



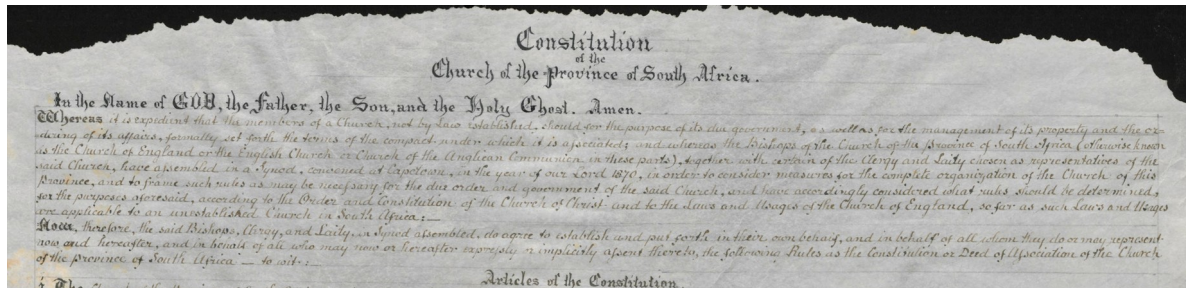
## FROM THE ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP OF CAPE TOWN

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My dear People

I trust and pray that all of you are safe and healthy both physically and in your inner being. I also acknowledge and thank God for His unfailing faithfulness through all the years the Province has been in existence.

The Provincial Standing Committee meeting, ("PSC") taking place from 22-24 September 2020 is particularly unique for two main reasons. First, it comes at a time when the whole world is gripped by pandemic-induced social distancing which necessitates that it is held virtually. Secondly, 2020 marks the 150th year since the Province was established.

The 2020 PSC will for the first time in our history, be held virtually due to prevailing circumstances that have changed, possibly in the long term, how we do church. The pandemic that we are living through has affected all parts of our society – government, business and education institutions to name a few; all of whom are having to change the way they carry out their functions and adapt to a world that has changed exponentially since the beginning of 2020. The speed at which this change has taken place has caught many by surprise but already we see the heightened role played by IT today and the resilience with which we as a people have adapted to this new world even in our daily interactions.

This PSC is further unique as it takes place in the year we celebrate 150 years of being an Anglican Province. This date coincides with the provisional adoption of the Constitution of the Church of the Province of South Africa, as it was then known, at Provincial Synod in 1870. The provisional adoption of the Constitution was later confirmed at Provincial Synod in 1876, but effectively we became a Province in 1870. This is a momentous milestone and as we look back over the decades, what has been achieved is nothing short of God inspired.

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From one Diocese in 1836, the Diocese of Cape Town, to the 29 Dioceses that we now have, spanning not just South Africa but the kingdoms of Lesotho and Swaziland, Namibia, Mozambique, Angola and the Island of St Helena, we have, as a Province, touched the lives of countless people from all walks of life and played a pivotal role in the shaping of our respective countries through the leadership and sacrifices made by many Anglicans.

As we reflect on these highlights it seems fitting that we should celebrate both our history and our present reality jointly. It is with this in mind that I would like to propose a Sesquicentennial Campaign to mark our 150th anniversary. The purpose of this campaign would be to raise funding for a focused purpose: the digitalisation of our church records and archives.

Over the one and a half centuries of our existence as a constituted church we have generated immense quantities of records and archive material that is not only our history but also very much a part of the history of our respective countries. For many years Wits University has been the repository for these records but the time is fast approaching when their capacity to house our archives will be exhausted. It is with this in mind that I would like to launch the Campaign to digitize our archival material, including but not limited to the minutes of the various committees and sub-committees that see to the governance of our church, but also to save for posterity the liturgies and records of celebrations that have been used at key moments in our history. It would be my hope that this Campaign would become an ever-evolving record of the life of the Anglican Church in Southern Africa and allow easy access to all and be a resource for researchers and enhance the theological formation for our current and future clergy.

To achieve all of this requires a high level of collaboration across multiple stakeholders and will no doubt have attached to it a significant cost. I am pleading with you saints to support this digitalisation process in every way you are able including the following:

**Pray:** Pray for the project to go ahead with no obstacles and for resources as He has faithfully done over the past 150 years.

**Contribute:** Projects such as these require material financial investment. As such, we ask that you contribute financially and/or give your time and relevant skills to the project.

**Advocate:** Spread the word and raise awareness of the journey we are embarking on, its purpose and importance. I firmly believe that as we do these, our faithful God will provide in miraculous ways.

I must reiterate the importance of this project as a central contributor to all reformation efforts today and well into the future. Additionally, we have seen in recent news how fires can destroy precious resources which could then be lost for future generations. Further, 2020 has not only shone a spotlight on the centrality of technology advancements but more importantly, has fast tracked the ushering in of the digital age into our daily lives. It is therefore critically important that we as the Church quickly follow suite.

Continue to pray for us that God would give us guidance and wisdom as we lead through unprecedented times that will no doubt require the reimagination of how we do church. I once again want to reassure you of our continued prayers for you from Bishopscourt. Like St Paul, we do not stop giving thanks for you and ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives so that you may know Him better and live a life worthy of the Lord as you please Him in every way.

Yours in the Love of Christ

+ Mabo Cape Town