



The Church in the Province of the West Indies

Provincial Youth Commission

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Message from the Provincial Youth Commission Provincial Youth Sunday 2024

Greetings to you on this our Provincial Youth Sunday 2024!

We chose this year's theme 'Summoned by the God who made us Rich in Our Diversity' as we were inspired by the hymn of the same title, written by Dolores Dufner. We receive the message in the hymn as a reminder to us that our diversity does not threaten the work that we do in the Church. Rather, our diversity, as sung in the hymn, allows us to be 'richer still in unity'.

As Caribbean people, our history is littered with stories of just how much our diversity has distracted and polarised us. The God whom we serve, though, has deliberately made us diverse so that we might celebrate the creativity of the awesome and fantastic God we serve, and learn what it means to love our neighbour and ourselves as God loves us. Jesus, Himself, summoned a motley crew of disciples, whose diversity allowed them to identify with and speak to the diversity of the world to whom they would eventually be sent.

Diversity, when it is embraced allows us to be 'richer still in unity', as we 'weave a song of peace and justice' that can 'sound through time and space'. For the young people of the Province, our diversity serves as an anchor, that grounds us in faith, and trust in God, where being different is not ungodly.

Being summoned by God and responding to that call is necessary because He made us as we are, in our diversity, and we are His. And, because we are His, we must be anchored to God and trust when he calls us; even when we are called out of the comforts and luxuries of our schedules and interests, to work in the 'discomfort' of our diversity to be patient, to love, and to celebrate each other.



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Indeed, God does not summon us to be like anyone else; He summons us just as we are to become the best version of ourselves for the many diverse and untouched ministry opportunities in our churches and society. As young people, we must lead in the call to embrace our diversity, not allowing anyone to despise our youth, but rather setting the 'believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity', as we are encouraged in 1 Timothy 4:12.

Despite our different situations and contexts across the Province and in our respective communities and churches, we must press on in faith and confidence, serving God, who not only summons us but also equips us for the hard work of ministry. Anglican Youth, let us be bold in our faith and firm in our mission to love and serve all God's people.

Anglican Youth, let us 'draw together at one table all the human family [and] shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free' to the honour and glory of God who has summoned us.

Yours in Christ,
The Provincial Youth Commission