

“lumi go fowod togeta”

“lumi go fowod togeta” - travelling forward together – was the strategy agreed at the Anglican Alliance’s Pacific consultation which closed today.

Climate change and youth empowerment were the priorities in the strategy which participants from across the Pacific agreed to take back to their provinces.

The five day consultation was held at ---- the home of the Sisters of the Church, and included a field visit to a refuge for women fleeing domestic violence, St Luke’s college, and the centre for the Melanesian Brothers. It was hosted jointly by the Anglican Church of Melanesia and the Anglican Alliance.

“lumi go fowod togeta” included plans to:

- Establish a part-time facilitator supported by a regional steering group to carry forward the mission to work for a world free of poverty and injustice. The steering group would include women and youth representatives, and would also work with Anglican agencies.
- Prioritise climate change and youth empowerment. In climate change the Pacific would focus on survival, adaptation, impact of climate change on food security, and forced migration of climate change refugees. Youth empowerment would focus on violence towards young women and gang culture.
- Highlight the role of the church in peace and reconciliation, especially the role of the Melanesian Brothers during the ethnic unrest in the Solomon Islands.
- Advocate for action by the G20 to end the scandal of 900 million hungry people: the Anglican Alliance’s food advocacy pack for World Food Day on October 16th was launched at the consultation.

The meeting received powerful presentations on the impact of climate change on the Pacific islands.

Maina Thalia, from Tivalu, described the devastation caused by king tides on his island, with the sea destroying homes and crops on the atoll.