

December 13, 2007

The Most Rev'd. Drexel W. Gomez
Archbishop, Church in the Province of the West Indies
Bishop of Nassau & The Bahamas & The Turks & Caicos Islands
Primate of the West Indies
PO Box N-7107
Nassau
BAHAMAS

Most Reverend Sir,

I am writing you on behalf of the faculty of the Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry located in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. First of all, we want to thank you for the excellent work you and your committee did in the draft of "An Anglican Covenant". We are in hearty agreement with its general tone and position and with the importance it holds for the unity and continued faithfulness of our Anglican Communion.

We do have one request which would allow us to embrace it and to work for its acceptance in Evangelical circles here in North America and throughout the Communion. In section 2, entitled "The life we share: Common Catholicity, Apostolicity and Confession of Faith" subsection 5 reads as follows: "that, led by the Holy Spirit it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons[5]". We would ask that you and the committee change the tense of the verb so that it reads "bears witness". It would then read : "that, led by the Holy Spirit, it bears witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons[5]".

Our reasons for asking this are the following: 1. It allows us to affirm, without asking for subscription, our Anglican Reformation heritage, which otherwise is not clearly affirmed in the Covenant. 2. It is more accurate of the historic present, since a large number of our Provinces do continue to require some form of recognition of the 39 Articles and the 1662 Book of Common Prayer in their constitutions and ordination commitments. Lastly 3, we do not see that this requires every Province to include the Formularies in their constitutions and ordination commitments since by being part of the Anglican Communion they do share in this general affirmation of the Formularies. If you and the

The Most Rev'd. Drexel W. Gomez
December 13, 2008
Page Two

Committee do not agree with this 3rd point then we would ask you to make the change we request and to remove “Each member Church” from the earlier line in the 2nd Section which reads “Each member Church and the Communion as a whole affirms:” so that it would simply read: “ The Communion as a whole, affirms: “. Perhaps another way to address that concern would be to add some appropriate remark to the footnote 5 that is already included, that would convey the thought of our 3rd reason.

As a theological faculty of the Evangelical Anglican tradition which includes students the various streams of the Anglican Communion and which also is in wide contact with other Anglican Seminaries and Provinces around the Communion we would very much like to be able in good conscience to embrace the draft of the Covenant so changed and to work for its acceptance. The entire faculty unanimously makes this request.

We treasure your thoughts and response concerning this matter.

Sincerely in Christ,

+John H. Rodgers Jr. ThD
Interim Dean and President