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*By Revd Jacynthia Murphy*



*The Revd Jacynthia Murphy and Venerable Sepiuta Hala'api'api, representing Te Hahi Mihinare ki Aotearoa ki Niu Tirenī, ki Nga Moutere o Te Moana Nui a Kiwa, with members of the Anglican Consultative Council in Lusaka, Zambia: 8-19 April 2016*

*"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"*

Psalm 133:1

With the backdrop theme of **'Intentional Discipleship in a World of Difference'** 78 Provinces gathered at the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC-16) meeting in Lusaka, Zambia earlier this year. The previous 2012 conference was held at the Holy Trinity Ca-

thedral, in Auckland, which meant that many familiar faces greeted me at various airports, transit lounges, and hotel lobbies along the way. Hurricane Zena had unfortunately delayed the arrival of our second Provincial delegate, the Venerable Sepi Hala'api'api. What an honour and a blessing it was for two women to be representing our Province!

Being with members of the wider Anglican

faith community was both humbling and exhilarating. Seasoned representatives were quick to acquaint themselves with novices like me which helped to settle down any remaining nerves. An introduction day followed by an evening with the Province of Central Africa, at which the Vice-President of Zambia gave an address, would set the scene for ACC-16 in this wonderfully warm and inviting environment of Zambia.

A jubilant Eucharist service would formally open the conference, much to the delight of its 4000 worshippers from throughout Africa's Provinces, and ACC16 members. As one of two female priests it was an honour to accompany Canada's Rt Revd Jane Alexander and Australia's Rt Revd Dr Sarah McNeill as the only four ordained women to process, with 200 or so male bishops and priests, in the service.

Resisting the seductive beat of the African drums was too great! Powered by the Holy Spirit, I broke with the sedate ranks, made my way across the wide open space, to join with the rhythmic dancing, singing, and

praise – Central African style! Without delay and in a surprise gesture I was joined by the President of the Republic of Zambia, Edgar Chagwa Lungu, and the Rt Revd James Tengatenga of Malawi who both succumbed to an



innate urge to dance also! A priest told me later, "That was the closest I have ever been to President Lungu. God sent you to dance with him. Zikomo Kwambiri, (thank you very much)!" The Church Times of London reported, "The Revd Jacynthia Murphy of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, said last week that she had felt thrilled and overwhelmed as one of only two women clergy robed for the outdoor Eucharist at the cathedral."

A personal proud moment was reported by the Anglican Communion News Service (ACNS) who wrote, "During the ACC-16 meeting the Revd Jacynthia Murphy of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia became the first woman to preside at the Eucharist at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. She did so in her own language, Māori. The Church of the Province of Central Africa does not ordain women."



*The Revd Jacynthia Murphy becomes the first woman to preside at the Eucharist at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Lusaka*

To discover that yours truly was given this great honour was extremely humbling. It is to God I give the glory! It is hoped that the Province will consider ordaining women in the near future. ACNS also wrote, "The "shock" of women priests has been taken away by the number of female clergy who have visited

the Province from elsewhere in the Anglican Communion. Women priests have stood at the altar and helped, or they were part of the worship; and the church is still standing and hasn't fallen down!"



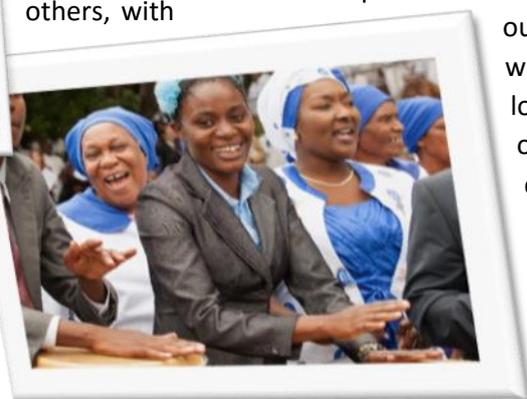
Ruth, our biblical study character, would unapologetically stir the ACC membership into a boisterous daily work-out of robust, diverse, and passionate reflections. Contexts from the Rt Revd James Tengatenga, former Bishop of Malawi, and the Most Revd Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Capetown in South Africa, the Rt Revd Michael Lewis, Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, HG Bishop Angaelos, of the Coptic Orthodox Church, laity from Ireland, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania would be deeply enriching and at times, very challenging. This daily theological exercise fitted with the conference theme, 'Intentional discipleship in a world of difference.' It is with sadness that our new found friend from Zimbabwe, Mr Arthur Morris Tendayi Mutsonziwa, passed away soon after the conclusion of ACC-16. Arthur was a fine young lawyer making a substantial contribution to the church in his role as a Lay person. We thank him for his service to his people. "May he rest in the presence of your light, o Lord."

