

## Commissioning Service held for new Director of CMC Vellore, Dr. Peter John Victor

The thanksgiving and commissioning service for the new Director, Dr. J. V. Peter, who took over from Dr. Sunil Thomas Chandy, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, was held on Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of September. Dr. Peter, who is from CMC's MBBS batch of 1982, previously held the post of Associate Director, Finance.



In keeping with CMC's philosophy of integrating the practice of medicine with prayer and faith, newly appointed directors, who represent the entire institution, are commissioned in a special service as it is believed that they have been chosen by God for stewardship in this particular ministry. The special service has three parts - a service of thanksgiving, the commissioning service and the Holy Communion service.

In the first part, the institution gave thanks for all the leaders who served in the past from the time of Dr. Ida Scudder, and especially for the Outgoing Director, Dr. Sunil Chandy, his administrative colleagues, and for his family. Thanks was also given for enabling the institution to find a new director to take over the leadership.

During the commissioning, Rt. Rev. Dr. Rajavelu, Bishop, CSI Vellore Diocese, commissioned the new Director to stay committed to God to lead the institution in His way, to which the Director responded by publicly acknowledging his 'purpose, resolution and the engagement of his call'.

This was followed by the Biblical practice of 'laying on of hands' by the specially invited bishops – Rt. Rev. Dr. Rajavelu; Rt. Rev. Dr. Paul Vasanthakumar, Bishop, CSI Trichy-Tanjore Diocese, Bishop Dr. D. K. Sahu, Council Vice Chair and Rt. Rev. Timothy Ravinder, Council member - along with Head of Chaplaincy



Rev. Ananthi A. Mary, Council Chairman Dr. M. C. Mathew and the Outgoing Director Dr. Sunil Chandy, on the new leader who received the commissioning on bended knees.

A stirring message was given by Dr. Arul Anketell, a paediatrician from Sri Lanka, who currently serves as the Regional Promoter for South Asia for Healthcare Christian Fellowship International (HCFI). HCFI, founded by Francis Grim in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is an NGO which works to bring healthcare to those who are medically under-served, among the marginal groups of society.

The service ended with the breaking of bread – the communion service – where the entire community affirmed its faith and prayed for the new leadership.

