

Update on the Situation in New Westminster BC

A conservative priest at St. Simons Anglican church in North Vancouver says both he and his congregation have quit the Anglican Church of Canada over the issue of same-sex marriage. Ed Hird, the reverend at St. Simons, is one of four conservative priests who recently wrote to Anglican Bishop Michael Ingham telling him his "services as a bishop are no longer required." St. Simons is one of a number of conservative Anglican parishes that have clashed with Ingham over his willingness to bless same-sex marriages. Hird said his church voted to cut all ties with the Diocese of New Westminster because parishioners believe blessing same-sex marriages goes against biblical scripture.

Hird said Ingham's position is a "violation of basic scriptural teachings and Christian morals. "The issue to us is being faithful to Anglican teachings," he said. Hird said he and his congregation have instead arranged to come under the jurisdiction of a conservative Anglican church leader in Rwanda, Africa. Hird said St. Simons is now a "missionary" church in North Vancouver.

But a representative from the Diocese of New Westminster said under church laws, parishes can't unilaterally quit the Anglican church in their own country. "Parishioners may choose to leave the Anglican Church of Canada but parishes don't," said George Cadman, chancellor of the diocese. "It remains a parish of this diocese." Cadman said it's Hird's choice to resign if he wants, but the diocese still controls the church and its property.

Hird disagrees with that, and said the congregation has consulted a lawyer, who told them "we have a good case" for retaining ownership of the church independently.

St. Simons isn't the only Anglican Church in North Vancouver that has been embroiled in legal fights with the bishop. Earlier this year, two locally elected church officials of St. Martin's Anglican Church launched a legal suit against Ingham over his decision to oust them last September under a rarely used church law. That power struggle also stemmed from the same-sex marriage issue. The pair filed a petition in B.C. Supreme Court, asking for a judicial review of the bishop's decision to fire them. The case is still before the courts.

Meanwhile, Hird said gays and lesbians are still welcome at St. Simons. "It's not an issue of rejecting people," he said. Hird said he views homosexuality in a manner similar to the way he views alcoholism and believes people can "recover" from their sexual orientation.

A lawyer for the Reverends Paul Carter, Edward Hird, Barclay Mayo and Silas Ng has written to the Bishop informing us that they are now canonically resident in the Province of Rwanda, temporarily cared for by an AMiA cleric in Little Rock, Arkansas, no longer part of the Anglican Church of Canada but supported by five primates from overseas and connected to the "Anglican Communion in Canada", a registered federal corporation formed under another name in July, 2002 of which Carter and Mayo are directors currently. The same lawyer claims that their congregations have made this break in communion too.

The Anglican Parish of St. Simon's Deep Cove

The Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham
Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster

To the Bishop & Diocese of New Westminster

Bishop Michael....Your leadership and the decisions and actions of the Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster in relation to the issue of the blessing of same-sex unions, coupled with your own open support of and participation in the Consecration of a practising homosexual for the office of Bishop in the Anglican Communion, have regrettably brought the congregation of the Anglican Parish of St. Simon's Deep Cove to the place where a very difficult decision has become necessary. Therefore, at a legally constituted Annual General Meeting of the congregation of St. Simon's Deep Cove, on Sunday February 15th of 2004, the following motions were presented and passed:

Motion 1. A Resolution to accept the Offer of Temporary Adequate Episcopal Oversight

Whereas, a crisis of faith and leadership has been created in the Diocese of New Westminster by the passing of a motion to bless same-sex unions, and the actual performance of the same in a church with the authorization of Bishop Michael Ingham: and

Whereas, a special October 2003 meeting of the Primates of the Anglican Communion called upon the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada to provide temporary adequate Episcopal Oversight to those churches and clergy who, because of their refusal to accept the revisionist direction of the diocese, are now in a state of broken communion; and

Whereas, said Episcopal Oversight was to have been offered in consultation with the global Primates through the Archbishop of Canterbury; and

Whereas, to date no such Episcopal Oversight has been offered, but instead church members have been lost, leadership has been threatened, and churches have been closed and their standing threatened; and

Whereas, the clergy and congregations of New Westminster cannot be left to fend for themselves while the task force of the Canadian House of Bishops and the Communion appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury are doing their work.

