

**THE CHURCH IN THE PROVINCE
OF THE WEST INDIES**

RIDLEY CAMBRIDGE DRAFT – SECTION 4

The communication from the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, including a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury, requested comments from the Province on Section Four of the Ridley Cambridge Draft of the proposed Anglican Covenant. The Standing Committee requested the House of Bishops to respond on behalf of the Province.

The House of Bishops considered the provisions of section Four and concluded that the draft was a significant improvement on the Appendix to the St. Andrew's Draft of the Covenant. The bishops agreed to support the draft in its present form but expressed concern over two issues contained therein:

1. In 4.1.5, concern was expressed over the provision "It shall be open to other churches to adopt the Covenant." It was generally felt that further clarification of this issue would be useful.
2. The bishops expressed the view that 4.2.5 should be revisited to achieve a greater degree of specificity in dealing with 'relational consequences' for actions or decisions deemed "incompatible with the Covenant." The bishops were not happy with the concluding sentence "It shall be for each Church and each Instrument to determine its own response to such recommendations."

Despite these concerns, the bishops agreed to support Section Four in its present form.

11th November, 2009