

# Companion Diocese Sunday

*We desire to encourage each other to live our Anglican identity in proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel in our local communities and within our cultural contexts*

June 2, 2019

# Purpose of a Companion Relationship

- Strengthen the Anglican Communion:
  - (a) Develop the identity of each partner with potential for each one to carry out its mission in the context of its community.
  - (b) Promote greater cooperation between each partner's members and apply mission in partnership at all levels of the church's life.
  - (c) Help the partner under a variety of constraints, build confidence through the experience of knowing that partners can and do lend support.

# Purpose of a Companion Relationship (cont.)

- Strengthen One Another:
  - (a) Reflect on mission strategy together.
  - (b) Clarify goals and priorities in planning each partner's programs, based upon the perceived mission of the church in each place
  - (c) Redefine that mission in light of the partnership experience.
  - (d) Establish a new pattern of relationship between partners so that resources can be used and shared more creatively in the mission of the church.
  - (e) Encourage openness

# Zimbabwe





# Diocese of Masvingo



# Diocese of Masvingo

- Fifth and newest Anglican Diocese in Zimbabwe, established in 2001. It is part of the Anglican Province of the Church of Central Africa and a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion.
- The Right Reverend Godfrey Tawonezvi is the first Anglican Bishop of Masvingo, consecrated October 19, 2002.

# Bishop Godfrey Tawonezi





# Diocese of Masvingo (cont.)

- Started from almost nothing the Diocese has developed despite many financial, geographical and political challenges
- New churches are being built, congregations are growing, able young clergy are being ordained
- Serving the people of Zimbabwe through its education and development work.



# Issues Facing Masvingo

- **Food insecurity:** drought and erratic rainfall patterns, a ruined infrastructure and an economy in collapse, means millions of people still can't grow enough food to survive. Until food insecurity is properly addressed, outbreaks of diseases will continue to claim lives.
- **HIV:** The high prevalence of HIV (13.7% of the population) is a key barrier to development. 70% of the population rely on farming for their livelihoods, but HIV-related illnesses prevent them from growing harvest. Zimbabwe has the highest rate of HIV orphans in the world, with one in four children having lost one of both parents to AIDS.

# Mothers Union



# Mothers Union

- Branch of international Christian organization with 4 million members.
- Provides network to serve Christ in their community through prayer, financial support and actively working at the grassroots level in programs that meet local needs.
- Headed by team of 40 women. Incorporates St Agnes Guild for girls from five years old to marriage and the St Veronica Guild for single mothers.
- Runs capacity-building workshops and training in each district.



# Mothers Union

- Builds relationships at Church, District and Diocesan level with the poorest members of the community, listening to their needs and talking about the issues affecting their lives.
- Offers assistance to those in need of food, clothing and school fees, stationery and other school requirements. Donations come from members.
- Income-generation projects include chicken rearing, sewing MU and school uniforms, and peanut butter production.

