

APPENDIX J

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- > Communion
- > Network
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- > PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP ROBERT DUNCAN
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- > March 9, 2007
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- > The Rt. Rev. Robert Wm. Duncan, Moderator of the Anglican Communion
- > Network, is requesting all Network priests to read the following
- > letter to their congregations this Sunday or make hard copies
- > available to parishioners. You are receiving an advance copy of
- > this letter. This document has not yet been released to the general
- > public. The Network will make the letter public on Monday by
- > posting it on our website at www.acn-us.org and releasing it to the
- > press. Please do not publish this letter online in any fashion
- > until Monday, March 12.
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- > Due to the latest of this email, please feel free to read this
- > letter to your congregation on a subsequent Sunday and to send it
- > electronically or post it on your own website after Monday, March
- > 12. We appreciate your partnership in the Network and hope that
- > this letter is an encouragement to your parishioners. Thank you.
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- > 9th March, A.D. 2007
- > Third Friday of Lent
- > TO ALL WHO ARE A PART OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION NETWORK OR
- ARE
- > ALLIES IN ITS WELFARE:
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- > Beloved in the Lord,
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- > The Primates' Meeting in Tanzania considered in great depth the
- > plight "of those congregations and dioceses within the Episcopal
- > Church who have sought alternative pastoral oversight because of
- > their theological differences with their diocesan bishop or with

> the Presiding Bishop."(1) The hope of the Primates' Meeting, in
> the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury, is that a "sufficiently
> strong scheme" can be put in place so as to be "sufficient for all
> dissenting congregations and dioceses to find their home within
> it."(2) Another way to say this is to say that a sufficiently
> strong plan must be found for the congregations and dioceses of the
> Anglican Communion Network (plus any others from the wider Windsor
> coalition that may desire similar insulation). The responsibility
> for developing such a system has been given to the wider coalition
> of Windsor Bishops who signed on to the " Camp Allen principles" ^
> a group that includes the Network Bishops ^ to shape such a system,
> a system to be led by a Primate Vicar. (3)

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> There is much question as to the degree to which the vision for an
> international Pastoral Council and a domestic Primate Vicar would
> leave the Network "within" the Episcopal Church. At the start, one
> has to say that the eighty-six congregations of the Network's
> International Conference (Uganda, Kenya, So. Cone and Central
> Africa) are neither under nor within the Episcopal Church, anymore
> than are the one hundred and forty churches in the Anglican Mission
> and CANA. Since the Key Recommendations of the Dar es Salaam
> Meeting anticipated "a place for [AMiA and CANA] within these
> provisions," there is envisioned something much different than can
> be described as "within" the Episcopal Church.

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> For the hundreds of Network congregations in the Network Dioceses
> and Convocations, (who claim to be what they have always been,
> which is the Episcopal Church where they are) I want to share the
> following assessment. Most of us are at present within the
> Episcopal Church. This is where the Network was principally called
> to stand. One can be "within" something and not "under" it. The
> Network has been proving that for the last three years. The Dar es
> Salaam Communique and Key Recommendations represent a last attempt
> at reconciliation in the Anglican Communion and in the Episcopal
> Church. What the global leadership of the Anglican Communion has
> proposed is a marital separation. Pastorally, the church
> recommends such separations because they sometimes bring
> restoration of right relationship. Both parties are still
> technically within the marriage. But marital separations never
> leave one party "under" the other; such an arrangement would be
> doomed to failure from the start. The words of the Dar es Salaam
> Communique and Key Recommendations are carefully chosen. Any sense
> that the Pastoral Council and Primate Vicar are "under" majority
> TEC is absent from the documents themselves, would surely doom the

