

LATEST NEWS: NETWORK ALLIANCE

For Immediate Release
June 17, 2004

200,000 COME TOGETHER IN NEW ALLIANCE (abridged)

The Anglican Communion Network (ACN) announced today an unprecedented alliance of six groups in the Anglican tradition. The groups, all based in the U.S. have committed to a "common cause" under the chairmanship of the Rt. Rev. Robert Duncan, ACN Moderator. In a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, leaders of the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC), the Anglican Mission in America (AMIA), Forward in Faith North American (FIFNA), the Anglican Province in America (APA) and the American Anglican Council (AAC) pledged "to make common cause for the gospel of Jesus Christ and common cause for a united, missionary and orthodox Anglicanism in North America." As a whole, the groups represent or provide pastoral oversight for approximately 200,000 Christians in the Anglican tradition.

..."This is not a declaration of organic unity – far from it – but it is a proclamation that we can function as allies in the common cause of Jesus Christ," [Bishop Duncan] added...

The Anglican Communion Network is a growing ecclesial structure that counts nine Episcopal Dioceses and scores of individual Episcopal congregations as affiliates. The affiliated dioceses provide pastoral oversight for approximately 140,000 communicants in 595 local congregations. The scores of individual Anglican Communion Network parishes account for thousands more. Approximately 14,000 communicants worship in the 137 churches of the Reformed Episcopal Church. The Anglican Province of America includes 55 congregations in the United States with some 5,000 members as well as a further 15,000 members overseas. The Anglican Mission in America counts 65 member congregations and numerous church plants where some 15,000 Anglican Christians worship. Though many in Forward in Faith North America and the American Anglican Council are also members of a Network-affiliated diocese or parish, both have memberships that number in the tens of thousands.

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6th June, A.D. 2004
Trinity Sunday

Dear Archbishop Williams,

Grace and peace from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Much has been made of the divisions among the orthodox here in North America. The divisions are, in fact, scandalous and we recognize that we must do everything we can to bring them to an end.

We write to you as leaders of key Anglican movements in North America. We write to you in cooperation with and under the chairmanship of Bishop Bob Duncan, Moderator of the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes.

This letter is a first step in signifying our commitment to make common cause for the gospel of Jesus Christ and common cause for a united, missionary and orthodox Anglicanism in North America. While little trumpeted, there are already numerous specifics of cooperation among us. Our intention is to take such additional steps as will help all observers to recognize that a new day is dawning among us.

As we seek to do our part, please be assured of our prayers for you as you strive to give leadership at this extraordinary moment in the history of the Christian Church and of the Anglican Communion.

Faithfully in Christ,

Robert Wm. Duncan, *Moderator, Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes*
Leonard W. Riches, *Presiding Bishop, Reformed Episcopal Church*
Charles H. Murphy III, *Bishop Chairman, Anglican Mission in America*
David L. Moyer, *President, Forward in Faith North America*
Walter H. Grundorf, *Presiding Bishop, Anglican Province of America*
David C. Anderson, *President, American Anglican Council*