The much awaited opening address of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, included the highlights and recommendations from the Primates meeting, held earlier this year. Anxiety ran high with some and expectancy with others, with

trine. The Primate's Communique reported, "It is our unanimous desire to walk together, however given the seriousness of these matters we formally acknowledge this distance by requiring that for a period of three years The Episcopal Church no longer represent us on ecumenical and interfaith bodies, should not be appointed or elected to an internal standing committee and that while participating in the internal bodies of the Anglican Communion, they will not take part in decision making on any issues pertaining to doctrine or polity." The Report was received without it being categorically clear if the plenary agreed or disagreed. A Motion to enact the recommendations was later withdrawn.

ACC's Youth delegates, two of Africa's finest young women Ms Ncumisa Ngolwethu Magadla and Ms Louisa Lete-Mojela (*as pictured above*), superbly articulated their concerns by urging members to talk about Climate Change, Youth Representation at all levels, and Gender Based Violence (GBV). Our own youthful Sepi Hala'api'api, spoke confidently into how Climate Change is directly affecting many lives throughout Polynesia. Dauntingly, I was asked to sit on a panel and offer responses to many pressing youth matters. It was not made any easier with Sepi and Pihopa Kito looking on.

ACC-16 and Lusaka will be a memorable highlight of my Provincial representative role. Its people, hospitality, colour, drums, song, and warmth will forever beat in my heart for long after its conclusion. This one and only meeting for me completes the rotational term for Tikanga Māori, of which I am deeply grateful and blessed to have been chosen.



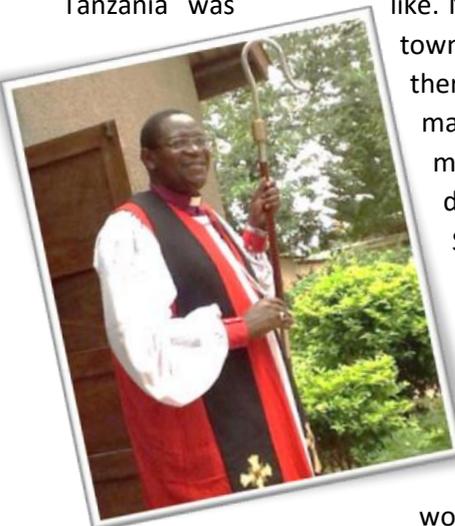
regards to what 'consequences' would follow for The Episcopal Church USA (TEC) in relation to its recent change of the marriage doc-

## DIOCESE OF KONDOA

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go"*

Psalm 32:8

Imagine a fiery setting sun and beating African drum and you might just manage to comprehend what my visit to Tanzania was



like. Nestled in its heart is the town of Kondoa and getting there means traversing many miles of hot, dusty, mostly unsealed, and deeply corrugated roads. Small goat herds and cows were coaxed by their loving owners, perhaps to water or what little grazing was on offer. Villagers carrying firewood, or 20 gallon contain-

ers of water, or large sacks of maize, were miles from any obvious settlements. This daily routine would set the scene for what has been a memorable and humbling mission experience.

As a guest of the Rt Revd Given Gaula, his wife Lillian and family, and Peter and Chris Akester, I offer my deepest gratitude for making their home, my home also. Bishop Given and I were students together at Te Rau Kahikatea, St Johns Theological College in Auckland until his consecration to the Bishop of Kondoa in 2012. Mission and ministry in Tanzania was far beyond my initial comprehension so it was very moving to witness first-hand where Aotearoa's NZCMS Mission Partners work, live, pray, and play.

In the centre of this busy, diverse, and 96% Muslim town is the Kondoa Anglican Bible College where only one female student



is enrolled. The College is the hub of theological education and ministry formation for ordinands and existing pastors in the Diocese. It was here that I spent time with its students and staff. Topics of particular interest were human sexuality, women in ministry, marriage, leadership, technology, and support mechanisms. Intrigue reigned with regard to my 'single-childless' status, which is very unusual in Tanzania. One student inquired, "Is there something wrong with you, that you are not married?" It was a challenge containing my initial amusement. Another asked about my sexuality and if Aotearoa accepted same-sex relationships. Explaining that same-sex marriage was now legal in Aotearoa mystified them, however, the matter of same-sex blessings yet to be debated at General Synod 2016 meant that I was unable to offer the 'yes or no' answer they were looking for.

Mother's Union (MU) is thriving in this part of the world. With escalating numbers it is clearly the principal women's ministry group in the region. The matriarchal and leadership dynamics is a key component to the membership that is immersed in vibrant ministry integrating biblical studies, choir, counselling, and pastoral care to the elderly. Children are an integral part of their ministry that is ultimately at the heart of their success, sustainability, and growth.

Younger women tend to focus on child rearing, domestic chores, the home and its surrounds. They are particularly attentive to harvests and food preparation. In some villages there is a need to travel many miles to fetch water and firewood also as part of their daily routine.

