

A COVENANT FOR COMMUNION IN MISSION

(The Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism)

This Covenant signifies our common call to share in God's healing and reconciling mission for our blessed but broken and hurting world.

In our relationships as Anglican sisters and brothers in Christ, we live in the hope of the unity that God has brought about through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The preamble recognises that the world is one that has been graced by God and that God's work through Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is to seek to heal the world's hurts and reconcile its brokenness. The preamble reminds us that as Christians we are called to share our relationships in the mission of God to the wider world, bearing witness to the kingdom of love, justice and joy that Jesus inaugurated.

Nourished by Scripture and Sacrament, we pledge ourselves to:

The nine points of the covenant are predicated on Scripture and the Sacraments providing the nourishment, guidance and strength for the journey of the covenant partners together.

- **Recognise Jesus in each other's contexts and lives**

The nine points begin with Jesus Christ, the source and inspiration of our faith and calls for those covenanting for mission to look for, recognise, learn from and rejoice in the presence of Christ at work in the lives and the situations of the other.

- **Support one another in our participation in God's mission**

Point two acknowledges that we cannot serve God's mission in isolation and calls for mutual support and encouragement in our efforts.

- **Encourage expressions of our new life in Christ**

Point three asks those who enter into the covenant to encourage one another as we develop new understandings of our identities in Christ.

- **Meet to share common purpose and explore differences and disagreements**

Point four provides for face-to-face meetings at which insights and learnings can be shared and difficulties worked through.

- **Be willing to change in response to critique and challenge from others**

Point five recognises that as challenges arise so changes will be needed as discipleship of Christ is deepened resulting both from experience in mission and encountering those with whom we are in covenant.

- **Celebrate our strengths and mourn over our failures**
Point six calls for honouring and celebrating our successes and acknowledging and naming our sadness and failures in the hopes of restitution and reconciliation.
- **Share equitably our God-given resources**
Point seven emphasises that there are resources to share – not just money and people, but ideas, prayers, excitement, challenge, enthusiasm - and calls for a move to fair sharing of such resources particularly when one participant in the Covenant has more than the other.
- **Work together for the sustainability of God’s creation**
Point eight underscores that God’s concern is for the whole of life – not just people, but the whole created order – and so we are called to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.
- **Live into the promise of God’s reconciliation for ourselves and for the world**
This last point speaks of the future hope towards which we are living, the hope of a reconciled universe – in which ‘God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven’ for which Jesus taught us to pray.

We make this covenant in the promise of our mutual responsibility and interdependence in the Body of Christ.

The conclusion provides a strong reminder that we need each other, are responsible for each other, and are mutually interdependent in the Body of Christ.

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RESOLUTION #27 OF THE ANGLICAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL – 13, NOTTINGHAM, JUNE 2005: “THE COVENANT FOR COMMUNION IN MISSION”

This Anglican Consultative Council:

- commends the *Covenant for Communion in Mission* to the churches of the Anglican Communion for study and application as a vision for Anglican faithfulness to the mission of God
- forwards the *Covenant for Communion in Mission* to those bodies of the Anglican Communion tasked to consider an Anglican Covenant as commended by the Windsor Report and the Statement of the February 2005 Primates’ Meeting
- requests the next Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism to monitor responses to the *Covenant for Communion in Mission* and evaluate its effectiveness across the Communion.