

日本聖公会 北海道教区

DIOCESE OF HOKKAIDO, NIPPON SEI KO KAI

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The Rev. Canon Gregory Cameron
Deputy Secretary General
Anglican Communion Office
16 Tavistock Crescent
London W11 1AP
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March 5, 2009

Re. Responses to the St. Andrew's Draft

Dear Gregory,

Greetings from Japan.

We are very much grateful to the Covenant Design Group for all the difficult task and thank God for their work.

In February, 2009, we, the House of Bishops of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, have met and discussed the questions asked by the Rev. Canon Kenneth Kearon on the St. Andrew's Draft.

Before answering the three questions, we would like to make some general comments.

Some of us are still hesitant to use the word "covenant" because of its legalistic tone. It seems to imply the provinces should be legally bound with each other if we adopt this covenant. We are afraid that this kind of covenant would change the nature of our relationship in the Anglican Communion from of unity in diversity into of the uniformity and exclusion. In that sense, we would like the whole Appendix be changed.

The St. Andrew's Draft states that we are to live in mutual affection, commitment and service (3.1.2), and we

wonder how this might be applied and realized in the particular issue such as of human-sexuality as culture in one context is totally different from others. How could we create the common ground to listen to each other in those cases as we value and respect highly the diversity and autonomy of each province? We would like to see more in the draft the import of effort in mutual understanding among the provinces of Communion which all differ in many ways from each other.

Now having said these, we would like to answer the three questions proposed by the Rev. Canon Kearon.

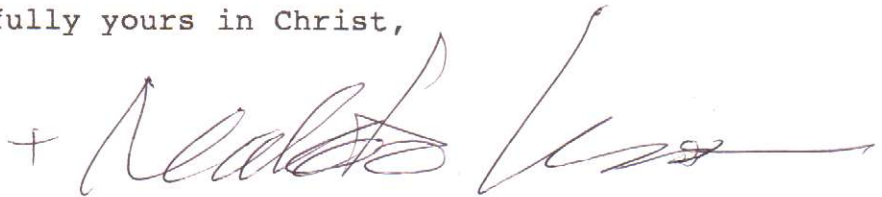
1. We have no reason why we should not commit ourselves in the Covenant process at this time as long as it is described in the St. Andrew's draft.

2. In our case, we do not think the whole content of the Covenant should be presented and discussed at the General Synod. What we, the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, would do in order to adopt the Covenant is that 1)the House of Bishops adopts it, then 2)the House of Bishops asks the Synod to approve the decision of the House of Bishops to adopt the Covenant, and 3)the General Synod approves it.

3. Please see what we have mentioned above.

Please be assured of our prayer for you always.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, starting with a cross symbol (+) and ending with a long horizontal flourish.

The Most Rev. Nathaniel M. Uematsu
Primate of Nippon Sei Ko Kai & Bishop of Hokkaido