Spending time speaking with these women, both individually and in groups, was very insightful.

Asked by Bishop to focus discussions on my role as a priest and women in leadership sparked much interest. The ordina-

tion of women has not yet been realised in Kondoa, however, the Bishop is keen to be a pioneer for change within the Province. The women in this region will need the full support of their husbands and families for training and ordination to occur. This was a direct challenge by me to all the men in the Diocese of Kondoa.

Invited by the Bishop to speak at various Diocesan Leadership gatherings would unveil many aspirations. Technology is very sparse therefore, an iPad and cordless speaker were sources of great curiosity at these presentations. No matter what age, gender, or status of the participants the playback of videos brought on screams of delight, a deep shyness, and for some a little embarrassment. It was an eye-opener to witness how technology, that I have come to take for granted, could invoke such an array of emotions. A clear indication of the absence of such equipment in Kondoa.

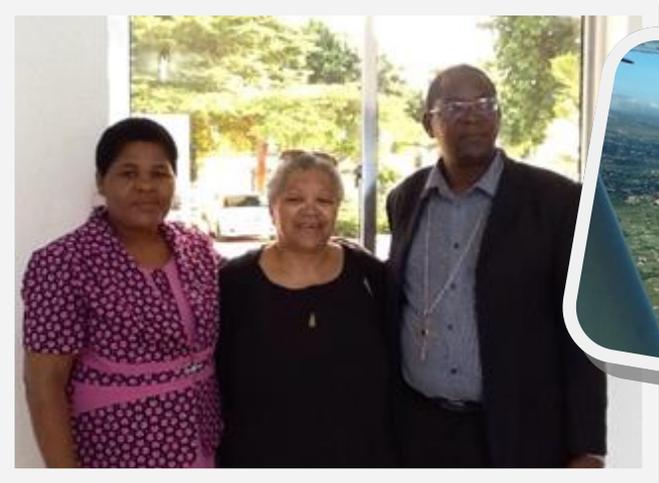
To simply say that the small villages I have visited were an eye-opener would be an understatement. Wherever I went there was an overwhelming warmth of hospitality, song, praise, prayer, and colour. At times I was joyfully moved to tears. To be with Bishop Given amongst his own people was hugely inspirational. He graciously Revealed his natural ability to be a loving Shepherd, a caring Pastor to the pastors, a motivational leader, and a bold innovator. God has gifted Bishop Given with a loving ministry that manages to instil faith and hope in a parched dry region that suffers with poverty, disease, lack of med-

ical assistance and very few schools. Every time I feel the seductive beats of those village drums I will reflect back on the time we spent with each other remembering that which binds us together in God's pure love.

A very huge thanks to Te Hui Amorangi o Te Tai Tokerau for sending me to our sister Diocese of Kondoa. Sponsorship has helped the Diocese immensely and a renewed commitment will help them realise the completion of some of their very important projects. I will always remember Tanzania and its drums, song, and colour. The experience will forever be honoured in my ministry formation and mission. Thanks be to God!

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there also.”*

Matthew 18:20



# Two Women ordained in Samoa for the Aiga (Family) Urban Clergy

By Archdeacon Taimalelagi Tuatagaloa

Photos supplied by Revd Brenda Reed



*Fr Sione, Revd Sonja Matalavea-Hunter and Revd Saitalia Bourke with Archdeacon Tai Tuatagaloa*

The Revd Saitalia Bourke has been a Lay Minister for many years, a primary school teacher and was member of the Ministry Committee of the Diocese of Polynesia for about six years, replacing The Revd Brenda Reed Sio, the very first woman to be ordained clergy in Apia.

The Revd Sonja Siainiusami Matalavea-Hunter who graduated from the Rhema South Pacific Bible School, was a Lay Minister for four years and has been the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Samoa Tourism Authority for eight years. She was ordained together with her husband The Revd David Joseph Hunter, CEO of the Scientific Research Organization of Samoa (SROS). Revd Sonja is presently the Deputy Chairperson of the Development Committee of the parish and as a member of the Education Board for the All Saints School, she was instrumental in acquiring the lease of government school buildings and land for the school at a very nominal sum of money

initially for 20 years.

The Revd Maiava Iulai Blakelock-Toma is not only the Ombudsman but is also the Samoa Commissioner for Human Rights and over the last 3 years has been preaching the sermons for 'the Break the Silence' Sunday as adapted from material produced

## All Saints Church in Leifiifi, Sunday 24th July 2016

The Ministry team in the Samoa Archdeaconry was recently strengthened and enriched through the ordination of five Deacons to the priesthood. Among them were two women; The Revd Saitalia Bourke and Revd Sonja Siainiusami Matalavea-Hunter.

