

**COMMUNIQUE/RESOLUTION OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTH SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF UDI (ANGLICAN COMMUNION) HELD FROM THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> – SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023 AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH UMUAGA.**

**PREAMBLE:**

**WHEREAS** the Third Session of the Fifth Synod of the Diocese of Udi (Anglican Communion) was held at St. John's Church Umuaga. The Synod was presided over by the Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Chijioke A. Aneke (JP) on the Theme ***"Behold I will Do a New Thing" (Isaiah 43:18-19)***.

The Synod was duly constituted with the House of Bishop, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity representing all the Parishes and the Church organizations in the Diocese.

The Synod, after due conduct of its business rose with the following communiqué/resolutions.

**1. Gratitude to God:**

The Synod expresses her sincere gratitude to Almighty God for His inspiration and guidance in making the Third Session of the Fifth Synod of the Diocese a success.

**2. Gratitude to the Bishop:**

The Synod appreciates and commends our indefatigable Bishop on the incisive, lucid, visionary and energetic manner he presented the Presidential Address/Bishop's Charge and his choice of this year's theme ***"Behold I will Do a New Thing" (Isaiah 43:18-19)***.

**3. Gratitude to the Diocesan Women President:**

The Synod commend the doggedness of the Diocesan Women President Mrs Comfort O. Aneke "Nneudo" and the Women Ministry on their evangelism, capacity building, projects and donations.

**4. Gratitude And Appreciation:**

The Synod is highly grateful to the Synod Guest Preacher, The Very Rev'd Prof. Chinedu Nebo, who explored the theme of the Synod. He scholarly and spiritually dealt with the Synod theme.

- The Synod is also immensely appreciative of Rev Canon lfeanyichukwu Agu who handled the Bible Study during the Session. His handling of the Bible study was scholarly and spiritually edifying.
- The Synod further expresses its gratitude to Prof Basil C. Ezeokpo for his inspiring and revealing presentations on general health talk on prevention and Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease. He advised that we should eat to live rather than live to eat.

- The Synod was pleased with the Bishops who came to show solidarity with the Diocese and the Diocesan.
- The Synod appreciates the Central Planning Committee Chairman Evang. Nnamdi Ezeh and his team in their unrelenting approach to issues to the success of this Synod and pray that God will bless them.
- The Synod is also grateful to St. John's Church Umuaga, the Vicar Rev. Canon Prince Osita and wife, Local Organizing Committee ably led by Sir Prince Victor Onyia for successfully hosting the Third Session of the Fifth Synod of the Diocese of Udi (Anglican Communion).
- The Synod appreciates the Secretariat, led by the Rev. Canon Fidelis Agu, Mass media, security Agencies, Kitchen.
- The Synod finally appreciates visitors from sister Dioceses, friends and well wishers who generously donated for the various projects being carried out within the Diocese.

#### 5. Theme of the Synod:

- The Synod is most grateful to God that the choice of this year's Synod theme: ***"Behold I will Do a New Thing" (Isaiah 43:18-19)*** is apt and chosen under the direction of the Holy Spirit especially now when the faith of many Nigerians are dampened by the outcome of 2023 Elections.
- The Synod calls on all and sundry to stand firm that there shall be light at the end of the tunnel since God has noted our plight in this country; He will not abandon us to the whims and caprices of mere mortals.
- The Synod further enjoins ALL to cast their burdens upon the Lord because He the Lord know the plans He has for us, plans to prosper us and not to harm us, to give us a future and an expected end.
- The Synod adopted the Messianic prophecy in Isaiah 40:1-3, 4-5 for Nigeria when it pontified: ***"Behold I will do a new thing"***. For Nigeria there is a light at the end of the tunnel; those who think they have captured Nigeria shall be turned to captives; this country shall vomit out of her territory unrepentant evil people in politics and governance. Nigeria shall be saved from iron-grips, shall be healed from her numerous wounds and shame, and shall be freed from bondage and captivity.

Finally, the Synod urges us to live our lives daily in the consciousness of personal regeneration and eager longing for the rapture and the parousia.

## **6. Diocesan News:**

The Synod is thankful to God for the wonderful achievements of the Diocese and successful investiture of new knights into the Knight of St. Christopher. The Synod further urges them to be diligent in discharging their duties to God, the Diocese and their local Churches.

## **7. Enugu State:**

- The Synod thanked the Almighty God for His magnanimity towards Enugu State despite all the challenges and threat to life and properties and kidnappings.
- The Synod congratulates His Excellency Rt. Hon Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi for completing His tenure as the Executive Governor of Enugu State.
- The Synod reiterates that the last election in Enugu State brought about a huge change in the political space of the State since the creation of the State. This is shown by the massive turn out of voters and the fact that the people voted for candidates not on party lines is an indication that Enugu State shall be great again.
- The Synod therefore urges all those who won irrespective of their party affiliation to seat up and deliver the democracy dividend to the people.
- The Synod decry the state of roads and the alarming insecurity in Enugu State and call on those whose responsibility it is, to do the needful and restore the prestige of Enugu State.

## **8. Udi Local Government Area:**

- The Synod commends the effort of the Executive Chairman of Udi Local Government Hon Nze Philip Okoh for his giant stride in tackling the security in the Local government by building security posts and donating security vehicles to security personnel in the Local Government.
- The Synod urges him to look into the area of agriculture and renewable energy like solar energy which can also provide employment opportunities for our unemployed youths.

## **9. State of the Nation:**

- The Synod states that General Elections of the new President, Federal and State Legislators of February and March, 2023 have come and gone with their attendant problems. The Independent National Electoral Commission must improve on their act.
- The Synod notes that Idolatry has not abated in this part of the country. It is hoped that the Lord will touch their hearts. Christians should intensify their evangelistic efforts.
- The Synod believes that since 2011 the Security landscape of the country has been shaped by the war against Boko Haram and other terrorist groups in the North East in addition to incessant cases of

banditry and kidnappings in the North West and parts of South West. The South East continues to witness unrest resulting from separatist agitations.

- The Synod believes that since 2021 the oil price did not help matters, a costly fuel subsidy which is consuming a large share of oil revenue, exchange rate distortions, monetization of fiscal deficit and high inflation. The deteriorating economic environment is leaving millions of Nigerians in poverty.
- The Synod reiterates that the domestic policies of the government also has led to economic hardship, for example, the change of Nigeria currency which has led to scarcity of both local and foreign currencies.
- The country continues to face massive developmental challenges, including the need to reduce the dependence on oil for exports and revenues, diversify its foreign exchange sources, close the infrastructure gap, build strong and effective institutions as well as address governance issues and strengthen public financial Management systems.
- The Synod observes that inequality, in terms of income and opportunities remains high and has adversely affected poverty reduction. The lack of job opportunities is at the core of high poverty levels, regional irregularity and social political unrest. High inflation has also taken toll on household's welfare and price increases from 2020 - 2023 have pushed more Nigerians into poverty. These were the very challenges APC led Administration in the past eight years set out to deal with. Unfortunately they are still here with us.
- The Synod laments the current hard decision of the new President of Nigeria on sudden removal of fuel subsidy which is likely to throw the country into another confusion by the sudden rise of fuel pump price which is a vicious circle.
- The Synod urges the new President of Nigeria in the implementation of critical microeconomic and structural policy reforms to place the economy on a stronger and more suitable path; refocusing the Central Bank on its mandate to reduce inflation, and increasing non oil revenues. Key structural reforms include trade policy, addressing major constraints to productivity such as the large infrastructure gap, notably power.

**Rt. Rev. Chijioke Augustine Aneke (JP)**  
**Bishop, Diocese of Udi.**