that his responsibility does not end until the new bishop is consecrated, but that this will not be beyond December. He noted that his work with the Nominating Committee and the Standing Committee will only be as surveillance so that good work will be done, but that his pastoral work will continue.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

1) Work continued with 61 delegates, constituting a quorum, with the accountant for the Province of Mexico, Mrs. Laura García, being introduced to the synod along with the accountant from the Diocese of Western Mexico, Mrs. Sahayra Vanessa Iñiguez. They proceeded to give an explanation of the 2016 Finance Report.

a. As financial reports were not available before the meeting, it was noted that to alleviate doubts the Finance Report should be made available in advance to the Right Revd Bishop Lino Rodríguez A., to the Standing Committee, and to the Finance Committee, to be studied, analyzed, verified that all is correct, and to clarify certain kind of expenses. The Finance Report was submitted to the session and accepted by a vote of 41 in favor, 2 against, and 5 abstentions.

b. Details of the report included:

i. A Report of the properties being leased, which are; Colego Anna Freud; 63,000 MXP (Mexican pesos), Colegio Libertad 26,887 MXP, House in calle Plateros; 5,500 MXP, House in calle La Fragua; 3,000 MXP, House in Cd. Guzman 2,500 MXP, and a house in Colonia Altagracia pending of leasing.

ii. The Subsidy from the Episcopal Church in USA to be received this year is \$23,333.33 USD of which \$5,566.77 USD are to support the Mexican Anglican Church Province of Mexico, leaving for the Diocese \$1,480.54 USD per month.

iii. Remaining balance in banks: BBVBancomer, 194,550.59 MXP; IBC Bank, \$51,507 USD; Trust Fund Mexico, \$45,555 USD; and Trust Fund USA \$882,312.45 USD

iv. Promises from congregations for 2017 were reviewed, raising certain problems in the budget proposal. It was noted that there should be a way to handle the fulfillment of the promises in a timely manner. Sometimes deposits appear in the bank with the accountant having no

idea from whom they came. It is recommended that when a deposit is made by a congregation, that the diocesan office be advised by WhatsApp or telephone 3338416790.

In addition it was noted that there had been no approach with the congregations to ask for their promises to be fulfilled and that an amount was inserted only to fulfill what was needed to balance the budget. It was emphasized that each congregation must work towards the fulfillment of their promise. Time was allowed to afford each congregation the opportunity to talk about the fulfillment of their congregation's promise. This resulted in the following pledges:

	Parish	Promise 2017
1	Catedral De San Pablo	7,000
2	St. Mark's	36,000
3	St. Andrew's	72,000
4	Christ Church by the Sea	54,050
5	El Buen Pastor	11,000
Organized Mission		
6	Templo de Cristo, Gdl.	4,025
7	San Esteban Mártir, San Sebastián	7,000
8	San Pablo Apóstol, San Sebastianito	4,025
9	San Francisco de Asís, Zoquipan	5,000
10	Espíritu Santo, Gdl.	7,000
11	Christ Church Lake Side, Ajijic	8,050
12	La Sagrada Familia, Mazamitla	2,000
13	Santísima Trinidad, Móchis	4,000
14	San Rafael Arcángel, El Guayabo	4,025
15	La Santa Cruz, Téroque Viejo	575
16	San Pedro Apóstol, Costa Rica	2,000
17	Santa María Virgen, Hermosillo	18,000
18	San Pedro Apóstol, Mexicali	4,025
19	San Juan Apóstol y Evangelista, Ensenada	7,475
20	Cristo Rey, Tijuana	4,025
21	San Jorge, Colima	4,025
22	San Francisco de Asís, SLP	6,000
23	San Francisco de Asís, La Nueva Palma	6,000
24	Cristo Redentor, Sta. Fe	4,025
Preaching Station		
25	Santiago Apóstol, Mich.	4,800

- 2) The 2017 Budget was reviewed, and it was noted that the Bishop's salary will be excessive, since the policy of basing it on dollars coupled with the increase in the exchange rate from pesos to dollars triggers a large increase in his salary. It was moved that the item "salary of the bishop" be reviewed by the Standing Committee and that the Finance Committee and delegates be informed on a later date as to their recommendations. The motion carried on a vote of 40 in favor and 1 abstention
- 3) The Nomination Committee moved that there be an item in the 2017 budget of one hundred thousand MXP for expenses that will be faced in the search for the new bishop. After a brief discussion the motion passed a vote of 46 in favor.
- 4) The diocesan accountant was asked for a series of explanations of some items that differ from last year expenses.
- 5) It was moved that the 2017 budget be approved with observation made, especially in respect to the bishop's salary. Concerns were voiced that several items were not well studied and that the budget is not balanced. The motion passed with 39 votes in favor, 6 against and 4 abstentions.
- 6) As it was late, it was moved that the meeting to be suspended, leaving for tomorrow items in the agenda such as: Report of each congregation and parish, evaluation and financial commitments of each one of them for 2017. The motion was accepted by voice vote.
- 7) Various issues were then presented:
 - a. It was noted that some properties belonging to the Church were loaned to priests for their personal use. It was complained that the expenses incurred in them should be the responsibility of those who are living in them.
 - b. The opinion was expressed that the missions just elevated to parish status were not one-hundred percent self-sustaining since they received help from the diocese through the provision of housing for their priests, along with the payment of housing insurance by the Province. However, it was noted that expenses paid by the parish are determined by an agreement between the parish and the rector. It was also noted that there is a year of learning in the relation between the new parishes and the diocese.
 - c. A guest from San Diego, Mr. Rómulo Ituarte, read a letter from the Right Revd James A. Mathis, Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego:
 - i. sending blessings to our synod and saying that he continues in prayer for a health recovery for Bishop Lino;
 - ii. informing us that at their Synod last November they approved a motion to be our sister dioceses and that they will work with us for the growth of our diocese, and that we have much to learn one from the other;