The ordination took place in the presence of the General Synod Standing Committee members meeting in Samoa and was jointly conducted by The Most Revd Dr Winston Halapua of Tikanga Polynesia, The Most Revd Philip Richardson of Tikanga Pakeha and, The Right Revd Te Kitohi Wiremu Pikaahu of Tikanga Maori, helping to make this quite an historical event, for a small congregation and a single church Archdeaconry. Those ordained included three Chief Executive Officers of Government entities who were ordained deacons last year during the visit of the Archbishop of York, The Most Revd Dr John Sentamu and Mrs Margaret Sentamu.



*The five new Deacons ordained in the Samoan Archdeaconry*



*The new Deacons along with the Archbishops and members of the General Synod Standing Committee*

by the House of Sarah in Suva. Revd Maiava has been a very strong advocate for Zero Tolerance of Violence in the communities as promoted by the Diocese of Polynesia.

The Revd Fuluomanu Henry Stewart Bryce (nephew of the late Archbishop Jabez Bryce) is a sports person and coach of the National under 20 Rugby team. He is exercising his ministry in the village community of Siumu in the Southern Side of the Island.

Apart from mentoring by the two ordained priests of the Arch-deaconry and especially under the pastoral care of The Revd

Moea'iseu Raymond Betham, the deacons received extensive training from the Senior Moana Ministry Education Officer, The Revd Sione Uluilkepa and The Revd Fereimi Cama. Archbishop Winston gifted each of the newly ordained Deacons with theological resources including *The Character of Theology; Truth Speaks to Power, The Countercultural Nature of Scripture; the Grace Outpouring, Becoming a People Blessing; The Glory of Preaching, Participating in God's Transforming of the World;* and *Sustaining Leadership, Renewing Your Strength and Sparkle.*

The ordination of the Aiga Urban clergy, according to the Archbishop and Diocesan Bishop of Polynesia, was an event to be celebrated as a new model of ministry and mission to the wider community. He said that it is to enable the whole church to be effective to meet the diverse needs of the Parish and the wider community. These non-stipendiary clergy will continue to exercise their ministries centred in the worship of the Church of All Saints from their homes and work place.

It is within the concept of the Aiga Urban clergy that, one of the newly ordained commented that clergy need to bring God into the secular policies of the secular world of the government, the communities and work place.

## Introducing the New Tikanga Pasifika Co-Councillor for AWSC: Kelera NAI Cokanasiga

Nai is known to some of us – she is currently the Secretary of the AAW of the Diocese of Polynesia and has worked in ministry partnership with her husband Reverend Mataiasi Cokanasiga for over 13 years. From 1983-2004 she was the National Health & Welfare Programme Coordinator for the Fiji Red Cross Society based in the Suva Headquarters and from 2005-2009 she was the Programme Manager for F.R.I.E.N.D., in Lautoka, from 2012-2014 she has been a Community Support Facilitator and part-time Counsellor at the House of Sarah and from 2015 she is the Manager and Project Coordinator at the House of Sarah. Nai is a trained social worker and brings both counselling and pastoral care skills to the position as well as depth of understanding of the issues and dynamics involved in the area of violence against women. These skills combined with her understanding of the Diocese of Polynesia and knowledge of the AAW makes her a

strong advocate to lead the House of Sarah along with a team of hardworking and dedicated women and

male advo-

cates in the Diocese of Polynesia.

Nai has a strong passion on Women and Children's Ministry and loves community work. One thing she strongly advocates for is for women in ministry to share their talents and skills to those women who do not have the opportunity to go further in education. To support and minister to those who are illiterate and are vulnerable in this day and age of technology with computers/internet, phones etc.



## The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies (AWSC)

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The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies, commonly known as the **Anglican Women's Studies Centre** was set up to serve and to advance the interests and needs of the women of this Church particularly those undertaking Theological training.

The Link Representatives from each Diocese and Hui Amorangi have been chosen for their leadership ability to identify, gather, facilitate, resource and encourage women in their educational preparation for ministry whether lay or ordained. It is hoped that the Anglican Women's Studies Centre can continue to enjoy the support of each Diocese and Hui Amorangi in this endeavour.

The issue of increasing numbers of women in representative positions across the councils and committees of the Church is seen as a high priority and the practice of intentional mentoring by those already in national and international representative roles is seen as a good way to expose women of this church to fulfill their potential as leaders.

Ensuring that women's voices and stories are heard now and in the future is also one of our continued aims whether it be by traditional methods of publication or using more contemporary technologies like website publication. We remain optimistic that through continued support, the needs of women throughout this Province will be valued and recognized.



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**EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER:** The Anglican Women's Studies Centre is committed to encouraging and enabling women's voices and perspectives from across the diversity of the Church to be shared more widely. We acknowledge that women's experiences of church differ considerably and that resultant theological perspectives also differ considerably. In general the AWSC does not exercise editorial control, rather we welcome as many voices as are willing to contribute.