

## The Lambeth Commission - Official Responses

### Official Responses to the Windsor Report

#### [19 November - Resolution of Provincial Synod of the Southern Cone](#)

As a synod we give thanks for the Windsor Report and all those that were committed to its preparation. It offers valuable tools to the Communion with which our serious problems can be addressed regarding the authority of the Scripture, order in the Church and the crisis over human sexuality that two provinces of the Communion have created by taking "rebellious and unilateral actions". [...More](#)

#### [18 November - Pastoral letter from the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia](#)

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#### [8 November - Statement from the Episcopal Church of Burundi](#)

The Episcopal Church of Burundi wishes to express appreciation for the Windsor Report, and to congratulate the Lambeth Commission that produced it. It is an interesting, coherent, and sensitive report that challenges the Communion to dialogue constructively as a way forward. [...More](#)

#### [20 October - Statement from Primates' Standing Committee](#)

The Primates' Standing Committee, meeting in London, between 18 and 20 October, 2004, received the Windsor Report at the same time that copies of the report were circulated to the Primates at 9.00am prior to its publication at 12 noon here in London [...More](#)

#### [19 October - Statement from the Primate of All Nigeria](#)

I welcome the sincerity and hard work of those who have prepared 'The Windsor Report 2004'. After an initial reading it is clear to me that the report falls far short of the prescription needed for this current crisis. [...More](#)

#### [19 October - Statement from the Archbishop of Wales](#)

The Commission has worked hard over a whole year to find a way forward for the Anglican Communion. Its membership was drawn from across that Communion reflecting different cultures, theologies and viewpoints but its report is a unanimous one. It was not asked and has not tried to tackle the issue of human sexuality. [...More](#)

#### [18 October - Statement from Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada](#)

This morning I received a copy of the report of the Lambeth Commission on Communion (Eames Commission). The Commission was created by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and chaired by Archbishop Robin Eames of Armagh, the senior Metropolitan in the Anglican Communion. Its mandate was to maximize Communion within the worldwide Anglican family despite significant theological differences. [...More](#)

### **[18 October - Statement from the Most Revd Njongonkulu Ndungane](#)**

Today is an important day for the Anglican Communion. I want to begin by congratulating Archbishop Robin Eames and the members of the Lambeth Commission for producing such a comprehensive Report in such a short time, and in such testing circumstances. [...More](#)

### **[18 October - Statement from the Archbishop of Canterbury](#)**

As you know Archbishop Robin Eames has presented to me the report of the Commission he has been chairing and which was published earlier today. Now that it is in the public domain, I wanted to say a few words as President of the Anglican Communion, on whose future working arrangements of course the report focuses. [...More](#)

### **[18 October - Statement from the Presiding Bishop of ECUSA](#)**

I write to you from London where I am attending a meeting of the Primates' Standing Committee. I have had a matter of hours to review the Report of the Lambeth Commission on Communion, thus I will now offer only some preliminary observations [...More](#)

### **[18 October - Statement from the Most Revd Bernard Malango](#)**

I welcome the publication of the Windsor Report. I was privileged to be part of the Lambeth Commission, and despite some very honest exchanges, we were able to come together as a Commission to offer what I believe represents a genuine way forward for the future of the Anglican Communion [...More](#)

## **The Lambeth Commission - Official Responses**

### **Resolution of Provincial Synod of the Southern Cone**

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia,  
2-4 November 2004

#### **FULL SUPPORT OF THE PROVINCE FOR ITS PRIMATE**

As a synod we give thanks for the Windsor Report and all those that were committed to its preparation. It offers valuable tools to the Communion with which our serious problems can be addressed regarding the authority of the Scripture, order in the Church and the crisis over human sexuality that two provinces of the Communion have created by taking "rebellious and unilateral actions".

Nevertheless it worries us that the report has not made a clearer call to repentance on the part of the Episcopal Church of the United States and the Anglican Church of Canada. They are the ones that have clearly taken decisions and endorsed practices against the Holy Scriptures and the apostolic tradition of two thousand years of ethical teaching of the Church and against the clear voice of the Communion. This synod insists on what our bishops said in their pastoral letter of February 2004, that our relationship with these provinces "can only be restored through repentance, pardon and love".

In addition it is our hope that the Primates will set down mechanisms and limits by which the unity of the Communion can be assured in the future.

This synod, conscious that the next meeting of the Primates, that will take place in Ireland in February of 2005, will need clear consultation from all over the Communion and observing the need that those parts of the Church, especially in the Americas, that have remained faithful in their life and testimony - as many dioceses, bishops, parishes and individuals have - should receive adequate pastoral care, give our Primate, the Most Reverend Gregory Venables, our full and total support in his responsibilities, consultations and tasks. We pray that the Lord will be with him and fill him with grace and wisdom.

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### **Pastoral letter from the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia**

The 2004 Meeting of Bishops the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia has issued a pastoral letter to the Church on the release of the Windsor Report.

The letter that was sent to local churches on 25 October 2004 follows:

#### **A PASTORAL LETTER FROM ALL THE BISHOPS OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND AND POLYNESIA TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH**

Greetings.

The Windsor Report from the Lambeth Commission on Communion reached the media before the Church it was written for had read it. The debate triggered on the Internet before and after the report's release bears little resemblance to the careful and prayerful process of reception that the Commission proposes.

Much of the media debate has little to do with what the Windsor Report is really about - which is the question of how we stay together as churches within the Anglican Communion and how we keep talking to each other across significant divisions of culture, history, and understanding of Scripture.

