

A Pastoral Statement to Lesbian and Gay Anglicans from Some Member Bishops of the Lambeth Conference

August 5, 1998

Dear sisters and brothers,

The Lambeth Conference has spent nearly three weeks deliberating issues of human sexuality, among many other vital issues facing our worldwide Communion. We have met in a climate of enormous diversity and have attempted both to articulate our views and listen carefully to those of others.

Within the limitations of this Conference, it has not been possible to hear adequately your voices, and we apologize for any sense of rejection that has occurred because of this reality. This letter is a sign of our commitment to listen to you and reflect with you theologically and spiritually on your lives and ministries. It is our deep concern that you not feel abandoned by your Church and that you know of our continued respect and support.

We pledge that we will continue to reflect, pray, and work for your full inclusion in the life of the Church. It is obvious that Communion-wide we are in great disagreement over what full inclusion would mean. We ourselves have varied views and admit, as the report of the Human Sexuality Sub-section of the Conference says, that there is much we do not yet understand. But we believe it is an imperative of the Gospel and our faith that we seek such understanding.

We call on the entire Communion to continue (and in many places, begin) prayerful, respectful conversation on the issue of homosexuality. We must not stop where this Conference has left off. You, our sisters and brothers in Christ, deserve a more thorough hearing than you received over the past three weeks. We will work to make that so.

Faithfully, [as of November 24, 1998 Total: 185 including 14 Provinces and 9 Primates]

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11. Ronald Williams, Brisbane - Southern Region.
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Brazil

13. Glauco Soares de Lima, Sao Paulo (Primate).

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Central Africa

31. Khotso Makhulu, Botswana (Primate).

32. John Osmers, Eastern Zambia.

England

33. John Austin, Birmingham - Aston.

34. Jonathan Bailey, Derby.

35. Paul Barber, Peterborough - Brixworth.

36. Gordon Bates, York-Whitby.

37. David Bonser, Manchester - Bolton.

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47. Rupert Hoare, Worcester - Dudley.

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49. William Ind, Truro.

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51. Richard Lewis, St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich.

52. Christopher Mayfield, Manchester.

53. John Nicholls, Sheffield.

54. John Oliver, Hereford.

55. John Packer, Liverpool - Warrington.

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- 64. Peter Selby, Worcester.
- 65. Robin Smith, St. Albans - Hertford.
- 66. Alan Smithson, Durham - Jarrow.
- 67. David Stancliffe, Salisbury.
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- 93. Neville Chamberlain, Brechin.
- 94. Michael Henley, St. Andrew's.
- 95. Richard Holloway, Edinburgh (Primate).
- 96. Gregor MacGregor, Moray.

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183. David Huw Jones, St. David's.
184. Barry Morgan, Bangor.
185. Rowan Williams, Monmouth.