

GENERAL SYNOD 2022
FEEDBACK FROM BREAKOUT GROUPS
FRIDAY 10 JUNE 2022

SESSION 7 – COLLEGE OF BISHOPS

Questions:

1. *What topics do you think Anglican/Episcopalian bishops should be discussing at the Lambeth Conference?*
2. *What matters do you think the Scottish bishops should take to the Lambeth Conference for discussion?*

Table 1

Q1:

1. How to come to an understanding on human sexuality – based on us all being God's children.
2. Child marriage and genital mutilation.
3. Climate crisis and its effect on the poorest and weakest.
4. War and refugees/asylum seekers (NB: Rwanda option for UK Government).

Q2:

1. As above.
2. A passion for a united Anglican Communion.
3. A determination to find joy and laughter in being together.

Table 2

Q1:

1. Should the first among equals always be the AB of C? How can the Communion address this imbalance of power? (By a council, or rotating it around the Communion?)
2. How might we feed into the current RC synodical process of listening to the whole church?

Q2:

1. Our lament and penitence for our country's (or at least part of it) attitude to asylum seekers.
2. A recognition that many of our partners will be being inundated and lack the resources, whilst we have the resources and do so little
3. The question - how can the Anglican Communion bring a voice/pressure to bear on the UK Government? Might the Commonwealth (not co-terminous of course) have a role to play?

Table 3

Q1:

These are the reported topics: See below for what we hope they WILL take to the Conference.

1. World climate change.
2. Ecology.
3. Famine, drought, increasing world poverty.

Q2:

The first in this list is essential:

1. **Violence against women and girls** – which is most often about power used both in war and peace.
2. Women state they have been raped in Ukraine by Russian soldiers – a War crime.
3. Rohingya, Yazidi and Uigher women have all claimed to have been raped.
4. The sexual abuse of children continues – even small babies are sexually abused.
5. Girls (and some young boys) have been groomed for sex with the enticement of being told they will be given a mobile phone – common in South Africa and no doubt many other countries where there is poverty.
6. Domestic violence is common – probably in all countries. We know it is so in UK.
7. Femicide – the rape, murder and burning of the body of women has taken place in South Africa in recent years, questionably worse since Covid – is this happening in other parts of the world?
8. Sex slavery/pornography on the increase – usually women are the victims but worryingly very young children are now viewing it on their phones which is warping their idea of loving sexual relationships. Young school girls in UK have reported that boys as young as 10 or 11 have tried strangling them etc having seen this on porn websites.
9. The Church Times has stated that +Justin Welby is trying to encourage GAFCON Bishops of Rwanda, Nigeria and Uganda to come. They are all notably homophobic.
10. Concern expressed about the asylum seekers in the UK if any are Gay, being sent to Rwanda which could be an even more serious issue than the dreadful Home Office idea of sending asylum seekers there to decrease the numbers wanting to be in the UK. It is hoped the Bishops will speak out about this abhorrent attitude of the Home Office.
11. Some of the group questioned the morality of Bishops' wives accompany their husband to Lambeth at great cost to the Church, when the spouses of Gay Bishops could not go. It would have been good if the Bishops had made a stand about this. [there was some dissension in the group about this]
12. Listen to the legacy of Colonialism and Slavery which “reverberate in countries across the world”. The Church must continue talking about this and not let it drop off the radar.
13. Plus, there is modern day slavery (see sex slave comment above) – and the Church must address this and important for our Western world bishops to talk to the Global South Bishops about the impact today of historical slavery. Also bearing in mind that money/wealth was the root of historical Colonialism and also modern-day slavery.

14. Russian/Ukraine – the Anglican Church must be seen as peacemakers and prophetically speak out against Russian aggression and urge governments to support Ukrainian people – but also being mindful of so many corners of the World where people are persecuted – viz the Uighur Moslems in China.
15. Addendum below from one member of the group which was raised in discussion, but sent to me later by email: “The church should not be funding homophobia by paying £5000 for the wives of the bishops to go to Lambeth when same sex spouses are excluded.”

Table 4

Q1:

1. Is Lambeth relevant today? If so how and why?
2. Is the Lambeth conference good value for money?
3. What difference does the conference make?
4. How can bishops take back what they gain from Lambeth in terms of identity and belonging to their provinces?
5. Should the mode of meeting be revised (online at least in part, or regional to reduce travel)?

Q2:

1. How can the carbon footprint of the conference be reduced? Can it be justified in the light of climate emergency
2. How can the SEC be an encouragement to other Provinces?
3. What can the SEC learn from provinces that are vibrant and growing in evangelism and mission?

Table 5

Q1:

1. What holds the Anglican Communion together?
2. What is “church” now? (Virtual, messy, etc).
3. The environment.
4. Ecumenical relationships.
5. Support and information for Christians in Russia who (would) oppose regime.
6. Technology – use/abuse? Finding out actual needs of deprived countries. Refugee issues.

Q2:

1. How does the rest of the Communion perceive the SEC?
2. What can we learn about revitalising our churches in the face of secularism?
3. What happens to those under GAFCON who don’t agree with it and would have remained “Anglican”?

