

**INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY
OF
THE REPORT OF THE LAMBETH COMMISSION ON COMMUNION
DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE TITLE THE WINDSOR REPORT 2004**

The 82nd Diocesan Convention Mandate: *... to persist in preparing the membership of the Episcopal Church in our diocese biblically and theologically to participate in the issue delineated in The Windsor Report; ... to construct and establish schedules for forums that will allow for ongoing biblical and theological learning.*

Establishment of the Lambeth Commission on Communion: The LCC was established in October 2003 by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the request of the Anglican Primates, in response to

(1) a decision of the 74th General Convention of the Episcopal Church (USA) to give consent to the election of Bishop Gene Robinson to the Diocese of New Hampshire;

(2) the authorizing by a diocese of the Anglican Church of Canada of a public Rite of Blessing for same sex unions;

(3) and the involvement in other provinces by bishops without consent or approval of the incumbent bishop to perform Episcopal functions.

All of these actions are consequent to a variety of postmodern influences growing out of theological, scientific, socio-cultural, and technological knowledge that challenges not only scriptural interpretation, but the nature of our communion as Anglicans.

Helpful Resources

Morehouse Publishing Company, The Windsor Report

Sykes, Booty, Knight, The Study of Anglicanism (revised)

James E. Griffiss, The Anglican Vision (The New Church's Teaching Series)

Christopher Bryan, And God Spoke (The Authority of the Bible for the Church Today)

J. Pelikan, Whose Bible Is It? (Viking Press)

Rowell (Editor), The English Religious Tradition and the Genius of Anglicanism

Facts to be remembered as we study The Windsor Report:

(1) The unity of the Church and the on-going communion of its members are the primary concerns of the report, along with the holiness to which all Christ's people are called. **It must be said here that for all of the report's emphasis on unity and true communion among Anglicans, this Report exists because certain actions by specific Provinces (listed above) have generated a response that threatens the existence of the Anglican Communion. The tone of the Report is**

toward reconciliation, but the dissolution of the Communion is a possibility.

(2) Condemnation of individuals and the finalization of statements of the Anglican Communion's position on the complex issues of human sexuality are not the purposes of the report. The report does not exist to declare winners and losers, dividing the Communion between those who are right and those who are wrong.

(3) The Bishop of our diocese, in his statement that the WR is "the finest thumbnail description of Anglicanism I have read," affirms the report as a potential vehicle of our education and formation in Christ. This material will concentrate on The Windsor Report as a teaching resource.

(3) Emphasis of the Report is on Reconciliation and common commitment to Jesus Christ and our mission to a hurting world. We are invited in the Report to "walk together" as Anglicans historically have done in the tumults of the past. There have always been varying opinions on theological and social issues.

(4) The material available in the Primate's publication consists of a FOREWORD, The Official Mandate of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Introduction of the Commission Members, and the body of the Report. The Report consists of pp.11- 60, and an Appendix of official documents, pp. 61- 93.

(5) The Division of the actual Report:

Section A: The Purpose and Benefits of the Anglican Communion

Section B: The Fundamental (historic elements) Principles on which the Anglican

Communion Operates

Section C: Our Future Together (in light of recent challenges)

Section D: The Maintenance of Communion (What we commend in order to be in

Communion

(5) Appendix Two offers a proposal for an **Anglican Covenant**. This is only a proposal, but it clarifies various aspects of those things which have traditionally been understood to strengthen our unity as Anglicans.

Included for discussion in this study is a *Covenant Statement of the House of Bishops*. It is **not** the proposed Anglican Covenant found on page 65. It does, however, until General Convention – 2006, fulfill the recommendations made to the Episcopal Church (USA) by the Windsor Report. This Covenant by our House of Bishops does not speak for the concerns of the Diocese of New Westminster, in the Church of Canada.