

**Report to Bishop Edgar  
and Diocesan Council  
Anglican Missional Partnerships  
May 20, 2025**

**Activities of the Canon for Global Missions**

*Since February 6, 2025*

- February 3-16 – Egypt “Hidden Holy Land” Pilgrimage with group of 14 participants.
- February 17-22 – Assist with Anglican Leadership Institute, Isle of Palms, Cohort 12
- February 23-26 – Anglican Global Mission Partners, Fayetteville, GA
- February 27 – Charleston Clericus, St. Michael’s, Charleston
- March 6 – New Wineskins Missions Network Board Meeting
- March 10 – Meeting with Friends of the Anglican Province of Alexandria (FAPA)
- March 11 – Finance Committee Meeting of Great Lakes Outreach
- March 13 – Monthly Zoom call with John Chol Daau & Good Shepherd Educational Foundation
- March 14-15 – Diocesan Convention, St. Philip’s, Charleston
- March 17 – Meeting with SAMS missionary Anthony Pelloni
- March 18 – Monthly Zoom call with ACNA Global Mission Advocates
- March 19-21 – Board Retreat for Great Lakes Outreach, St. Christopher Camp & Conference Center
- March 25 – Missions Meeting with Mission Chair of St. Lukes, Hilton Head
- March 27 – Prayer Call for Gambella Bishop Election in Province of Alexandria, facilitated by Bishop Grant and Dr. Wendy LeMarquand.
- April 3 – Monthly Zoom call with Archdeacon Hunter Jordan and all diocesan Canons.
- April 8 – Monthly meeting with Archdeacon Hunter Jordan.
- April 11 – Meeting with Bishop Jeremiah of Gambella, Ethiopia to assist in coordination of his travel to the U.S. for New Wineskins 2025: Hope for the Nations conference.
- April 14 – Meeting of diocesan Anglican Missional Partnership Committee.
- April 15 – Monthly Zoom call with ACNA Global Mission Advocates.
- April 24 – Executive Committee meeting of New Wineskins Missions Network.

May 8 – Monthly Zoom call with John Chol Daau & Good Shepherd Educational Foundation.

May 13 – Anglican Partners Leadership Meeting (formally AGMP Steering Committee).

May 14 – ACNA Zoom meeting of 2025 Provincial Delegates.

May 20 – Monthly Zoom call with ACNA Global Mission Advocates.

*These calendar items include additional mission related activities that are not specifically tied to my role as Canon for Global Missions. They include:*

**New Wineskins Missionary Network** I continue to serve as the Board Chair with regular Zoom meetings of the Executive Committee every few weeks. Final details for the 2025 conference continue with ongoing solicitation of hosts to assist with the participation of international guests.

**Great Lakes Outreach (GLO)** This is a ministry that seeks to transform the nation of Burundi. GLO identifies, equips and empowers the best local leaders of passion, integrity, gifting and vision for the transformation of Burundi, bottom-up and top-down. I serve on the U.S. Board of Trustees as the Treasurer.

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### **Anglican Missional Partnerships Committee**

The committee met in advance of this May meeting of Diocesan Council on Monday April 14. With the approval of the AMP budget at convention, the committee approved requested expenditures for both scholarships and missionary grants. The diocese has four canonically resident members who serve in full time missions under the auspices of the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders (SAMS). Two of these are clergy, one is a Postulant for Holy Orders, and one is a layperson. All were given diocesan grants in support of their ministries. Additionally, another clergy serves in full time missions under the auspices of Youth With a Mission (YWAM). She too was given a diocesan grant.

Bishop Edgar also asked the committee to have a discussion regarding a diocesan companion relationship with another diocese or province of the Anglican Communion. The discussion is reported separately in this report.

### **“Hidden Holy Land” Pilgrimage to Egypt**

At the invitation of Archbishop Samy Shehata, 14 participants from the Diocese inclusive of myself and my wife Lynn were guests of the Province of Alexandria from February 4-15, 2025. Our own SAMS Missionaries, Jeff and Kristin Jacobs also serve as our hosts for this visit to the many ministries of the Anglican Church, as well the early Christian holy sites, and Egyptian antiquities. This was a remarkable experience for all involved. Gifts of the compact 2019 Book of Common Prayer were presented to both Archbishop Samy Shehata, and Archbishop Mouneer Anis on behalf of Bishop Edgar and the diocese. Additionally, a gift of a silver chalice and paten were presented to Archbishop Samy on behalf of the diocese from an anonymous donor for use in the Cathedral of All Saints in Cairo.