The Commission of 19 people from 14 of the 38 provinces of the Anglican Communion included 2 New Zealanders, Bishop John Paterson of Auckland and Dr Jenny Plane Te Paa, Ahorangi of Te Rau Kahikatea. We are grateful to them for their comprehensive 93 page report, and commend it to every local church for study and reflection. Especially valuable in our view is the section on fundamental principles of scriptural authority and interpretation. This section provides a rich resource for us all and contains some challenging proposals for holding the authority of scripture alongside the principle of making decisions as close as possible to the local level, and the discernment of which issues we can disagree about without dividing the Church.

The report contains a number of strong recommendations that will need to be considered by a much longer process of consultation internationally, beginning with the meeting of the Primates in February 2005 and followed by the Anglican Consultative Council which meets in July next year. Our own General Synod in May 2006 will need to address the outcome of this international consultation process and discern what decisions are appropriate for the life of this Church.

The strongest recommendations address the Episcopal Church of the USA, and invite that church to express regret for ordaining the Bishop of New Hampshire without sufficient consultation with the rest of the communion. It also called for a moratorium

on the ordination of any further bishops who live in same gender unions until "some new consensus" emerges internationally, among Anglicans.

Bishops were urged not to proceed with approving rites for the blessing of same sex unions. More biblical and theological study of the issue was encouraged, including a need for clarity about the distinction between same sex union and same sex marriage.

A very strong recommendation calls on bishops who believe they should intervene in other dioceses and provinces to express regret and cease any further interventions.

We have yet to hear how those directly addressed by all these calls will respond.

The report is very valuable in the advice it gives on maintaining dialogue across deep divisions which can so easily be jeopardised by precipitous action and demeaning the oversight role and authority of the bishop.

Among the ways ahead that the Commission proposes is a number of recommendations that would strengthen the international role of the Anglican Communion and its councils as "instruments of unity". A proposal for an Anglican Covenant is offered in order to foster "greater unity and consolidate our understandings of communion", and a clearer and better supported role for the Archbishop of Canterbury is outlined.

We are encouraged that much of the spirit and direction of this report echoes our own General Synod resolution in May 2004, including the acknowledgement of the ministries and contributions of gay and lesbian people in this Church. We note that discussions following our General Synod have heard a clear call from Tikanga Maori and Tikanga Pasifika for more time to work separately in addressing issues of sexuality, both culturally and theologically. We also note that this report does not address the issue of new ordinations of gay and lesbian people, any more than it addresses the question of homosexuality in general. Those matters were outside its mandate. But the work on the same issues that we have called for in our General Synod still remains to be done.

In our deep concern over all these issues and their potential to divide us, we are determined as bishops not to close any doors or drop a portcullis on the debate. Our determination is to keep the dialogue going respectfully in order to win each other over, not to one side or the other, but to the values of the Gospel that we share and that calls us all to account.

In the words of the Windsor Report, "our aim is to work for healing and restoration. The real challenge of the Gospel is whether we live deeply enough in the love of Christ, and care sufficiently for our joint work to bring that love to the world, that we will 'make every effort to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace' Ephesians 4-3.

As the primates stated in 2000, 'to turn from one another would be to turn away from the cross', and indeed from serving the world which God loves and for which Jesus Christ died."

Christ's peace be with you all.

## **The Lambeth Commission - Official Responses**

### **Statement from the Episcopal Church of Burundi**

The Episcopal Church of Burundi wishes to express appreciation for the Windsor Report, and to congratulate the Lambeth Commission that produced it. It is an interesting, coherent, and sensitive report that challenges the Communion to dialogue constructively as a way forward.

The Episcopal Church of Burundi remains totally committed to the Anglican Communion and will continue to endeavour to “keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4 v 3). We should always be mindful of the Gospel imperative to maintain unity and communion that is rooted in truth and love.

We are called to be a “holy, catholic and apostolic” church and to affirm the authority of Scripture and the traditional teachings of the Church. Though we recognise the principle of unity in diversity, Scripture should remain our guide in all matters of ethics and decision making. We affirm the autonomous status of each Province. However, decisions taken by individual Provinces should not impair the unity that we enjoy within the Communion. As has become apparent, we ignore Biblical teaching, the Apostolic Faith, and Church practice at our peril, and compromise the cohesion of our communion.

We regret the unilateral decisions that have proved so divisive and have polarised Christians and threatened the future of the Anglican Communion. These decisions have also threatened relationships with other denominations, and the mission and witness of the Church in a world that is already confused in areas of sexuality, morality and theology.

All through the debate on human sexuality the Episcopal Church of Burundi has prayerfully encouraged unity, understanding and dialogue within the household of God. As human beings we are all vulnerable to sin. As Christians we are called to exercise the love of Christ in all our relationships and to pray with love that the Spirit of God will change the sinner who repents. We acknowledge the importance of care and compassion for all members of the Church and the need for a pastoral response to the many within the Church who struggle with issues relating to sexuality, especially those who feel isolated, and fear rejection and loneliness.

The recent African Anglican Bishops' Conference in Nigeria rightly emphasised that there are many issues currently concerning the Church, and especially the Church in Africa. As those called to mission in the world, we need to show a willingness to join together in the work of the Kingdom. We should encourage one another to share the resources that God has entrusted to us, whether they are human, material or financial, for the benefit of all.

Finally, we heed the call to seek reconciliation and healing, and to find ways to walk together in a way that honours the name of Christ whom we seek to serve.

Issued: Bujumbura 3 November 2004  
**The Most Revd. Samuel NDAYISENGA**  
Archbishop of Burundi