

The Primates Meeting.

Points raised in the Discussion of the Draft Text for “an Anglican Covenant” presented as part of the Report of the Covenant Design Group.

General Points

- ◆ Translation of the Document needed.
- ◆ Could we have a one page document addressing the questions:
 - What is the value added by the Covenant?
 - How does the Covenant relate to the fundamental principles set out in the preamble of several constitutions?
- ◆ The Archbishop of Canterbury should write a preface to commend the study of the document to the Provinces.
- ◆ Please give citations where there are quotes so that these can clearly be identified.

Section 1 (Preamble)

- ◆ Could there be a reference here to the understanding that the death and resurrection of Christ saves us from rationalism?
- ◆ Abraham the grandfather of Israel, rather than representative.
- ◆ What is the special charism of Anglicanism? Should that not be identified here?

Section 2 (The Life we Share)

- 2 There ought to be reference somewhere in the Covenant to the threefold authority of Scripture, Tradition and Reason informed by God.
- 2(2) Could there be clarification of the word “afresh” and what it means in this context?
- 2(3) Is “Supper of the Lord” the most appropriate phrase?
- 2(5) Care must be taken when talking about the 1662 Book of Common Prayer – perhaps “the original BCPs of the Church of England and their descendents” would be a better phrase. Not all Provinces place the greatest value on the 1662 edition.
- 2(5) The historic formularies are known to some Provinces but not all, and even then they are understood in different ways. The text may need to stop at the formularies, but with an extended explanatory footnote. The Thirty-Nine Articles are not in every Provincial constitution – not in Japan for example – so the wording needs to be careful.

Section 3 (Our Commitment to Confession)

- 3(1) Some reservations were expressed about the phrasing “biblically derived”. Who assesses the authenticity of any interpretation? On the other hand, this text is not committing us to particular views, but is about the method that Anglicans adopt when interpreting Scripture.
- 3(2) It would be important to mention mutual Eucharistic hospitality and the recognition and interchangeability of clergy.

Section 4 (The Life we Share with Others)

- 4(5) There is a need to acknowledge the fruits of the work undertaken by *Missio* – there is no mention here, for example, of the centrality of worship and the commitment to live as the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Section 5 (Our Unity and Common Life)

- 5(2)IV The description of the work of the ACC needs to be expanded.

Section 6 (Unity of the Communion)

- 6 There is no mention in this text of the United Churches. Where do they stand in relation to the covenant? Do they have a place? Their distinctive position needs acknowledgement and mention.
- 6 The place of ACC seems undervalued. Should ACC be in a more central role, and be given an appropriate juridical and executive authority? The text should explicitly note its consultative nature.
- 6 There is a need to ensure balance between the four Instruments, and a deeper understanding of their authority and capacity.
- 6(3) Canon Law should reflect and promote global Communion.

Section 7 (Our Declaration)

No comment