

Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild

(Anglican Church of Southern Africa)

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO PCM
Diocese of Grahamstown – East London
Thursday, 1st March 2018

Revd Fr. Phumlani Dlodla



Introduction

I would like to greet you in the words of St Paul in his 1 Corinthians 1:3; ***"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."***

It is my privilege and honour to present my first charge to you, people of God in this Provincial Council Meeting during this time of lent where we accompany Jesus Christ to the cross, to the city of Jerusalem, in preparation for His resurrection. I, therefore, want to start by asking you this question, ***'Who are you?'*** And at the same time, I am asking myself, ***'who am I? Do you want to know?'*** I am a child of God. I am a Priest (traditional Anglican Priest) in the Church of God, the unpredictable servant of God and a human being who is fallible of mistakes.

The most important thing is to be aware of God's presence in us and he walks with us.

It is not always easy to see God's presence because sometimes we are wrapped in our own self. But at end when we come out of our self and look on the other side, we see God holding us together.

As children of God, we are called to be ***'the light and salt of the world'***. We are called to give hope in the time of uncertainty and despair. That is our role as Christians. We are called to transform and not to confirm. Let us speak words of encouragement and not darkness. The Gospel of John says, ***"The light continues to shine in the dark and the darkness has never over cometh."***

Hashtag

As I lead you, I would like to use the hashtag (**#Team Player**), and I call upon all of you to join me in using the same **hashtag** this year and beyond in proclaiming the good news.

According to **Webster's New World College Dictionary**, a **team player** is described as one who subordinates personal aspirations and works in a coordinated

effort with other members of a group, or team, in striving for a common goal.

I, therefore, expect that in our discussions for the next two days, we all display the following Ten **Qualities of an Effective Team Player**;

- Demonstrates reliability
- Communicates constructively
- Listens actively
- Functions as an active participant
- Shares openly and willingly
- Cooperates and pitches in to help
- Exercise flexibility
- Shows commitment to the team
- Works as a problem-solver
- Treats others in a respectful and supportive manner

I asked earlier on, **who are you? “What is the source of your identity? How should your sense of who you are before God as a Christian, shape how you live and what you do?”** As you come to attend this council, you must wear only one cap, being that of your Diocese you are representing. The time, fellowship and money that we are spending here must be of value to the guild.

Guild’s constitution

I am calling upon all of you to focus your efforts on uplifting the aims and objectives of the Guild as enshrined in our constitution.

Our functionality must be guided by the constitution and all the Dioceses must use our constitution. The last conference took decisions and/or resolutions which were in conflict with the constitutions. We will be reporting on those resolutions/decisions and we call you to be sensitive to our recommendations or suggestions in order for us as PEXCO to take the guild forward, unless you want us to fail. If there is a need Mr. Chairman to convert this PCM to conference at a certain stage, let us do so.

A call to deepen our spirituality

Our theme for the next three year is: **“Journeying with Christ in the challenging times.”** The vehicle to this theme is to deepen our spirituality. I therefore, call upon all the members of this PCM, Fr. Tyali, to attend all services during this PCM to worship. It is satisfying to see the people of God growing in the Body of Christ. It is this biblical image of our Church as a **‘body of Christ’** that seems a most appropriate one.

I would love to see us honouring God in our praise and worship filled with singing and a congregation that is reverent and God-fearing. I also call upon the Diocesan Chaplains under the leadership of our Provincial Chaplain to Organise Retreats, quite days, Bible Studies and revivals for members in the respective Dioceses to deepen their spirituality.

St Paul says: **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17 – NKJV).** He is the source of living water.

Acknowledgement

My thanks and appreciation goes to my friends in the Lord, the members of PEXCO for their hard work, dedication and for the support that they give me. Lastly, but not least, I thank you all for attending this PCM and use this opportunity to contribute constructively to the life of the Guild by maximum participation.

“God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever. Amen (1 Peter 4:10-11)

I thank you.