

RESOLUTION 3-2007

Concerning the adoption and ratification of the Communiqué dated September 22, 2006 to the House of Bishops adopted by those Bishops of the Church meeting at Camp Allen in the Diocese of Texas

A Resolution for the 103rd Council of the Diocese of West Texas
Meeting at Corpus Christi, Texas

WHEREAS, this 103rd Council of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas desires to reaffirm the Diocesan commitment as previously resolved to remain, with The Episcopal Church (as embodied in the United States of America), “a constituent member of the Anglican Communion, a Fellowship within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church....in communion with the See of Canterbury,” as provided by the Preamble of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, the response of the 75th General Convention to the Windsor Report and events since the 75th General Convention appear to be creating further division between those factions within the Church in disagreement with each other; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this Diocese adopts and ratifies the communiqué dated September 22, 2006 to the House of Bishops adopted by those Bishops of the Church meeting at Camp Allen in the Diocese of Texas, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein for all purposes.

Note: This resolution was submitted by numerous vestries.

A Letter to the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church
St. Matthew's Day, 2006 [September 22nd]

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We, the undersigned bishops, have met together at Camp Allen in the Diocese of Texas from September 19-22. We understand ourselves to be catholic bishops within the Anglican Communion and have met to contribute to our future life within this Communion. We are writing to you as fellow bishops in The Episcopal Church, in the knowledge that many others in our Province and around the world have expressed an interest in this meeting.

We have gathered with a common desire to work for the unity of the Church, as well as for the integrity and vitality of our own Province and the Anglican Communion as a whole.

We are grateful for the helpful briefing from the Archbishop of Canterbury, brought to us through the Bishops of Durham and Winchester. We have corresponded in turn with the Archbishop and communicated our hopes with respect to continuing in full constituent Communion membership. It is our intention to offer a faithful and dynamic witness within the Episcopal Church.

We confess our faith in Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life – the faith that is uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures, set forth in the catholic Creeds, and to which the historic Anglican formularies bear witness.

We are committed to the conciliar character of our Communion. Consistent with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Holy Cross Day letter to the Primates, it is our clear sense that General Convention of 2006 did not adequately respond to the request made of The Episcopal Church by the Communion through the Windsor Report and the Primates at Dromantine. These requests include explicit moratoria regarding church discipline and order. We express our regret, on behalf of ourselves, for those actions with which the Windsor Report was concerned.

We accept and affirm the Windsor Report and view adherence to it as furthering the vocation to heal the breaches within our own Communion and in our ecumenical relationships. Furthermore, we endorse the recommendation of the Windsor Report, as supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury, for the development of an Anglican Covenant.

The Windsor Report properly belongs within the larger framework of Anglican teaching, as expressed, not least, in successive Lambeth Conferences, including the resolutions of Lambeth 1998 (among which is Resolution 1.10). We understand this to be the mind of the Communion for teaching and discipline.

We recognize that many congregations within The Episcopal Church need a safe space within which to live out the integrity of their faith in compliance with the Windsor Report. We also recognize that there are some congregations that do not accept the provisions of the Windsor Report. We pledge ourselves to work with our Episcopal colleagues to care for all God's people in our dioceses.

Within our group are needs for various levels of response to the conflicts in the church. While here we have worked diligently to achieve unity across these lines. We recognize the need of some among us for an alternative primatial relationship. This recognition does not weaken our fundamental theological and ecclesial commitments. Rather, our unity has strengthened them, and for this we thank God.

It is our hope and prayer that through our fellowship we can contribute to the renewal of our Province's life within the Communion. We invite others who share our concern and position to join us in our common work on behalf of the church, and we plan to meet again early in the new year. We hope that those of you who share our commitments will find yourselves able to join us then, as we continue our work.

We ask for your prayers and assure you of ours.

In the name of Christ Jesus,

The Rt. Rev. Mark L. MacDonald
Diocese of Alaska
The Rt. Rev. William H. Love
Diocese of Albany
The Rt. Rev. John W. Howe
Diocese of Central Florida
The Rt. Rev. James M. Stanton
Diocese of Dallas
The Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker
Diocese of Fort Worth
The Rt. Rev. Michael G. Smith
Diocese of North Dakota
The Rt. Rev. Edward S. Little
Diocese of Northern Indiana
The Rt. Rev. C. Wallis Ohl, Jr.
Diocese of Northwest Texas
The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Duncan
Diocese of Pittsburg
The Rt. Rev. Keith L. Ackerman
Diocese of Quincy
The Rt. Rev. GERALYN WOLF
Diocese of Rhode Island

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey N. Steenson
Diocese of Rio Grande
The Rt. Rev. John-David Schofield
Diocese of San Joaquin
The Rt. Rev. Edward L. Salmon
Diocese of South Carolina
The Rt. Rev. John B. Lipscomb
Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rt. Rev. Peter H. Beckwith
Diocese of Springfield
The Rt. Rev. Bertram N. Herlong
Diocese of Tennessee
The Rt. Rev. Don A. Wimberly
Diocese of Texas
The Rt. Rev. James M. Adams
Diocese of Western Kansas
The Rt. Rev. D. Bruce MacPherson
Diocese of Western Louisiana
The Rt. Rev. Gary R. Lillibridge
Diocese of West Texas