

Ridley Cambridge Draft
Proposed Amendments to Section 4 from the
Province of the Anglican Church in South East Asia

Further to the study paper prepared on the proposed amendments to Section 4 of the Ridley Cambridge Draft of the Anglican Covenant, the Standing Committee of the Provincial Synod resolves to present the following as our Provincial considered recommendations and response on Section IV of the said Ridley Cambridge draft of the proposed Anglican Covenant.

1. Sub-Section 4.1.4

1.1 The proposed New Sub-Section 4.1.4(a) is accepted.

1.2 The proposed New Sub-Section 4.1.4(c) should be amended to read as follows:-

“Every such Church is required to signify its decision on acceptance or adoption by a date appointed by the Anglican Consultative Council after consultation with the Primates Meeting. Any such Church that does not do so by the appointed date or by such extended date as may be allowed, shall be treated as having rejected the Covenant and thereby to deny to itself membership of the Instruments of Communion. However, its relational status with the Instruments of Communion shall be such as would be determined by the Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates Meeting from any recommendation that may be made by the Joint Standing Committee.”

Rationale: The proposed amendment is to make the provisions with respect to the relational status with the Instruments of Communion in the proposed New Sub-Section 4.1.4(c) the same as that set out in the proposed amended Sub-Section 4.3.

2. Sub-Section 4.1.5

The proposed amendment to Sub-Section 4.1.5 is not accepted. Firstly there is no need to correct the “mistake” as to membership of the Instruments of Communion unless there is an intention to correct this “mistake” everywhere it occurs, e.g. even in the New Sub-Section 4.1.4(c). Secondly, if there already exists scepticism about the power and control of the Anglican Consultative Council, the proposed amendment to Sub-Section 4.1.5 would merely strengthen that power and control. If given the power to do so, the Anglican Consultative Council may well insist on membership of all Instruments of Communion to be based solely on the Constitution of the Anglican Consultative Council, which would then preclude other churches or networks from being admitted into membership (subject to any amendment that must have the agreement of at least 26 Provinces). It would therefore be preferable for the Instruments of Communion to maintain whatever current mechanisms they have for membership (or recognition) so as to allow to them a measure of flexibility. Admittedly such flexibility may be exercised in favour of non-orthodox Provinces, but this has to be balanced with the possible centralising control of the Anglican Consultative Council should the power of membership be given to it.

Therefore, the last sentence of Sub-Section 4.1.5 should remain as follows:-

“However adoption of the Covenant may be accompanied by a formal request to the Instruments for recognition and membership to be acted upon according to each Instrument’s procedure.”

3. Sub-Section 4.2.5

The proposed amendment to Sub-Section 4.2.5 is accepted.

4. Sub-Section 4.2.7

The proposed amendment to Sub-Section 4.2.7 is accepted.

5. Sub-Section 4.3

The proposed amendment to Sub-Section 4.3 is accepted.

Prepared as a minute of the proceedings of the Standing Committee of the Province of the Anglican Church in South East Asia by:
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