

Church of North India

From:

Sent: 29 May 2009 15:26

To: ACO Emails

Subject: CNI response to Section 4 of the proposed Covenant

The CNI has refused to affirm the Instruments of Unity and has made its intention not to sign the proposed covenant very clear. It is understood that the CNI like the CSI is a province in the Anglican Communion by virtue of the presence of Anglican churches within it. By its own constitution and by the law of the country, India, Places of Worship Special Provisions Act, 1991, a status quo for each constituent Church in the united church is in place since August 15, 1947. In other words no changes can be made and it is mandatory for Anglican doctrine, rituals and practices, especially the threefold ministry of bishops, priests and deacons be conformed to in Anglican churches in the united church.

Please refer to Supreme Court (India) Case, 1988. District Council of United Basel Mission Church and Others *versus* Salvador Nicholas Mathias and Others. The district council's decision to join the CSI which was challenged by a group opposing union. The judgement states: (1) Form of worship can not be changed. (2) The CSI can not take possession of the Basel Mission's property and (3) The bishops of the CSI are not in the apostolic succession since the CSI has accepted the historic episcopate in a constitutional form as in the case of the CNI.

The Anglican Communion is understood to be the guardian of worldwide Anglicanism, it is therefore difficult to comprehend when the laws of India guarantees the protection and preservation of all faiths the inability for the Communion to preserve Anglicanism in India. And because of the failures of the Anglican Communion individual Anglican churches in the CSI have had to take the matter to law courts in accordance with the laws of the country.

Therefore the autonomy of the CNI will not be violated if it affirms the Instruments of Unity and signs the proposed Covenant.