



February 23, 2007

Dear Members of Anglicans United,

For years, the gay community referred to its own numbers as 10% of all Episcopalians. Numerous studies before and since that time put estimates of the homosexual population - both male and female - at 2.5% or less. These individuals and the clergy/bishops they have convinced, have held The Episcopal Church (TEC) captive to their agenda for 30 years.

Since the 1998 Lambeth Conference, when the issue of human sexuality and homosexuality became front-page news, the Anglican Communion has been walking a tightrope, anchored at two points. At one end, a developing vision for a worldwide communion, not only built on the "bonds of affection", but one that preserves doctrinal integrity through the conciliar [Ed. Note: decisions made within the Councils of the Church] relationships of the archbishops. That vision came a step closer to fruition with the publication on February 19, 2007 of the preliminary draft document of the Covenant, a process accelerating since the Windsor Report. The authenticity of the Covenant relies on the integrity of the provinces signing it. The Primates have said repeatedly that they do not intend to discipline by casting out provinces who break the rules, but by giving them ample opportunity to repent and return to the Communion, once their error is pointed out to them. We see that again in their treatment of TEC with this Communiqué.

The second anchor point of the tightrope has been the desire on the part of the overwhelming number of archbishops to deal responsibly with the prodigal TEC, and the Canadian church. Both Canadians and Americans have witnessed serious departures from historic Anglican teaching, represented as recently as the 1998 Lambeth Conference, in its summary Resolution I.10 on sexuality.

Reports during and immediately following Dar es Salaam indicate that the Archbishop of Canterbury and his fellow archbishops have walked the tightrope with measured, considered and deliberate steps, endeavoring at all times to listen and to respect the values held by the diverse parties. The archbishops acted with grace for all parties involved in the crisis precipitated by TEC.

The reality that 14 of the archbishops who have dealt with this issue during Frank Griswold's leadership of TEC would be replaced by new voices in Dar was cause for great concern. This appears to have been unwarranted. Orthodoxy is clearly in the ascendancy in the Anglican Communion. For this we thank God.

Presiding Bishop Schori's remarks, beginning with her first homily at General Convention, seem at best to be ill considered and are condemned by many to be heretical. Yet she is the duly elected Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. The archbishops dealt with her graciously and respectfully. Now she returns to the United States with an enormous job ahead of her. She must convince both ally and opponent bishops to trust the process initiated by the Communion in response to the General Convention's decision in 2003 to consecrate V. Gene Robinson. Please pray for her.

Almost 85% of the Communiqué deals with the crisis in TEC. The report itself was more than 5 hours late in release, because the archbishops reportedly could not agree on the wording for the Pastoral Council and Pastoral Scheme. Their conclusions: *[Editor's comments are in italics in brackets at end of the statements.]*

- **Same Sex Blessings:** TEC bishops are asked to make an "an unequivocal common covenant that the bishops will not authorise any Rite of Blessing for same-sex unions in their dioceses or through General Convention. *[These blessings are to stop, in every diocese across the country, with the assurance that they will not be carried out in stealth/secret in spite of the ban. The Diocese of California/ San Francisco has been blessing same-sex unions for 20 years, without permission and with out repercussions. Ten other dioceses have recently made these blessings diocesan policy.]*
- **Consecration of another Homosexual Bishop:** TEC bishops are asked to confirm that the passing of Resolution B033 of the 75th General Convention means that a candidate for bishop/episcopal orders living in a same-sex union shall not receive the necessary consent; unless some new consensus on these matters emerges across the Communion (The Windsor Report, §134).
- **Property:** Every church or diocese involved in lawsuits about church buildings will suspend those actions. Parishes will not take property from TEC without consent or deny use of that property to TEC. *[Yes, this includes the 14 parishes in Virginia that recently voted to leave TEC and take their buildings; the Presiding Bishop filed suit jointly with Virginia against these parishes the week prior to Dar. Now, she has signed the Communiqué and we will see if she vacates the suits. Supposedly, every parish since 2003 that left without buying their building from the diocese will be affected.]*

