

## Anglican Network in Canada – Our Genesis

*Biblical, Missionary, Uniting*

### **Realignment in the Communion – a Canadian Chronology**

**1979 – Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) House of Bishops Guidelines:** *“We do not accept the blessing of homosexual unions”.*

**1994 - Montreal Declaration** is adopted at a national conference of 600 Anglicans from across Canada to serve as the theological basis for **The Essentials Council**.

**1998 – Primates Lambeth Resolution 1.10** states the Communion position, that homosexual practice is incompatible with scripture and that they *“...could not advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions nor ordaining those involved in same gender unions”*

**2002 (June) - Diocese of New Westminster** becomes the first Anglican diocese in the world to formally authorize the blessing of same sex unions

**2003 (May) - Primates meeting in Brazil** state *“...we as a body cannot support the authorisation of such rites.”*

Within one week of the Brazil meeting, the bishop issues a Rite and the first official blessing takes place in the diocese of New Westminster.

**2003 (Oct) - Primates meeting at Lambeth** reaffirms 1998 Lambeth Resolution 1.10 and, referring to ECUSA and Diocese of New Westminster, states *“...these decisions jeopardise our sacramental fellowship with each other... This will tear the fabric of our Communion at its deepest level, and may lead to further division”*

The Primates request care for those adhering to Anglican teaching, saying *“...we call on the provinces concerned to make adequate provision for episcopal oversight of dissenting minorities within their own area of pastoral care in consultation with the Archbishop of Canterbury on behalf of the Primates.”*

### **2004 - Canadian General Synod**

- Affirms “the integrity and sanctity of committed adult same-sex relationships”
- Creates a Primate’s Theological Commission to report by GS 2007 on whether same sex blessings are a matter of doctrine (The St Michael’s Report)
- Makes no attempt to stop the diocese of New Westminster, nor provide for “Adequate Episcopal Oversight” for dissenting minorities

### **2004 (Oct) - The Windsor Report**

§ 143 Calls on all bishops to not authorise same-sex blessings.

§ 144 Calls for Provinces to ensure bishops honour a moratorium on these blessing.

§ 151 Calls for delegated Episcopal pastoral oversight where trust has been breached.

§ 157 Contemplates a walking apart should these calls not be heeded.

### **2005 (Feb) - Primates’ Meeting in Dromantine, Ireland**

- Requests that the Anglican Church of Canada “voluntarily withdraw” until 2008 and asks it to appear before the Anglican Consultative Council in June to *“...set out the thinking behind the recent actions of their Province”.*

- Re-affirms the 1998 Lambeth Resolution 1.10 and again calls for a moratorium
- Calls “as a matter of urgency” for “a panel of reference”

**2005 (June) –Anglican Network in Canada & Anglican Essentials Federation** are launched – the two arms of Anglican Essentials Canada.

**2005 (May) - St. Michael’s Report** (Canada) concludes that blessing of same sex unions is a matter of doctrine, but not core doctrine “in the sense of being credal”.

**2005 (June) - Anglican Consultative Council** upholds the “voluntary withdrawal” (“suspension”) of the Anglican Church of Canada until 2008

**2006 (Oct) - Panel of Reference** releases its report on the Diocese of New Westminster which affirms Shared Episcopal Ministry. Archbishops Gomez and Venables decry the report.

**2007 (Feb) - Primates Meeting in Dar es Salaam**

- Affirms 1998 Lambeth Resolution 1.10 as the “standard of teaching which is presupposed in the Windsor Report and from which the Primates have worked”.
- Affirms that actions of the ACC have “challenged the standard of teaching on human sexuality articulated in the 1998 Lambeth Resolution 1.10”
- Acknowledged Primates have intervened in Provinces, but says:
  - It is not right to end those interventions until sufficient provision for the life of those persons, and for the interventions to stop,
  - Conservatives in North America require a robust scheme of pastoral oversight to provide. . . adequate space to flourish within the life of that church in the period leading up to the conclusion of the Covenant Process”

**2007 (June) - Canadian General Synod**

- Resolves that same sex blessings are “not in conflict” with the core doctrine of the Anglican Church of Canada
- Rejects a motion upholding “Lambeth Resolution 1.10 as the current standard of Anglican teaching” and a moratorium on same-sex blessings.
- Rejects a motion to affirm “local option” but fails to address New Westminster situation
- Requests a theological rationale be brought to General Synod 2010 on the implications of the blessing of same-sex marriages

**2007 (July), Global South Primates Steering Committee:** *“We have also noted the decisions of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and are dismayed by their unilateral declaration that ‘same-sex blessing is not core doctrine’... We are exploring the possibility of additional pastoral provisions for those who want to remain faithful to Communion teaching and have been affected by the continuing actions of their own bishops.”*

**2007 (Sept) – Common Cause Council of Bishops** - 51 bishops representing 10 partner organizations meet and take the first steps toward creating the new North America Anglican province called for by the Primates of the Global South at Kigali in September 2006.

**2007 (November), Province of the Southern Cone synod** votes to welcome into membership on an emergency and pastoral basis, North American Anglicans needing godly episcopal oversight and wishing to remain in the mainstream of global Anglicanism and be faithful to its Biblical and historic teaching and witness.

**2007 (November) - Anglican Network in Canada** offers Adequate Episcopal Oversight under Bishop Donald Harvey – who is now a bishop within the Province of the Southern Cone under Archbishop Gregory Venables – to biblically-faithful Canadian Anglicans who are in “serious theological dispute” with their bishop, diocese or the ACC and who wish to remain “in full communion with the Church of England throughout the world”.