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**Sent:** 31 July 2008 07:15  
**To:** Gregory Cameron  
**Cc:** johnchew@anglican.org.sg  
**Subject:** Ratification of Anglican Covenant

Dear Gregory,

Bruce MacPherson tells me that this concern should be directed to you (and John Chew, whom I have already apprized of it).

If the Anglican Covenant is to be ratified at the level of Provinces only there will be perhaps as many as thirty to forty Dioceses of The Episcopal Church that will be disenfranchised. There is no question whatsoever that the TEC General Convention will reject the proposed Covenant as decisively as the House of Bishops did the Communique from Dar last year.

We must ensure that ratification takes place (at least additionally) at the DIOCESAN level. Last October Archbishop Rowan wrote the following to me:

"I would repeat what I've said several times before - that any diocese compliant with Windsor remains clearly in communion with Canterbury and the mainstream of the Communion, whatever may be the longer-term result for others in TEC. The organ of union with the wider Church is the bishop and the diocese rather than the Provincial structure as such....

"I should feel a great deal happier, I must say, if those who are most eloquent for a traditionalist view in the US showed a fuller understanding of the need to regard the bishop and the diocese as the primary locus of ecclesial identity rather than the abstract reality of the 'national church.'" The Communion Partners Bishops believe this understanding is critical in moving forward.

Warmest regards in our Lord,

*The Right Rev. John W. Howe*  
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