## **New Wineskins 2025: Hope for the Nations**

This triennial mission gathering is happening September 17-20, 2025, at Ridgecrest, North Carolina. Regular registration continues through August 2025, with late registration continuing through to the start of the conference. If not yet registered to attend, there are saving to register now. Opportunities remain to assist in hosting the international guests that will be attending the conference. These include confirmed guests coming from Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Paraguay, Israel, Australia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Argentina and Egypt. If interested in hosting, please be in contact with me.

## **Anglican Leadership Institute**

Under the leadership of Bishop Mark Lawrence, ALI 12 was held February 1-23 at the Isle of Palms. The cohort of ALI 12 included 12 participants of both bishops and priests from 11 different nations, including our own Fred Oyango. This was by some accounts one of the best groups ever, but it was also the final cohort and institute as the board of ALI made the difficult decision to dissolve the ministry due to financial constraints.



## Companion Relationships

For background in the conversation, it was shared that under Bishop Salmon, and perhaps even before, the Diocese had a companion relationship with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic. Under Bishop Lawrence, any “formal” relationship with the Diocese of the Dominican Republic was ended, although many parishes continued to maintain ongoing longtime relationships with parishes within the Dominican Republic. Some of those relationships continue through to today for several of our parishes.

Bishop Mark Lawrence began a companion relationship with the Diocese of Egypt and Archbishop Mouneer Anis. This was announced at an annual convention early in his tenure and repeated in a variety of ways throughout his episcopacy. The Diocese of Egypt was at the time a diocese in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, and Archbishop Mouneer served as the primate for that province. Under this relationship, the Diocese of South Carolina hosted four different clergy from the Diocese of Egypt beginning back in 2011 and continuing to 2022. The Diocese of Egypt in turn hosted some of our clergy, most significantly the Rev. Rick Belser who with his wife Anne served on three different occasions over a two-year period in Cairo, Alexandria and Addis Ababa. Archbishop Mouneer was also a frequent guest of the Diocese. Additionally, Bishop Lawrence along with two priests of the Diocese visited Egypt to participate in a diocesan clergy gathering for Egypt.

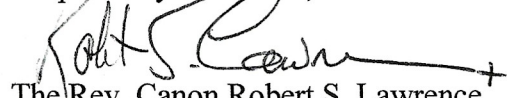
One of the four clergy that was hosted in the diocese was Samy Shehata who was in the diocese for multiple weeks in the summer of 2013 when the Diocese was celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Christopher. He returned as a participant in the very first cohort of the Anglican Leadership Institute in 2016. He later became an Assisting Bishop in the Diocese of Egypt, before succeeding Archbishop Mouneer as the Bishop, and now Archbishop of what is the Province of Alexandria. This Province is among the newest in the Anglican Communion and includes the Diocese of Egypt, the Diocese of North Africa (Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Chad) with Bishop Elect Ashley Noll, the Diocese of the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia) with Bishop Martin Reakes-Williams, and the Diocese of Gambella within Ethiopia with Bishop Jeremiah Meat Paul.

Bishop Grant LeMarquand and his wife, Dr. Wendy LeMarquand served multiple years in Gambella, Ethiopia when that area was first formed into a new diocese. During their tenure, the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina invested financially in their ministry over multiple years, as well as offering annual respite for them back in the diocese. They in turn welcomed visiting mission teams from South Carolina from multiple parishes, several of which continue to support the ongoing ministry in the Diocese of Gambella and their new bishop, Bishop Jeremiah.

The Diocese of Egypt and the Province of Alexandria presently hosts the Jacobs family from South Carolina who have served in the Province almost three years, and at present remain there indefinitely. The recent pilgrimage hosted for the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina in Egypt was in response to the invitation from the Archbishop to come and see. We will be hosting another priest from the Diocese of Egypt this fall when The Very Rev. David Azir, Dean of St. Mark’s Cathedral in Alexandria attends the New Wineskins Conference.

With this history and continuing involvement, the committee recommends that for now this relationship continue with the Anglican Province of Alexandria. There are voices within the committee that support looking further for possibilities with the Diocese of Singapore and the Diocese of Madagascar.

Respectfully submitted,



The Rev. Canon Robert S. Lawrence  
Canon for Global Missions