

ANGLICAN PEACEMAKING INSTITUTE: RECONCILING MISSION, 11-17 JULY 2020

An Overview

What is the Anglican Peacemaking Institute?

The Anglican Peacemaking Institute (API) currently incorporates two training programmes:

- **API Reconciling Mission**, which will resource participants with a holistic vision for mission marked by deep engagement with local communities, along with tools for the church to play a creative role in promoting reconciliation within society. This programme is being offered in the British Isles, beginning in July 2020, for participants from Provinces and Dioceses in Europe.
- **API Practical Peacemaking**, which will resource participants with thinking and skills for better working with disagreement and conflict, within the Church and beyond. This programme is being offered in Africa, beginning in January 2021, for participants from Provinces and Dioceses drawn from a sub-region within the African continent.

Both programmes enable those participating to develop an action plan for their own parish context and for sharing learning across the wider Diocese or Province, in consultation with their Bishop.

What is involved in each API training programme?

At the heart of each API is a week-long intensive programme of learning which incorporates:

- Anglican worship, morning and evening;
- Biblical study led by eminent Anglican speakers; and
- Dynamic adult learning courses, integrating theological reflection.

Course venues are carefully chosen to facilitate community-building outside formal training sessions. Each API course is then followed up with on-going coaching for participants over an 18-month period.

Who is the API Reconciling Mission programme designed for?

The *API Reconciling Mission* week is designed for experienced clergy in their 30s and 40s who have the potential to go on to more senior roles. Lay leaders are also welcome if they can make the week-long training commitment. A sponsoring Bishop will need to identify a group of four representing some of the diversity of their Diocese or Province, to participate together and to share in the struggles of implementation over the subsequent 18-months; and also to share learning across their area. The participants will be people the Bishop sees as worth investing in for the future.

Ideally the nominated leaders should have completed some foundational training in handling conflict through Bridge Builders, Place for Hope or a similar service. If they have not done so beforehand, the aim should be for them to complete such training within a few months of participating in the *API Reconciling Mission* course, to enhance their skills for working with tension and conflict.

Who is leading the API Reconciling Mission programme from 11-17 July 2020?

A highly experienced team is leading the training course:

- Alastair McKay: director of Reconciliation Initiatives, with 25 years' experience of leading adult learning in practical peacemaking, including nearly 20 years heading up Bridge Builders;
- Lia Shimada: an independent mediator and consultant with over a dozen years' experience in mediation and community facilitation in Britain and Northern Ireland; and
- David Brubaker: a North American Mennonite educator and trainer with over 30 years' experience in the peacemaking field, including extensive work internationally.



What are the objectives and learning outcomes?

The objectives of the *API Reconciling Mission* programme are:

1. To introduce a holistic vision for the church's mission within a wider understanding of God's reconciling work in the world.
2. To offer practical tools to enable the church to engage deeply with local communities and to play a creative role in promoting reconciliation within society.
3. To resource participants for taking action within their local context, grounded in listening to the community, and to share learning across their Diocese or Province.
4. To contribute to a creative missional movement within the Anglican Provinces in Europe.

The planned learning outcomes are that, by the end of the programme, participants will have:

- Heard the story of Coventry Cathedral, and discovered ways in which the Cathedral has contributed to reconciliation in the city of Coventry and more widely.
- Reflected theologically and located the church's mission within the arc of God's reconciling work in the world, and connected this with the Five Marks of Mission.
- Worked with a theoretical framework for engaging with social divisions and injustices, and mapped existing initiatives and projects within their area onto this framework.
- Heard inspiring examples of projects addressing social divisions and problems, and considered how to engage with divisions in their own local communities;
- Explored an asset-based development model, looking at a community's strengths and needs.
- Developed a plan to implement a collaborative community-building model in their context.
- Understood the approaches of the HeartEdge network developed by St Martin-in-the-Fields and Partnership for Missional Church sponsored by CMS, and considered their merits.
- Developed a plan for how to share their learning with others in their Diocese or Province.

How is implementation supported?

After the weeklong *API Reconciling Mission* course, there is an 18-month process of follow-up coaching to support implementation. As well as meeting with their Bishop, participants will hold a regular online conference with a partner team from another Diocese or Province. These conferences will be action learning groups facilitated by an API facilitator.

What's special about the API programmes?

Distinctive features include:

- An investment in experienced leaders with the potential to go on to more senior roles;
- Intentional mixing of people of diverse genders and theological traditions to form a community;
- Geared for small groups of four participants from a Diocese or Province, attending together for more effective follow-through and implementation; and
- A place to develop good practice, share stories of success and failure, and identify next steps.

What is the invited financial contribution?

For the *API Reconciling Mission* programme running from 11-17 July 2020, Bishops are asked to contribute £850 per participant, and to cover their travel expenses. This contribution covers full participation in the programme, including the follow-up coaching after the training course. Reconciliation Initiatives can assist with identifying sources of bursary funding, if needed.