- > vision to failure, and could hardly prove "a sufficiently strong
- > scheme."
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- > Whether this last effort to reconcile both the Episcopal Church to
- > the Anglican Communion and the two parts of the Episcopal Church to
- > each other can succeed is, in human terms, up to the Network, to
- > the Windsor Bishops, and to the wider House of Bishops of the
- > Episcopal Church. Three things must be said:
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- > 1) As Network Moderator, I will do everything I can to bring
- > the hopes of the Primates Meeting to fruition. Necessarily, I will
- > attend the meeting of the House of Bishops about to convene. The
- > Archbishop of Canterbury has asked for "generosity and
- > graciousness" in response to what the Primates have done. I will
- > go in that spirit. Attendance at the meeting of the House of
- > Bishops, however, should not be construed as anything more than
- > doing what the situation requires. It remains that "the
- > theological differences" with the Presiding Bishop and with those
- > Diocesan Bishops who have taught and acted contrary to received
- > Faith and Order (as upheld in the Windsor Report, and the
- > Dromantine and Dar es Salaam Communiqués) are of such magnitude
- > that discussion of the issues before us is the limit of our
- > participation in the life of the House of Bishops at the present
- > time. This represents no alteration of the grounds on which most
- > Network Bishops have participated in the House of Bishops since
- > August of 2003.
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- > 2) The Windsor Bishops (which includes the Network Bishops) ^
- > all those who adopted the Camp Allen principles (4) ^ will meet
- > shortly after Easter to shape our part of what the Primates'
- > Meeting has envisioned. Obvious agenda items include discussion
- > about a Primatial Vicar, about a "sufficiently strong" plan for the
- > Network and Windsor minority, and about imagining whether any form
- > of ministry could be designed that would be acceptable to those
- > who have gone out.
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- > 3) The House of Bishops will have to respond to us and to the
- > recommendations of the Primates' Meeting in a vastly different
- > manner than has characterized the majority's behavior toward us in
- > recent experience. As already stated, the Archbishop of Canterbury
- > has called on all to "approach [the] challenges with a spirit of
- > graciousness and generosity." (5) Pray toward this end.
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- > From the earliest days, we in the Anglican Communion Network have

> known that our vocation is to stand for the Faith once delivered to
> the saints, in submission to the whole Anglican Communion. From
> the earliest days, we appealed to the Archbishop of Canterbury and
> to the Primates (6) to make that possible in an increasingly
> hostile environment here in the United States. Again, the
> Archbishop and the Primates have heard us. Again, they have
> spoken. They have determined to give the Episcopal Church one more
> chance to make it clear about the majority's intentions vis a vis
> the teaching of Lambeth I.10, the Windsor Report and the Dromantine
> Communique.

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> Most of us, but certainly not all, in the Anglican Communion
> Network now believe that it is the Episcopal Church majority's
> clear and continuing intention to "walk apart" in matters of Faith
> and Order. Nevertheless, we owe it to our beloved Communion to
> follow the Primates' wisdom as to how to take a last step in that
> discernment. The Primates have established a deadline of September
> 30th for the Episcopal Church's entire House of Bishops to make an
> "unequivocal" response. (7) For all that is ahead, the Anglican
> Communion Network will continue to work with those "within" and
> with those who have "gone out" for a biblical, missionary and
> united future for North American Anglicanism. There can be no
> turning back from that Godly commitment: the Network's vision from
> the beginning. "And since we have this ministry by the mercy of
> God, we do not lose heart." [2 Cor. 4:1]

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> Please continue to pray with fervor for me and for all who lead, as
> well as for all who are having an especially hard time with yet one
> more time of waiting and of testing. Your prayers are the vehicles
> of our Lord's victory realized in the crises and crosses we face at
> every level both great and small.

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> Faithfully in Christ,

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> Moderator, Anglican Communion Network

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> (1) Archbishop Rowan Williams, Pastoral Letter to the Primates, 5th
> March 2007.

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> (2) Ibid.

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- > (3) Key Recommendations of the Primates, 19th February 2007.
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- > (4) Ibid.
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- > (5) Archbishop Rowan Williams, Pastoral Letter to the Primates, 5th
> March 2007.
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- > (6) Dissenting Bishops' Statement, 5th August 2003.
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- > (7) Key Recommendations of the Primates, 19th February 2007.
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- > The Anglican Communion Network is a biblical, missionary and
- > uniting movement of North American Anglicans in fellowship with the
- > worldwide Anglican Communion. The Anglican Communion Network is
- > comprised of over 900 parishes and over 2200 clergy. The Anglican
- > Communion Network operates under the legal name of the Network of
- > Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes as a tax exempt
- > organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
- > Service code.
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