

A Letter from the Chairman of the Covenant Design Group
To the Primates and Provincial Secretaries
March 2007

Dear Colleague

As you will know, the Primates and the Joint Standing Committee received the enclosed report from the Covenant design Group, of which I am Chairman, at their recent meeting in Tanzania. The proposal for “an Anglican Covenant” which was promoted in the Windsor Report is seen by many as one of the key ways in which trust between the Churches of the Anglican Communion might be renewed, and our common Anglican identity and inheritance asserted, and at the meeting in Tanzania, the enclosed report was commended for study and response by the Provinces.

We are not requesting that you put this report through formal processes of synodical reception at the present time. The immediate goal is to revise the text presented in the accompanying paperwork in such a way to strengthen it for further robust discussion and revision at the 2008 Lambeth Conference. Only then will it be offered for synodical debate and response. We should be grateful therefore if Provincial authorities would take the time and trouble to discern how best you would like to enable the discernment and revision process for the text of the proposed covenant in your own contexts. It may be that you feel that a response from the House of Bishops or from your Provincial Doctrinal Commission would be sufficient at the present time. It may be that you would choose to set up an *ad hoc* body to respond, or that you have a clear system by which a response could be generated. What I am hoping for at this stage by way of response, however, is a thorough critique of the present draft text, together with robust proposals for its revision.

The Covenant Design Group will meet next in early 2008. It would be very helpful therefore, by whichever process you adopt, to receive your criticisms of the report, and your proposals on the draft text by the end of this year. Submissions may be made to me through the Anglican Communion Office. We hope to supplement this official process of consultation by using the Anglican Communion website to solicit further contributions and suggestions from both the members of the Communion and from our ecumenical partners..

This letter is being sent to my fellow primates and to Provincial Secretaries. I entrust it to you in the hope that you will know to whom it is best addressed within the context of your Province. I look forward to receiving your responses in due course.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Drexel Gomez
Archbishop of the West Indies