- iii. noting that Revd Carlos García said he had been very comfortable in a pleasant atmosphere but recommends that we be more efficient in the administration of our finance issues. He noted that his mission is to help the diocese, and are working on it, especially with the Xi-iuy.
 - d. Attorney at law Loyal Snyder, delegate from Catedral de San Pablo, moved that the bishop or other the ecclesiastical authority appoint a Procedures Committee to assist in the program and procedures of the upcoming synods. The motion passed with votes of 50 in favor and six against.
 - e. Mr. Hector U. Rocha, a delegate from San Francisco de Asis in the capital of SLP discussed ways of working with the diocese, including: a strategic planning workshop, a marketing plan, social projects, and Cyber workshops.
- 8) The Synod then moved to the election or appointment of persons to replace those finishing their terms on the various committees.
- a. For the position on the Standing Committee replacing Revd Roberto Ajuilar, the Revd Pablo Ramos was elected; his term will run from 2017 to 2020.
 - b. For the position on the Standing Committee replacing Mr. Milton Gómez, Attorney Loyal Snyder was elected; his term will run from 2017 to 2020.
 - c. For the position on the Commission on Ministries Committee replacing Revd Ramon Ríos, Revd Ismael Sainz was elected; his term will run from 2017 to 2020.
 - d. For the position on the Commission on Ministries Committee replacing Revd Roberto Aguilar, Revd Luis Olivetto was elected; his term will run from 2017 to 2018.
 - e. For the position on the Commission on Ministries Committee replacing Mr. Margarito García, Miss Celia Castillo was elected; her term will run from 2017 to 2020.
 - f. The Right Revd Lino Rodríguez A. appointed the following people the various committees:
 - i. Finance Committee: Revd Mónico Lara R., Accountant Vanesa Iñiguez, Revd Ricardo Gómez, and accountant Margarito García.
 - ii. Committee on Canons: Revd Habacuc Ramos H., Attorney Dolores Palos, Attorney Jesus Piceno, and Attorney Loyal Snyder.
 - iii. Statistics: Revd Mónico Lara.
 - iv. Communications: Revd Roberto Aguilar.
 - v. Ecumenism: Revd Pablo Ramos.
 - vi. Christian Education and Evangelism: Revd Ricardo Gomez, and LR (Lay Reader) Diana Cabello.
 - vii. Youth Ministries: LR Bienvenido Leal.

- viii. Extra Diocesan Relations: Revd Adelí García
 - ix. Diocesan Development Committee: Revd Roberto Aguilar, Revd Ricardo Gomez, and Revd Robin de Nagro
 - x. Ecology: Revd Ma. Concepción Olvera, LR Diana Cabello, Mr. Hector U. Rocha, and Mr. Armin Villavicencio
 - xi. UTO: Mrs. Ruth M. Gutiérrez, Mrs. Amalia Aguilar and Mrs. Rosa Isela García
 - xii. CETSA (Center of Theological Studies San Andres): Rev. Pablo Ramos and the Right Revd Bishop Lino Rodríguez A.
 - xiii. Arch Deacons:
 - 1. First Region (Jalisco Colima and Nayarit) Revd Habacuc Ramos
 - 2. Second Region (Sinaloa and Sonora) Revd Gabino García
 - 3. Third Region (Baja California Norte) Revd. Adelí C. García
 - 4. Fourth Region: (Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, San Luis Potosí and Guanajuato) Revd Ricardo Gómez
 - xiv. Procedurals Committee: Appointments pending.
- g. For the position of Secretary of the next synod Mr. Milton Gomez was elected with 30 votes in favor. He then appointed Mr. Raul Flores as undersecretary.
- 9) The location of the next synod was discussed: San Pedro Apóstol in Costa Rica and Saint Mark's in Guadalajara volunteered to receive it. An election was held and San Pedro Apóstol was selected with a vote of 23 votes against 22 of Saint Mark's. The dates for the 2018 Synod will be February 2 and 3.
- 10) At 4:27 pm on February the 4th 2017 the Right Revd Bishop Lino Rodríguez A. closed the XLVII synod. The Holy Eucharist followed.

That the relevant points of our XLVII Synod embodied in this record, serve to strengthen the commitment of our beloved Church to its mission, that it be an instrument of union, service, and commitment to continue testifying as it had been done in the past, the same be done in the future.

Year of the Lord's Grace 2017