

## **Study Resource for Considering the Draft Anglican Covenant (known as the St. Andrew's Draft)**

The Executive Council is charged by General Convention to follow and respond to the development of a draft Anglican Covenant. The International Concerns Committee (INC) #021 Task Force of Executive Council facilitates and coordinates this process. The INC #021 Task Force thus has prepared this resource to assist the Bishops and their dioceses to consider the new draft of the Proposed Anglican Covenant (known as the St. Andrew's Draft) in preparation for discussion at the 2008 Lambeth Conference.

This resource offers three levels of engagement with the St. Andrew's Draft Covenant, each digging deeper into the text and issues raised by the draft. This resource is offered for your use in your diocese and does not presuppose that your diocese need make any formal response to the INC #021 Task Force. It is thus an offering from the Executive Council to assist you in your ministry.

### **I. First Level of Engagement with the Text**

Read the Saint Andrew's Draft Covenant in its entirety: Introduction, Covenant, and Appendix.<sup>1</sup> After reading, consider the following initial questions:

- What in the document did you find compelling? What resonated with you and why?
- What in the document caused you the most concern and why?
- What in the document surprised you the most and why?

### **II. Second Level of Engagement with the Text**

This level offers a brief introduction to each major section of the Draft Covenant and then poses more in-depth questions for discussion:

*Section 1:* The document begins with four affirmations based on the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral and then makes two affirmations based on liturgy and ecumenism.

- Do you find these affirmations a sufficient statement that describes the inheritance of our faith?

*Section 1.2:* This section describes how the above historical affirmations are lived out in various contexts. It also speaks about the nature of authority at various levels.

- Does this section appropriately describe how you understand a) the authority of the Bible, and b) the exercise of episcopate in The Episcopal Church?

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<sup>1</sup>[http://www.anglicancommunion.org/commission/covenant/docs/st\\_andrews\\_documents\\_2008.pdf](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/commission/covenant/docs/st_andrews_documents_2008.pdf)

*Section 2:* This section focuses on our vocation in the world as Anglicans in service to the mission of God.

- Is this description of the history of the Anglican Communion faithful to your understanding of God's mission in the world?

*Section 2.2:* This section describes our vocation as Anglicans in service to God's mission in the world through the five marks of mission.

- How does your diocese live into the five marks of mission and are they essential elements of our Anglican vocation?

*Section 3:* This section describes some of the elements of our common life together in baptism, Eucharist and ministry and moves to elaborate more recent understandings of our life in the Anglican Communion. It identifies ways by which the Anglican Communion comes together and then describes the four Instruments of Communion in their appropriate historical development.

- What meaning and impact do the four Instruments of Communion have for you in your diocese?

*Section 3.2:* Here the covenant focuses on challenges to the Anglican Communion. The voice changes from descriptive of our common life to proscriptive direction of how to proceed when our common life is threatened.

- Do you think it is necessary to articulate processes when communion is threatened and, if so, do you find these processes of consultation and conversation as outlined in 3.2 useful?

*Appendix:* Section 3.2.5 b & c of the Draft Covenant assume a schedule of procedures that are intended to accompany the Covenant. The Appendix provides a draft framework outlining procedures for the resolution of disagreement.

- Should our possible agreement to a Covenant be contingent on subscribing to a set of procedures for addressing disagreements in the Anglican Communion. If so, is this draft framework (the Appendix) helpful?
- Do you see an emerging set of canons for the Anglican Communion in this Appendix? If so, is this beneficial or not to the Anglican Communion at this time?

### **III. Third Level of Engagement with the Text**

To enter into a deeper conversation with this text of the Anglican Covenant and earlier drafts,

- 1) Read the first draft of the Anglican Covenant ("Nassau draft")<sup>2</sup>
- 2) Read the response to the Nassau Draft from the Episcopal Church as prepared by the INC #021 Task Force and agreed to by the Executive Council in October 2007.<sup>3</sup>
- 3) Reread the St. Andrews's Draft Covenant and then:
  - Compare and contrast the first and second versions of the draft Covenant in light of the recommendations from Executive Council.

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<sup>2</sup>[http://www.anglicancommunion.org/commission/covenant/docs/Draft\\_Covenant\\_Text\\_20070504.pdf](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/commission/covenant/docs/Draft_Covenant_Text_20070504.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79901\\_91392\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79901_91392_ENG_HTM.htm)