ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
DIOCESE OF SALDANHA BAY
Anglican Youth Fellowship

ayfsaldanhabay@gmail.com

To: Diocesan Council
Date: 5th November 2026
Submitted by: Zenande Maneli (General Secretary AYF – Diocese of Saldanha Bay)

1. What were your success stories?

The AYF has recorded several notable successes through its activities and initiatives during the year. These achievements demonstrate the Fellowship's continued commitment to spiritual growth, youth development, fellowship and service.

- **Stay Awake Programme**: The programme provided an opportunity for young people to come together in prayer, praise and worship, Bible-based activities and fellowship.
- **AYF Elective Conference**: The successful hosting of the Elective Conference was a significant milestone. It provided a platform for leadership development, democratic participation, the election of new leadership and the strengthening of unity within the Fellowship.
- **Fundraising Drives**: These initiatives helped generate financial resources, encouraged teamwork and highlighted the importance of taking ownership of the Fellowship's financial sustainability.

2. What were your challenges?

Despite the successes achieved, the Fellowship experienced several challenges that affected the implementation and participation in its activities.

- **Absence of Members**: Poor attendance and the inconsistent participation of members at AYF meetings, programmes and activities remain a concern.
- **Declining Commitment**: There has been a noticeable decline in members' commitment towards AYF activities. Some members have become less involved, resulting in limited participation, reduced enthusiasm and an increased responsibility on the few members who remain actively involved.
- **Limited Active Participation**: The responsibility of organising and executing programmes often falls on a small group of committed members, creating pressure on the active leadership and limiting the opportunities for broader involvement.

These challenges highlight the need for renewed dedication, accountability and a stronger sense of ownership among members. The survival and growth of the Fellowship depend on collective participation rather than the efforts of a few individuals.

3. What are the recommendations going forward?

1. **Revitalise Member Participation:** Develop strategies to encourage members to attend meetings and participate actively in AYF programmes.
2. **Strengthen Commitment and Accountability:** Introduce clearer expectations regarding attendance, participation and responsibilities.
3. Increase Spiritual Programmes: Continue organising programmes such as Stay Awake, prayer gatherings, Bible studies, spiritual retreats and praise and worship sessions to strengthen the spiritual foundation of the Fellowship.
4. **Promote Fundraising Initiatives**: Establish regular fundraising activities and encourage every member to contribute towards the financial sustainability of the AYF.
5. **Strengthen Unity and Fellowship:** Encourage collaboration between dioceses and parishes through joint activities, visits and fellowship programmes to rebuild relationships and strengthen the identity of the AYF.

Concluding Remarks

The year has been one of both achievements and challenges. While programmes such as Stay Awake, the Elective Conference and fundraising initiatives stand out as significant successes, the declining attendance and commitment of members remain areas that require urgent attention.

Going forward, the AYF must move beyond simply organising activities towards building a Fellowship characterised by active participation, spiritual maturity, accountability and collective responsibility.

The growth of the AYF cannot rest on the shoulders of a few committed individuals; it requires the willingness and participation of every member. We therefore need to renew our commitment to the Fellowship, remembering that we are not merely members of an organisation, but young people called to serve God, the Church and our communities.

Together, let us rebuild, recommit and reposition the AYF for a stronger and more sustainable future.