

Dean's Letter, 7 October 2018

Dear Cathedral family, brothers and sisters in Christ

I had the privilege of attending a meeting of the Provincial Standing Committee (PSC), for 3 days last week, in Gauteng. PSC meets annually, apart from the year when Provincial Synod (PS) is held (which is normally every three years – the next meeting of PS is in 2019). PSC, together with Provincial Synod, is one of the governance bodies of our Province, the others being the Synod of Bishops and Provincial Trusts Board. It approves the annual provincial budget for ACSA, receives reports from our many organisations and areas of ministry, and engages with matters of concern and importance.

Each diocese in our Province (i.e. The Anglican Church of Southern Africa, ACSA) is represented at PSC by the diocesan bishop, one priest and one lay person, so I was there as the clergy representative of our diocese. And, as I have done for a number of years now, I took the minutes. Quite straightforward these days, with laptops and emails! I am grateful that my minute-taking experience began after the advent of computers, so that no-one has had to decipher my handwriting scribbled under pressure of time and packed agendas. Minute-taking certainly keeps me focused and awake!

These meetings are hard work, and intense, with long days – we start at 7 a.m. and end around 12-14 hours later - but I nevertheless came away energized and grateful to have been at PSC. The Archbishop chairs the meetings with wisdom and good humour; there is laughter and mutual respect; the worship is very good – we used a number of newly crafted liturgies, as well as music from AJ Bethke's SA Hymn Book; it was a creative and energetic space. Three words sum up for me the PSC experience: relationships (contacts and friendships old and new); diversity (people from our 28 dioceses all over southern Africa); passion (for the gospel, for the life and witness of the church, for the well-being of our communities, for the Lord).

PSC addressed some big issues. We gave our support to The Shutdown Movement protests currently taking place on the Cape Flats and in Westbury (Gauteng) against poverty and gangsterism; we took a few more steps to establish Safe Church, along the lines of our current Pastoral Standards and The Safe Church Commission, an initiative of the world-wide Anglican Communion, focusing in particular on children and vulnerable adults; committed ourselves to combat plastic pollution (so BYOB – bring your own bags!); gave ongoing support to the Archbishop's Commission on Human Sexuality and committed ourselves to ongoing engagement and listening to the members of the LGBTIQA++ community and their extended families; acknowledged the importance and value of the College of the Transfiguration in the training and formation of future church leaders; engaged up to point with the issue of land expropriation without compensation; and much else besides. May God bless us in our life together as the people of God.

My love to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.