

AMEN Anglican Minority Ethnic Network

Promoting the presence and participation of Anglicans of Minority Ethnic Heritage in all structures of our church in the service of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dear AMEN members,

Greetings in Jesus' name!

I am pleased to share the below news with you all.

AMEN is now a CIC!

Last June, AMEN was successful in being awarded one of the Church of England's first racial justice grants in order to run an advocacy programme to support church members facing racial injustice. As AMEN was not a company or charity, we were thankful for the partnership and support of Church Urban Fund (CUF) to receive the funds and progress recruitment whilst working on become a corporate body.

At the EGM on 6th March, members approved a proposal to register AMEN as a community interest company (CIC). The other main option considered was seeking to become a charity which was less attractive as our objectives might not all be considered charitable, and it would likely take longer.

This assessment proved correct as one month later on 9th April, Companies House confirmed that AMEN has been incorporated as company number 15628530 as Anglican Minority Ethnic Network (AMEN) CIC. This means that we are now able to finalise the arrangements for the racial justice grant that AMEN was awarded last June!

Appointment of Modupe Adeoye as AMEN's Advocacy Programme Officer

I am very pleased to announce that Modupe Adeoye has been appointed as AMEN's Advocacy Programme Officer for the next three years.

AMEN's ExCo is mindful that moving the level of commitment to racial justice in the whole Church of England *From Lament To Action* requires culture change on a comparable scale to that which the Church is still facing with respect to safeguarding. The report *If it Wasn't for God* demonstrated that for GMH clergy, it is clear that wellbeing is an issue of racial justice. We are also acutely aware of the particular challenge pre-Ordination faced by UKME ordinands in training. The recent *Living Ministry* research shows the degree of trauma is worse amongst UK-born GMH clergy than those not born in the UK. Our champions and sponsors (senior leaders in the Church of England) are aware that these realities require intentional intervention and welcome our help. And therefore, we are pleased to be able to further our commitment as a network to provide support to our members with an Advocacy Programme that would enable us to attend to this very important area of need.

Modupe, is a chaplain in high secure Forensic Mental Health NHS Hospital, who is completing her Theological Training with a (Common Awards) Masters Degree from Ripon College, Cuddesdon, and will be serving her Curacy following her Ordination and License to Coventry Diocese. Her extensive experience in advocacy, as well as in pastoral guidance and education in her diocese and service organisations impressed our appointments panel. Even more so, her high emotional intelligence in

advocating for others, and persistence, diligence, and commitment to arrive at just, practicable, Christ-guided solutions are delivered with lasting positive outcomes. Modupe is a member of CIPD (Chartered Institute of Personnel Development), has an MBA (executive programme) from Warwick Business School, was a senior lecturer at Coventry University, a Consultant and Mentor with experience of challenging projects involving judicial authorities, and a Mechanical Engineer who worked for many years in the automotive and manufacturing industries. She is a qualified Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) England Instructor and is completing her PhD research in Trauma and Resilience at University of Warwick along with an MSc in Psychotherapy and Counselling. We congratulate Modupe on her appointment and aim to have her in post in early May 2024.

Adapting the 'Serenity Prayer' of Reinhold Niebuhr, Modupe wrote: I pray—
God, grant me the courage—
Not to accept the things that I can change.
Discernment in all matters,
Strength to make changes that will add value—
To make positive differences.
(2013)

Appointment of Gwen Mtambirwa as Membership & Network Administrator and Events Co-ordinator"

I am also delighted to announce that Gwen Mtambirwa has been appointed as AMEN's Administrator and Events & Membership Co-ordinator for the next three years.

Gwen will bring with her a wealth of experience from similar roles she performed with distinction in the past. It is worth special mention that she has made remarkable contributions to USPG as its Communication and Engagement Coordinator. We are delighted that Gwen has accepted the job offer. She will formally start her work for AMEN on the 1st May 2024.

With regard to the appointment, Gwen said, "I am really looking forward to working for AMEN from next month. I am excited about the prospect of working towards expanding its membership network and I am passionate about Racial Justice. It will be a great privilege and joy for me to co-ordinate AMEN's events and conferences. I am very much looking forward to engaging with you, understanding you and forging friendships."

I feel that it would be highly rewarding if we could collaborate still more effectively in our mission. Our coming together, solidarity and hard work will hopefully advance the cause of racial justice. It is enriching and joyous when people of different cultures come together, share their stories and grow together. It is God's will that we, of disparate cultures, live together in a shared milieu affirming our common humanity. We should be able to strive for improving our connection with members and cultivating mutually supportive and beneficial relationships with our partners. There is also the need for strengthening our capability for events. Gwen can rely on our unflinching support when she endeavours to do her best to make AMEN more robust and vigorous.

Modupe's appointment, together with the appointment of AMEN's Membership Administrator and Network Events Coordinator, marks a milestone in the history of AMEN. We are grateful to the Racial Justice Unit of the Archbishops Council whose grant has made this appointment possible. Our sincere thanks also go to Church Urban Fund for their partnership and unwavering support.

Yours in Christ,
Rt Rev Smitha Prasadam, Chair of AMEN
23/04/2024