

A Summary Guide to the Windsor Report 2004

Anglican Communion official website:

www.anglicancommunion.org/commission/news/summaryguide.cfm

Section A

The report begins by describing the nature of the relationship into which all Christians believe that they are called by God called “communion” (§[1-11](#)), and the way in which this relates to the Mission of the Church. It describes how the life of communion works when it is operating well, with a specific example relating to the ordination of women (§[12-21](#)), before turning to a description of the current difficulties which the Anglican Communion is experiencing (§[22-30](#)). This is followed by a description of the underlying tensions which give rise to the current difficulties (§[31-42](#)).

Section B

This section examines the principles which underlie the way in which the Anglican Communion lives its life. It looks more deeply at the importance of communion as a principle of church life (§[43-51](#)), before looking at specific elements of church life and ministry as understood in Anglicanism: Scripture (§[53-62](#)), the ministry of bishops (§[63-66](#)), and the way in which Anglican/Episcopal churches discern God’s will together, and in their own context (§[67-96](#)).

Section C

The discussion in the first two sections is important, because it is the basis from which the Commission moves to its recommendations on the future life of the Communion. After a segment which gives the history of the central councils or Instruments of Unity of the Anglican Communion (§[97-104](#)), the report offers its recommendations on the future working of the Instruments (§[105-112](#)), and especially the ministry of the Archbishop of Canterbury (§[108-110](#)), to be supported by a Council of Advice (§[111-112](#)). It goes on to consider the legal and constitutional bonds which underpin the communion and recommends the creation and adoption of an Anglican Covenant (§[113-120](#)).

Section D

The report then turns to the matters which have disturbed the life of the Communion. It identifies the central issues (§[121-123](#)), and offers its recommendations on elections to the episcopate (§[124-135](#)), on public Rites of Blessing of same sex unions (§[136-146](#)), and on the care of dissenting minorities (§[147-155](#)). In its conclusions, the Commission sets its work within the wider mission of the Church (§[156-157](#)).

Appendices

A vital part of the report are its appendices. [Appendix One](#) sets out reflections on the operation of the conciliar Instruments of Unity and the Anglican Communion Office. [Appendix Two](#) sets out a possible draft of an Anglican Covenant to illustrate what such a document might look like. [Appendix Three](#) sets out the documentation behind many of the recent debates and decisions of the Communion, and a select bibliography is offered in [Appendix Four](#).

At the end of the publication, readers will find a [selected thematic index](#), by which the paragraphs relating to a range of topics may be identified.