

**Jerusalem & the Middle East** (The ACO apologises that although this was emailed to the ACO before the meeting, due to technical problems it was not seen until after the Working Party had met)

The Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East discussed at our Provincial Synod (9-10 October 2009) the Anglican Covenant. We have the following questions and comments:

1. What is the definition of the word "Church" as referring to any body other than a Province of the Anglican Communion?
2. In Section 4.2.3, how does the word controversial relate precisely to surrounding paragraphs? Would it be helpful in Section 4 to spell out who decides that an action falls into the definition of controversial action?

I personally, as the Bishop of Egypt, have the following questions/comments:

1. If a Province refuses to sign the Anglican Covenant, but dioceses within the Province should want to adopt the Anglican Covenant as an expression of affirming the covenantal relationship with the rest of the Anglican Communion, would this be possible? I think it would be unfair to ignore the request of such dioceses, especially after the Apostolic Constitution of Pope Benedict XVI that welcomes them to be in communion with Rome. Should the Anglican Communion open its arms to these dioceses, or should we desert them? I remember that Archbishop Rowan mentioned that the diocese is the "basic unit" within the Communion. This was prior to sending the invitations for Lambeth 2008.
2. What would happen if a Province, which already is the reason for an unresolved crisis (such as TEC), wanted to adopt the Anglican Covenant? Will she be allowed to do this, or will she need to resolve the reason for the crisis before adopting the Covenant?
3. I suggest that once a Province of the Anglican Communion adopts the Anglican Covenant, it should become a constituent member of the Communion immediately.
4. May I further suggest that by the end of 2011 (2 years after submitting the final Covenant), any Province that has not signed the Covenant, should not be allowed to participate in the Anglican Councils (i.e. Primates Meetings, ACC, Standing Committee, etc...) until the time when it finally adopts the Covenant.

May the Lord bless you!

Yours in Christ,

+Mouneer

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