LETTER CONTINUES ON THE BACK

Thank you for your contribution to this ministry. Fr. Todd+

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- Parishes leaving TEC and joining with Foreign Bishops:** After the Covenant process is concluded, or after the Pastoral Council becomes fully operational, which ever comes first, foreign interventions will cease. Those parishes now under foreign jurisdiction will be rejoined to the Episcopal Church under the aegis of the Pastoral Council. *[The primates have noted that this is possible only if true repentance/ reconciliation is achieved. Neither side is practiced at the art of reconciliation.]*

- The Pastoral Council:** will be established by the Primates and consist of 5 members: two nominated by the Primates, two by the Presiding Bishop [and supposedly her Council of Advice] and a Primate of the Anglican Communion nominated by the Archbishop of Canterbury to chair the council. *[Naming of these individuals is crucial; not all of the archbishops are Biblically orthodox and posting 3 liberals to this Council will further doom the faithful in TEC; they will have the majority votes.]*

- The Pastoral Council:** will work with TEC, the Presiding Bishop and the House of Bishops to develop structures for pastoral care for parishes and dioceses now at odds with their bishop or the Presiding Bishop. *[Our bishops will argue that they have already implemented Delegated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight; but the archbishops do not believe that has been successful, since parishes are still leaving TEC to get away from their bishops.]*

- The Pastoral Council:** will facilitate and encourage healing and reconciliation
 - will advise the Presiding Bishop and the Instruments of the Communion
 - will monitor the responses of TEC to the Windsor Report and report to the Instruments of the Communion
 - will take whatever reasonable action needed to affect this scheme and report to the Primates.

- A Primatial Vicar:** already agreed to by the Presiding Bishop of TEC, will be appointed to minister to dioceses that are unable by conscience to affirm Mrs. Schori as their Presiding Bishop. *[This came out of the New York City talks in September and November. All of the bishops requesting APO refused the plan submitted by Mrs. Schori's team.]*

- The Primatial Vicar:** will be chosen in consultation with the Pastoral Council, will be nominated by those bishops who have requested alternative primatial oversight. *[Not by the Presiding Bishop. Control goes to the bishops requesting APO.]*

- The Presiding Bishop:** in consultation with the Pastoral Council will delegate specific powers and duties to the Primatial Vicar. *[The Council will make sure that the duties given are of broad enough scope to actually be beneficial and not just a "puppet" who has no real significance.]*

- Camp Allen Principles:** will be expanded so that as many bishops as possible can be signatories to this work. *[Clearly, this is where many are hoping the "middle and silent" bishops will congregate and begin to work together on behalf of TEC.]*

- Those parishes now affiliated with AMiA and CANA:** will be asked to negotiate with the Pastoral Council and the Primates currently ministering to them to find a place for them within these provisions. *[The goal is to reunite them with TEC. Includes those who left as early as 2003. But this presupposes that all will agree to reconcile.]*

- Deadline:** The TEC House of Bishops through their Presiding Bishop will deliver an answer to the Primates about their willingness to comply with the above on or before September 30, 2007. Should they refuse, the Primates will determine the next steps for The Episcopal Church. *[This gives the House of Bishops time to hold several meetings and determine their agreement or refusal of the plan. There is even time to have an emergency General Convention, which is the only body able to make decisions on behalf of TEC. The next 6 months will be very interesting!]*

THE ANGLICAN VOICE endeavors to separate truth from rumor in everything we report to you. Waiting on the Communiqué on Monday, Feb. 19 was anxiety producing, but that document proved to be positive for the Biblically orthodox in the US. Anglicans United will continue to get the news to you in a timely fashion as the reactions to this document come in. Integrity and the gay lobby has already cried "FOUL" and encouraged the HOB not to turn their backs on their commitments to same-sex blessings and more gay bishops. The House of Bishop's meeting is after Easter. We will keep you posted!

As you know, this ministry cannot stay open without your donations. Your prayers and notes sustain us. The next issue of **THE ANGLICAN VOICE** will be in your mailboxes in late March. We pray you will experience a Holy Lent.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Todd +

Fr. Todd H. Wetzal, Executive Director

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