



The Anglican Communion Covenant




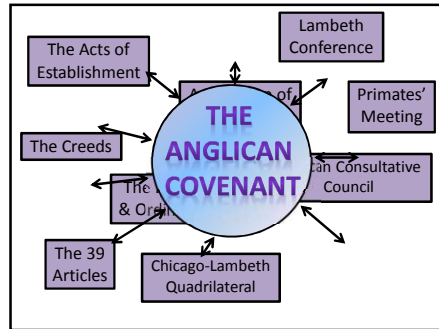
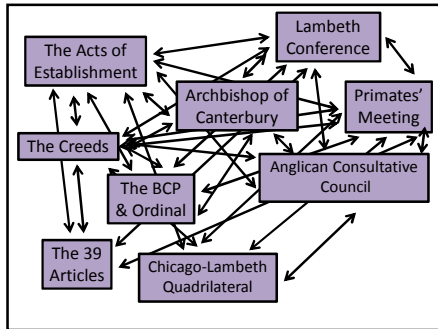
In March 2012

Manchester Diocesan Synod will debate the motion:

“That this Synod approve the draft Act of Synod adopting the Anglican Communion Covenant”



Who or what is the Anglican Communion?

In short, the Anglican Communion is..

- A Global Communion
- 34 Autonomous Provinces (including the Church of England)
- 4 United Churches in full Communion
- 6 Extra-provincial Churches



The Anglican Communion

blue: The Provinces of the Anglican Communion
 Green: The Lutheran churches of the Porvoo Communion
 Red: The Old Catholic Churches in the Utrecht Union

The Four Instruments of Communion hold the Anglican Communion together.

The Archbishop of Canterbury – the first among equals amongst the bishops of the Anglican Communion



The Lambeth Conference – a meeting of all the bishops every ten years





The Anglican Consultative Council - members appointed by the provinces (including bishops, clergy and laity) meet every 2 or 3 years



The Primates' Meetings – NOT



BUT regular meetings of the provinces' archbishops and senior bishops



The Anglican Communion is no stranger to dispute. Amongst the disputes that bring us to this particular point are.....

- Disputed consecrations in Singapore and Denver of Bishops for Anglican Mission in the Americas (AMIA)
- New Westminster (Canada), for the third consecutive Synod, debated and made a decision on same-sex blessings



- Gene Robinson was consecrated as Bishop of New Hampshire (USA)
- Cross-border interventions e.g. into Canadian and American dioceses

....and these have impacted on the Church of England

In 2004 The Windsor Report first proposed an Anglican Communion Covenant




Shape of the Covenant

Four Sections

The first three Sections each consist of two parts:

- ❖ Affirmations
- ❖ Commitments




Section One: Our Inheritance of Faith

Section Two: The life we share with others: our Anglican Vocation

Section Three: Our unity and common life


Section Four: Our Covenanted Life Together

THE ANGLICAN COVENANT





Section One: Our inheritance of faith

This section speaks of our core principles, what we believe as Anglican Christians. Almost all Christians could make these affirmations but they reflect the particular way in which the churches of the Anglican Communion have spoken about their faith and the key marks of that faith.




Section One: Our Inheritance of Faith

Affirmations and commitments can be found on pages two and three of the notes



Section Two: The life we share with others: our Anglican Vocation

This section describes who we are as Anglican churches and how we function together. It also describes our mission in the context of the universal Church.




Section Two: The life we share with others: our Anglican Vocation

Affirmations and commitments can be found on page three of the notes



Section Three: Our unity and common life

This section describes how we function as churches in relation to one another and the structures we have created to assist that process.



Section Three:
Our unity and common life


Affirmations and commitments can be found on page three of the notes

Section Four:
Our covenanted life together



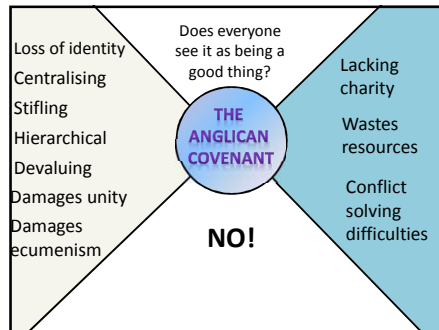
This section describes the procedures to adopt the Covenant and living together under it. It says:

- who may adopt it
- how resolutions in the case of disputes can be found
- how to withdraw from the Covenant
- how it can be amended.



Section Four:
Our covenanted life together

Details can be found on pages four and five of the notes

Today.....

The Deanery Synod has debated and is asked to vote on the motion:

“That this Synod approve the draft Act of Synod adopting the Anglican Communion Covenant”

This vote will inform the Diocesan Synod at its meeting in March 2012

