

Diocese of Grahamstown – Order of St. Barnabas
12th November 2016 Conference
Correctional Services, Westbank – East London.

Topic: Ministry in the Anglican Church

Saint. Barnabas

Saint Barnabas was a Cypriot and a Levite who, on becoming a Christian, generously sold his properties and gave the proceedings to help the ministry of the Apostles (Acts 4: 36 - 37). Barnabas was instrumental in persuading Paul to come to Antioch (Acts 11: 25 - 25). Subsequently, Paul and Barnabas travelled together, accompanied to by John Mark, a relative of Barnabas, and they are both reported to be at the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15: 2; 12).

In Antioch the circumcision question became so acute that Barnabas and Paul were appointed to bring the matter before the Jerusalem Council. Their policy was triumphantly vindicated (Acts 15: 1 - 29). Barnabas insisted on including John Mark, who had previously deserted them, on a proposed second journey. Paul refused, and the itinerary was divided, Barnabas taking Cyprus. The close partnership was broken, but not the friendship.

Luke regarded St. Barnabas as a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of Faith (Acts 11:24). And on at least 4 occasions his warm-heartedness and spiritual insight, and the apparently universal respect for him, had momentous results.

Saint Barnabas is the Patron Saint of Peacemakers; his Feast Day is in 11th June.

Ministry in the Anglican Church

The World Wide Anglican Church has a provision for multiple ministries to be performed by both the lay and the ordained members of our church, and in the past 2 decades' strides have been taken for greater inclusivity in the ministries of the church – across gender, age, class and nationality. But we are still lacking in involving people with disabilities to do ministry or adequately minister to them.

A deliberately move from an ordained person centered ministerial approach, to inclusive & extended lay persons' participation and thus expand the duties of lay ministers, has yielded good fruits in some instances. For example;

- We have other people except the ordained;
- to read the holy scripture
- Read the gospel texts in public worship
- Synex
- Lead prayers of the church and people
- Preach
- Visit the sick and house bound & administer consecrated communion
- Teach

What is Ministry:

Oxford Dictionary explain Ministry as: **The spiritual work or service of a Christian or a group of Christians, especially evangelism.**

According to our Church (Anglican);

Christian Ministry is a ministry of salvation in the service of the world. It originates in the charge given by Jesus Christ to the church to carry on His ministry. All baptized members of the church are called to share in this service in harmony and with their states of life, special gifts and roles within the social structure of stable Christian communities.

All forms of ministry have three basic traits:

1. **Proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ**
2. **Service of the needs of the neighbor**
3. **Worship of God.**

- Christian ministry is never simply a ministry for the Christian community, Christians grow in the life of faith precisely by serving others.
- Preaching the Gospel, which moves others to accept Christ, awakens the preachers to the awareness and the active presence of Christ in their preaching.
- The loving service of the neighbour provides a deeper insight into the otherness of the other and so leads to affirm God as the source of that otherness.

So what it means to be a Minister (lay or ordained)?

Minister - Latin roots meaning “*Servant*”

A minister is a person officially charged to perform spiritual functions in the Church and a conductor of a service and it may not be a Priest.

Ministries that are recognized by the church

- Ordained
 - o Deacon
 - o Priest
 - o Bishop
- Parish council & Church Warden
- Teaching (Sunday School & Confirmation Class)
- Sacristans, Altar servers & Lay Ministers

Appointment/Selection of Lay Ministers Canon 20

Lay ministers shall be designated, appointed and admitted in accordance with regulations prescribed by each Diocesan Synod. The exercise of the office of a Lay minister shall be by license of the Bishop who may *grant, revoke* or *renew* such license as she/he deems fit. The Bishop may delegate his/her authority to *grant, revoke* or *renew* a license (or any one or more of these acts) to a Bishop Suffragan in the diocese, which delegation he may withdraw at any time.

Duties of a Lay Minister

Duties of licensed Lay Minister shall be one or more of the following;

1. Instructing and preparing candidates for Holy baptism and Confirmation
2. Preaching (at the discretion of the Parish Rector/ Priest-in-Charge)

3. Assisting in the administration of Holy Communion - Chalice
4. Performing such other pastoral duties, not reserved to the ordained ministry, as the Bishop may determine.

Privileges of the Laity

Any layperson may;

1. In an emergency, can baptize (consent be given by the Rector/Bishop)
2. At the request of the incumbent or the Archdeacon, or in an emergency,
 - a. Conduct divine service
 - b. Bury the dead
3. In the service of Holy Communion, or in any other service, at the request of the Priest, read such scriptures and say such prayers as are not reserved to the ordained ministry.

Declaration in terms of ACT VIII

In addition to any declaration that a Lay Minister may be required to make in terms of the Rules of the Diocese, or by its Bishop or any Incumbent (as the case may be), the Declaration set out in Acts VIII of Provincial Synod, shall be made by the Lay Minister concerned.

**Diocese of.....
Anglican Church of Southern Africa**

**MINISTERIAL PRACTICE
(DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY ALL MINISTERS -
must be renewed on an annual basis)**

“I hereby declare that I have not withheld any information regarding conviction in a court of law or any other relevant information from the appropriate authorities in the church in regard to any application for ministry. I agree that in the event of the above declaration being true, any ministry that I may be engage in, in the church, may be terminated forthwith.”

NAME:

DATE:

SIGNATURE:

WITNESSED:

(1)

(2)

Difference Between an Order and A Guild

Order in our Anglican Tradition has three Interpretations;

1* Interpretation

The term refers to the ranks of ministry within the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Anglican Church. The three named denominations recognize distinct orders:

- Episcopacy (Bishop),
- Presbyterate (Priest) and
- Diaconate.

2nd Interpretation

After the establishment of the monastic life originated and led by Anthony (c 251-356). Later on the religious orders were formed according to the ideals of their founder e.g. Benedictine, Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits etc.

3rd Interpretation

The Church Orders are a collection of practical directives concerning Christian living; and as these include regulations concerning the method of performing the Church's rites, and some of the Church Rites are;

- Liturgical books
- Codes of Canon Law
- Moral Articles

What is a Guild?

A guild is a society of mutual aid.

They are not catered for in the Canons and Constitution of ACSA. For a guild to be recognized by the Synod of Bishops then the Province, are certain process that needs to be followed (i.e. reason for existence, aims and objectives, relevance to the Anglican Church Ethos). Currently three guilds that are recognized to a level that they have an observer status at both PSC and Provincial Synod are MU, AWF and Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild.

Our worship, ministries and who we are can be summed up in this paragraph;

Anglicans believe the catholic [universal] and apostolic faith is revealed in Holy Scripture and the Catholic creeds and interpret these in light of the Christian tradition of the historic church, scholarship, reason and experience.

Our Church and ministries are performed guided by the 4 Pillars of Anglicanism, namely;

- Tradition
- Scripture
- Reason
- Experience

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