

# ANGLICAN COMMUNION NETWORK

## HISTORY

The formation of the Network was originally suggested by the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rev. Rowan Williams. Initial plans for the Convocation were laid at a gathering of mainstream Anglican leaders (including four Primates) in London in November, 2003. A Memorandum of Agreement came out of this meeting and was ultimately signed by 13 Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA) bishops. The Memorandum stated the intention of these bishops to begin taking steps toward organizing a network of "confessing" dioceses and congregations within ECUSA. The signing of the memorandum by a bishop did not indicate the formal joining of the network by his diocese.

The Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes was officially launched January 20, 2004 at the Network's Organizing Convocation held at Christ Church, Plano, Texas. The Convocation included representatives from 12 Episcopal dioceses as well as individuals from geographic regions and one non-geographic area that were designated as "Convocations". The gathering unanimously adopted a Structural charter and affirmed Theological Charter. The Rt. Rev. Robert Duncan was elected Moderator of the new Network and will serve for a three-year term. The Organizing Convocation also elected a 12-member Steering Committee comprised of individuals from across the country.

## PRIMATES' STATEMENT CONCERNING NEW NETWORK (abridged)

We, Primates of the Global South, greet you in the name of our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...

"The world needs to know that the rebellious and erroneous actions of ECUSA are contrary to the teaching of the Anglican Communion and represent a departure from five thousand years of Judeo-Christian teaching and practice. By their actions, ECUSA has separated itself from the remainder of the Anglican Communion and the wider Christian family..."

"We re-affirm our solidarity with faithful Bishops, clergy and church members in North America who remain committed the historic faith and order of the church and have rejected unbiblical innovation. We offer our support and the full weight of our ministries and offices to those who are gathering in a "Network of Confessing Dioceses and Congregations" now being organized in North America. We regard this network as a hopeful sign of a faithful Anglican future in North America. We invite those who are committed to the preservation of historic Biblical faith and order, to join that work and its essential commitment to the Gospel.

"Finally, we appeal to you to sustain us in prayer, and to intercede especially for Anglicans in North America."

Signed by 1. The Most Rev. Peter Akinola, **Nigeria** 2. The Most Rev. Drexel Gomez, **West Indies** 3. The Most Rev. Greg Venables, **Southern Cone** 4. The Most Rev. Joseph Marona, **Sudan** 5. The Most Rev. Benjamin Nzimbi, **Kenya** 6. The Most Rev. Livingstone Nkoyoyo, **Uganda (outgoing)** 7. The Most Rev. Henry Orombi, **Uganda (Incoming)** 8. The Most Rev. Fidele Dirokpa, **Congo** 9. The Most Rev. Donald Mtetemela, **Tanzania** 10. The Most Rev. Bernard Malango, **Central Africa** 11. The Most Rev. K.J. Samuel, **South India** 12. The Most Rev. Alexander Malik, **Pakistan** 13. The Most Rev. Yong Ping Chung, **South East Asia** 14. The Most Rev. Ignacio Soliba, **Philippines**

*The Primates who have already signed the attached statement are the leaders of more than **forty-five million people, well over half of the world's Anglicans**. Messages have been received from other provinces that the Network is being recognized. Those names will be released when official communication has certified recognition.*

# ANGLICAN COMMUNION NETWORK

## NETWORK OF ANGLICAN COMMUNION DIOCESES AND PARISHES: PURPOSE, VISION, VALUES

### **Core Purpose**

To be a missionary movement of Anglicans in fellowship with global Anglicanism, making disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ in North America and to the ends of the earth.

### **Vision**

To be an Anglican missionary movement in North America of such irresistible spiritual power in Word and Sacrament that people are drawn to a personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ and become members of the Body of Christ, His Church. We will be known for our commitment to evangelical faith and catholic order.

### **Core Values**

#### **The Unchanging Gospel**

We will uphold the uniqueness of Christ crucified and risen, the only Lord and Savior of the world, and the authority of Scripture, the rule and ultimate standard of faith.

#### **Commitment to Prayer**

We will bathe our movement in prayer, seeking to follow the mind of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Missionary Zeal**

We will embody a passion to lead every unbeliever in each generation to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, in fulfillment of the Great Commission, globally and locally.

#### **Serving Those in Need**

We will reach out with the compassion of Jesus to the poor, the broken, the lost and those who are persecuted for the cause of Christ.

#### **Mutual Self-Sacrifice**

We will live as brothers and sisters who will lay down our lives for one another in the face of risk and opposition.

#### **Strategic Partnerships**

We will forge lively partnerships with biblically faithful Christians of other Churches and with Anglicans in other associations in North America.

## NETWORK CONVOCATIONS

The Network shall consist of participating dioceses and convocations.

A convocation will serve as the entity within which individual parishes and congregations not part of a Network diocese and wishing to affiliate with the Network will unite. Convocations shall be of two types: geographical and non-geographical. The Network will initially include five geographical and one non-geographical convocation. The five geographical Convocations, whose boundaries shall be specified by the Steering Committee, will be known as the New England Convocation, the Mid-Atlantic Convocation, the Southeastern Convocation, the Mid-Continental Convocation, and the Western Convocation. The non-geographical Convocation will be known as the Forward in Faith North America (FIFNA) Convocation. The Steering Committee shall ensure that the congregations of each convocation shall come under the spiritual authority of a bishop approved by the Steering Committee. A convocation shall be considered active when it consists of at least six worshipping congregations.

Convocation Deans are the Rev. John Guernsey, Mid-Atlantic Convocation; the Rev. James McCaslin, Southeast Convocation; the Rev. Ron McCrary, Mid-Continental Convocation; the Rev. William A. Thompson, Western Convocation; the Rev. William Murdoch, New England Convocation; and the Rev. David Moyer, Forward in Faith North America Convocation. The Deans are responsible for organizational, spiritual and pastoral care in the Convocations.