

**Statement to the Church
on the Lambeth Commission Report on Communion
from the
Canadian Essentials Federation and Network**

The Canadian Essentials movement, whose vision is “to be the theological and spiritual rallying point for historic, Christian orthodoxy in the Anglican Church of Canada”, commends the Lambeth Commission for the work and dedication they have put into their difficult task.

Commendations: We are grateful for the helpful explanation of the particular nature of the Anglican Communion (paras 45-51) and the affirmation of the supremacy of Scripture and its relationship to authority in the Church (paras 53-62). We are most pleased with the clarification of the concept of regional autonomy as interdependence (paras 72-86) in the context of the world-wide communion; this serves as a helpful correction to isolationist statements made at our recent General Synod. We are happy that the report upholds continuing conformity with the catholic and apostolic teaching on sexuality affirmed at the 1998 Lambeth Conference (paras 142, 143). We concur in their analysis that Bishop Michael Ingham and the Diocese of New Westminster, in ignoring the four instruments of Anglican unity, have constituted “a denial of the bonds of communion” and breached “the proper constraints of the bonds of affection.” (paras 33, 35, 141, 143, 144).

Calls to action: We would agree with the Commission’s following calls for action in our Canadian context:

- The call for a moratorium on ordination of any person “who is living in a same gender union” and blessings of committed same-sex unions, and the need for action on the part of the wider Canadian Anglican Church to ensure this (paras 143, 144).
- The call to Bishop Ingham and the Diocese of New Westminster to apologize by expressing regret and recognition that their actions have broken the bonds of communion and affection (para 144).
- Pending such apology, the call on those who have participated in the sanctioning and blessing of same-sex unions to withdraw from “representative functions in the Anglican Communion”, which we would extend to apply to the councils of the Canadian Church (para 144).

However, we disagree with the Commission’s seeming equation of the caring actions of bishops who have intervened to provide temporary pastoral oversight for those who have remained faithful to orthodox teaching and practice with the disruptive actions of those who have broken the unity these bishops are seeking to re-establish (para 155).

We call for prayer for guidance for the Primates and wider Anglican Communion, as well as for our own Canadian Bishops, as they receive this report and take action. We note well the warning in the final paragraph of the report (para 157) that there is a real danger we will not choose to walk together. We pray that by God’s grace, we may be able to “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” and hold together the truth and love which we have in Christ.

This report is available from: <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/windsor2004/index.cfm>