Table 6

Q1:

1. Climate justice.
2. The churches being more proactive in condemning war, trafficking, abuse.
3. Safeguarding.
4. Gender equality: empowerment of women (not just elsewhere!).
5. Poverty, including the UK.

Q2:

1. The cost of living crisis and impact on people – not just the unemployed.
2. How food banks have become permanent.
3. Care of refugees.

Table 7

Q1:

1. The war in Ukraine and the effects throughout the world, particularly refugees and displaced people.
2. Learning from the full churches in places like Africa.
3. Actions we can take/share on climate change.
4. Church in China – how do we present the Gospel?

Q2:

1. Although we are small we are not despondent and planning for growth.
2. Differences rural vs urban congregations.
3. We have accepted same sex marriage and it hasn't split us apart – we still hold different views.

Table 8

Q1:

1. Hierarchical church in a post-everything world.
2. Balance of authority.
3. What binds us together? - Liturgy.

Q2:

1. A different "spirit"!
2. Need to export positivity.
3. Living out responses to environment crisis.

Table 9

Q1:

1. Working together on issues such as climate change.

2. Human dignity issues such as the role of woman and human sexuality.
3. Working together to challenge the UK Government on issues such as cost of living and exporting refugees to Rwanda.

Q2:

1. How the Anglican Communion can support other Dioceses in third world!
2. How the Anglican Communion can support communities in the UK given the current levels of food, energy poverty.
3. What are the churches doing to challenge the government's policy in relation to poverty levels?
4. What are the churches doing to support refugees and challenge the evil policy of deporting refugees?

Table 10

Unavailable

Table 11

Unavailable

Table 12

Q1:

1. To what extent is the Anglican Communion still a Communion?
2. How do we hold together and negotiate difference: ref Richard Coles comments on the attitude of the CofE to his husband.

Q2:

1. How can we create the relationships to begin to form global partnerships and solidarity between different parts of the world.
2. As a Christian in (somewhere in Scotland) relate to a Christian somewhere else in the world.

Table 13

Q1:

1. Climate change, climate justice, extent to which political involvement by provinces is appropriate.
2. Ability to speak truth to power, but not do nothing about it either.
3. Use of laity in provinces.

Q2:

1. Keep sexuality off the agenda; focus on bigger issues.
2. Extent of child labour.
3. Common views on Ukraine?

Table 14

Q1:

1. How we live as Christians in a world threatened by the climate emergency.

Q2:

1. To celebrate the decisions we made on marriage. The process by which the decisions were made and how we have learned together with difference.
2. To see how the Communion might hold together and openly address issues of sexuality.

Table 15

Q1:

1. Climate injustice.
2. World inequality / injustice. Global recession.
3. How churches can be effective in speaking truth to power.
4. What's happening elsewhere in the world, post Covid, with climate change, etc. Ukraine. World conflicts.

Table 16

Q1:

1. What is the Anglican Communion for today – what's the point? It feels like the CofE still overly dominates, with all the overtones of established church / colonialism

Q2:

1. Our experience of smallness (within the UK) and what that offers to church / to faith / to national life.
2. The joy of linking between provinces (not through Canterbury).
3. Our prophetic action of inclusivity and how that has had a beneficial effect on mission / openness of non-church goers.

Table 17

Q1:

1. Highlighting the diversity of the Anglican Communion and the gifts each member brings.
2. The climate emergency.
3. The Canadian indigenous schools issue.
4. Russia and Ukraine.
5. How we hold the whole Communion together.
6. Global poverty.
7. Refugee crises.
8. Genital mutilation and violence against women.
9. Gender inequality.

10. Child abuse and violence against 'disempowered' groups.
11. Safety nets for vulnerable people.

Q2:

1. Many at the table expressed their desire that the Scottish Bishops not remain quiet about controversial issues - especially human sexuality.
2. One expressed a particular discomfort with the inequality of spousal attendance at Lambeth and wanted reassurance that our bishops would speak up for what was right.

Table 18

Q1:

1. Why are there not more women bishops in the Anglican Communion.
2. Climate Justice - what are the important topics in other parts of the AC.
3. Social Justice - what are the important topics for you in the other parts of the AC.
4. How does the Anglican Communion foresee the sustainability of buildings in the future.
5. Who is going and how will the information be share with those who won't be there.
6. Spouses - why not all spouses being able to attend?

Q2:

There was no feedback on the form.

Table 19

Q1:

1. Outcome of the COP26 & how we can take that forward in practical ways of supporting the lowering of CO2 emissions.
2. Climate Justice issues facing the different Provinces of the Communion

Q2:

1. Making friends in overseas provinces
2. What are the issues that the churches in other provinces are facing?
3. How can we help support & understand those issues in our Scottish context?

Online Group 1

Q1:

1. Attitude and action with the Russian Orthodox Church.
2. Refugees – put pressure collectively on obstructionist governments.
3. Historical slavery – recompense?
4. Climate change.
5. NOT sexuality (again).

Q2:

1. Our system of selection of bishops.
2. Climate change – Robert’s presentation.

Online Group 2

Q1:

1. The scourge of centralisation. The man and the woman on the street are addressing much of the pastoral work.
2. Bishops should know and respect each other’s issues and problems and try to understand the differences and challenges each Bishop experiences

Q2:

1. Ecumenical relationships, Scottish churches are better at it.