

**A response by the Anglican – Lutheran International Commission (ALIC)
to the draft proposed Anglican Covenant**

I We note with grave concern that in the Draft Covenant the power of the Primates appears to be greatly increased without any corresponding enhancing of the role of the laity in the decision-making processes of the Anglican Communion.

No clear case is made for why such a pronounced emphasis on the authority of the Primates should be considered either an authentic representation of Anglican ecclesiology or an accurate means of discerning the will of the whole Church. Measured against the BEM paradigm, that ordained ministry is always to be exercised personally, collegially, and communally, the Draft Covenant's emphasis on the role of the Primates is inconsistent with two of those three rubrics: the collegial, because it raises the Primates over and above their colleagues in the episcopate in consideration of the Lambeth Conference; and the communal, for it does not directly relate the role of the Primates to the synodical structures of either the Communion or their Provinces.

It is not clear why this responsibility should be accorded to the Primates, rather than to the ACC, or some other body incorporating lay, ordained, and non-primatial episcopal representation. The proposed concentration of authority in the Primates' Meeting has raised considerable concern in the context of ALIC III's ecclesiological discussions regarding the nature of ministry and the episcopacy. The order in which the four Instruments of Communion are listed in section 5.2 further suggests the devaluation of the whole People of God. A reordering of the list as 1. ACC; 2. Lambeth Conference; 3. Primates Meeting; 4. Archbishop of Canterbury would go some way into taking this concern into account.

II We note further the need to be mindful that the underlying ethical and hermeneutical issues are not lost in the procedural discussion.

May 2007