

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN LIBERIA

The Episcopal Church of Liberia (ECL) was established more than 170 years ago in the Republic of Liberia, a country situated on the west coast of Africa, bounded by Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone and the Atlantic Ocean. The church is visible throughout the political subdivisions of the country.

The Episcopal Church of Liberia (ECL) and The Episcopal Church (TEC) have a long history of mutual involvement in the ministry of Jesus Christ. It formally began in 1836 with the sending of missionaries and the subsequent establishment of the episcopate in the years following. A Covenant was adopted by both churches in 1979, in their respective Conventions.

The ECL undertakes social programs to meet the education, health and community development needs of the people of Liberia as well as the work of spiritual development and financial sustainability.

However, due to the civil crisis which started in late 1989, most of ECL facilities were badly damaged or completely destroyed. In 1998, a needs assessment of the ECL was carried out with the view of determining the status of the ECL and the rehabilitation required early on in the civil crisis.

This document was updated in 2000 to stress the following priorities: education, health, income generating programs, evangelism, spiritual growth and community development.

In 2006, this document was again further updated. In preparation for a new Covenant this document was reviewed in 2008.

With the successful election and inauguration of Her Excellency Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as the first female president of Liberia on January 16, 2006, signals from the international community indicated strong security support for the government, a basic requirement for economic stability, investment and development.

Since the inauguration, the country continues to make considerable strides. Development activities are progressing in many parts of the country.

In 2008, the ECL also held the successful election of the Right Reverend Jonathan B.B. Hart as the twelfth Bishop of Liberia. Under his leadership the Church is enjoying a new dynamic spirit that incorporates more fully the clergy and laity in the administration of the Diocese. Churches and their partners are now concentrating on long term development strategies rather than relief and short term projects which have been limited in scope.

SUSTAINILITY PLAN FOR THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF LIBERIA

ECL shall utilize effective management tools such as regular periodic audits along with speedy and effective implementation of recommendations to ensure transparency and accountability.

SHORT TERM (1 TO 3 YEARS)

- Stabilize the ECL's current financial position by establishing real value to assets, planning and managing of the existing resources of Diocese.
- Identify and catalog the ECL's assets (urban & rural lands)
- Upgrade the ECL's existing properties such as the plaza and others to demand market value income.
- Partnership with churches (especially rural churches) to identify and secure land and develop same on a joint-venture basis.
- Establish appropriate administrative structure and secure professional staff to support development efforts.
- Energize the church's activities by injecting some new funds into its income stream, portion of rental income due form GOL.
- Host an annual Development and sustainability workshop to evaluate our plans (efforts) and strategize to achieve success.
- Raise a minimum of \$150,000.00 from Local and \$350,000.00 from external sources to support development efforts.

- Collaborate with foreign-based partners (LECUSA, TEC and others) to secure financial, material, and technical support and advocacy.

MEDIUM TERM (3 TO 5 YEARS)

- Agriculture: Establish (500) acres of land each planted in oil palm, rubber, cocoa, and coffee, animal husbandry.
- Commercial property: complete the 15th street building project and other properties.
- Collaborate with individual churches who possess urban property for development efforts.
- Develop the capacity to effectively manage and support these development efforts.
- Continue to host annual development workshops.
- On-going business ventures: identify and invest in profitable on-going business venture (purchase of shares).

LONG TERM (5 TO 10 YEARS)

- Agriculture: Establish and manage additional one thousand (1000) acres of land planted in oil palm, rubber, cocoa and coffee, animal husbandry.
- Identify or purchase more urban land and develop same for the ECL.
- Continue to host annual development workshop.

PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION

In the spirit of partnership in mission, the Episcopal Church of Liberia (ECL) and The Episcopal Church (TEC) agree to:

- Establish the means to continue the partnership in mission and ministry in a wide variety of fields, including evangelism, education, stewardship, programs for social action and specific programs by and for women, youth and children and people with disabilities.

- Assist in the implementation of the ECL five-year Development Plan, 2009-2013, which encourages the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of both urban and rural areas.
- Assist ECL in developing theological and Christian education programs.
- Promote Cuttington University's search for loans, grants, and other forms of technical/ financial assistance by using TEC's contacts and influence to assist in the growth of the University, as well as the expansion of the Cuttington University Trust Funds.
- Encourage and nourish companion diocese relationships and other means for grassroots sharing of human, spiritual and material resources. TEC Partnership Office, in collaboration with the Bishop of Liberia, will provide the medium to link TEC dioceses with the Diocese of Liberia. Technical assistance will be particularly welcome in terms of missionary technicians in various fields of expertise.
- Continue partnership relationship with United Thank Offering (UTO) and Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), working together through the ECL to support and assist urban and rural churches and parishes. The ECL will continue to participate in the annual UTO in gathering as well as raise funds for ERD.
- Continue to include the Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Liberia as a collegial member of the House of Bishops of TEC. Representatives of ECL shall continue to be provided through the Rules of Order, a "seat and voice" in the House of Deputies of TEC, when that body meets.
- Encourage ECL to develop, with the support of TEC, a coordinating committee for the Episcopal Church of Liberia which can identify and publicize ministry needs and companion opportunities for parish-to-parish relationships.
- Filter all communications with ECL through the Office of the Bishop.

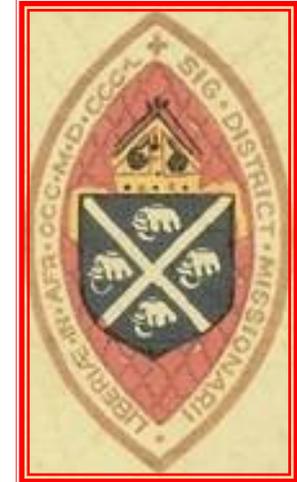


The Rt. Rev. Jonathan B.B. Hart
 Bishop of Liberia
 P.O. Box 10-0277
 1000 Monrovia 10 Liberia, West Africa

Street Address
 Trinity Cathedral Church
 Broad Street
 Monrovia, Liberia
 Tel: (O) 011-231-224-760
 Fax: 011-231-227-519



The Episcopal Church of Liberia (ECL)



SUSTAINILITY PLAN FOR THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF LIBERIA

"My grandmother always used to say: Heaven helps those who help themselves. There is an old saying that goes this way: When someone is helping to bathe you by washing your back, you should wash your stomach and the front. My friend, you have entrusted to me the responsibility to lift each of you to God by my prayers and in the administration of the sacraments, I as your Bishop do feel the need for the ECL to increase the missionary & developmental work of our Diocese."

The Rt. Rev. Jonathan B.B. Hart – 4/13/2011