COMMUNIQUE

We, the **137** participants of the First Anglican Intercultural Mission Conference, who gathered at St Pauls Slough in the Diocese of Oxford on 26th April 2023 to reflect on the **challenges and opportunities** for intercultural mission within the Anglican Church, wish to share our reflections and resolutions under God.

We came from northern, eastern, western and southern regions of the United Kingdom, including the dioceses and episcopal areas of Berkshire, Birmingham, Buckinghamshire, Coventry, Edmonton, Ely, Gloucester, Guildford, Kensington, Leeds, Leicester, Lichfield, London, Norwich, Oxford, Reading, Rochester, Southwark, Southwell, St Albans, Stepney, Willesden, Winchester as well as from the following institutions; The Racial Justice Commission of the Church of England, Overseas Mission Fellowship (OMF), All Nations College, EIDO Research, Interserve, Intercultural Churches UK (ICUK). One People Commission (Evangelical Alliance), and Elam Ministries. Nevertheless, we are united by our shared commitment to the Great Commission of Jesus to '*Go and make disciples of all nations…'* – Matt 28:19, in an increasingly diverse world.

We believe the Anglican Church has a unique opportunity to be a leading voice in intercultural mission. This is because we are part of a global communion with a rich history of diversity and are called to be a place where people from all ethnicities, cultures and backgrounds can come together to worship God and serve the world.

We recognise many challenges to intercultural mission within the Anglican Church. One challenge is the reality of **racism and discrimination**. We must work to create a church that is genuinely all-embracing and welcoming of all people, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or cultural background. We believe the future of the Anglican Church depends on its ability to become a genuinely intercultural church because the UK is a community of many tribes, languages, peoples, and nations.

Another challenge is the need for **cultural competency.** To be effective in intercultural mission, we must understand and appreciate the cultures of the people we are trying to reach. We must

be willing to learn about their customs, values, and beliefs and be humble enough to admit when we do not know something. Our interactions should focus on exchanging ideas, learning from one another, developing relationships, and growing together as a family of God.

Despite the challenges, we are confident that God has given the Anglican Church an opportunity to be a powerful force for intercultural mission. Therefore, we are committed to working together to build a truly broad, welcoming, and culturally competent church. We believe that doing so can make a real difference in the world and bring glory to God. Therefore, we shall champion intercultural worshipping communities by intentionally reaching and integrating all people, regardless of ethnicity and cultural difference, as they love God and each other.

To achieve our goals, we commit to the following:

- We will work to create a truly equitable, diverse, and broad church that is welcoming of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, or cultural background.
- We will develop our cultural competency to understand and appreciate the cultures of the people we are trying to reach.
- We will partner with other churches and organisations committed to intercultural mission.
- We will pray for God's guidance and blessing as we seek to fulfil our God-given mission in an increasingly diverse world.

We believe that working together makes a real difference in the world and brings glory to God.

We have established **three mission vehicles** to help us champion intercultural worshipping communities within the Anglican Church.

1) The **Anglican Network Intercultural Churches (ANIC),** with a founding membership of sixty-six churches across 20 dioceses and episcopal areas in the UK.
2) The **Oxford Journal for Intercultural Mission (OJIM)** to be published at least quarterly.
3) The **Intercultural Mission E-Learning Greenhouse** to share best practices, mentor churches, equip for intercultural ministry and encourage each other to establish intercultural worshipping communities across the Anglican Church.

May God prosper His people and His Church.

+ Timothy

Bishop Tim Wambunya
Conference Chair