Be it resolved, that the parish of St Simon's Deep Cove does hereby accept the offer from the Primates of the Provinces of Congo, Central Africa, Rwanda and South East Asia of temporary Adequate Episcopal Oversight made available to the clergy and congregations of New Westminster, and to other Canadian clergy and congregations who seek such covering, on the following basis:

1. The temporary Adequate Episcopal Oversight, as contemplated by the Primates Meeting of

October 2003, will be offered in consultation with the Primates and the Archbishop of Canterbury. 2. The Most Rev. Datuk Yong Ping Chung has been requested and will serve as Chairman of the sponsoring group of Primates. 3. The Rt. Rev. Thomas Johnston, with the support of the administrative resources of the Anglican Mission in America, will coordinate the provision of this oversight on behalf of the undersigned. 4. Representatives of the Canadian clergy and congregations seeking oversight will meet with Archbishop Yong and/or Bishop Johnston to work out the administrative details of this offer.

Passed unanimously

Motion 2.

Whereas the Diocese of New Westminster and Bishop Michael Ingham have continued to defy God by teaching and promoting practices that are expressly forbidden by Holy Scripture, and

Whereas, they have repeatedly ignored and intentionally misinterpreted the clear call of the leadership of the world-wide Anglican Communion for the Diocese and Bishop to cease their approval and promotion of same-sex blessings, and

Whereas, the Bishop and Diocesan leadership have willfully and unrepentantly disobeyed Article 1 of the Constitution of the Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster, in that they no longer hold and maintain the Doctrine of Christ as the Lord has commanded and the Anglican Church has received them, and have changed, without the authority or approval of the Anglican Church of Canada & the formularies of the church, and Whereas Bishop Michael Ingham has not guarded the faith of the church, and has therefore set aside his ordination and consecration vows, and finally,

In response to Bishop Michael Ingham's defiant participation in the invalid and desecrating consecration of Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire,

Therefore, be it resolved that this congregation of St Simon's Deep Cove, including its rector, The Rev. Ed Hird and assistant clergy, declare that communion with the Diocese of New Westminster, its Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham and all who agree with him and support their position, has been hereby broken by their actions. We also declare that these relationships must remain severed until and unless there is an equally deliberate repentance and return to the orthodox faith of Christ as the world-wide Anglican church has received and continues to declare it.

Passed unanimously

Therefore, and regrettably, as of this date, your services as our Bishop are no longer required and our relationship with you and with the Diocese of New Westminster is hereby severed. We are in a state of broken communion.

Given that the trust relationship between the people of the Parish of St. Simon's Deep Cove and

the Bishop and the Diocese of New Westminster has been broken by the actions of the Diocese and Bishop, and given that the land, church building and resources have been acquired, built and maintained wholly by the Anglican constituency of this community, it is our congregation's intention to retain the beneficial and legal ownership of the said properties, buildings and resources for present and future orthodox Anglican ministry in this locale.

For and on behalf of the congregation of St. Simon's Deep Cove

Nathan Landberg, Warden
Wilf Fawcett, Warden

St. Simon's Anglican Church
North Vancouver, BC

The Right Reverend M Ingham
Bishop of New Westminster
Vancouver, British Columbia

Dear Michael,

I am writing to inform you that I have accepted the offer of Temporary Adequate Episcopal Oversight from the Primates of SE Asia; Congo; Rwanda; Central Africa and Kenya. I am now canonically resident in the Province of Rwanda. The Primates have invited Bishop TJ Johnston from Little Rock Arkansas to act on their behalf as my Bishop. I have now come under his authority.

As I have left the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) terminating all my benefits, I would be most grateful if you could instruct your Diocesan Officers to close my file and return any documents to the address above.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

The Rev Ed Hird

The Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham
Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster
Vancouver BC

To the Bishop & Diocese of New Westminster

Bishop Michael....Your leadership and the decisions and actions of the Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster in relation to the issue of the blessing of same-sex unions, coupled with your own open support of and participation in the Consecration of a practising homosexual for the office of Bishop in the Anglican Communion, have regrettably brought the congregation of the Anglican Parish of St. Andrew, Pender Harbour to the place where a very difficult decision has become necessary. We have repeatedly appealed to you to understand that your intentional disregard for the historic faith of the church you have sworn in your Ordination and Consecration vows to protect, and your blatant non-compliance with Article 1 of the Constitution of the Synod of the Diocese of New Westminster, would result in the breaking of our relationship.

Therefore, at a legally constituted Special General Meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's, Pender Harbour, in November of 2003, the following motions were presented and passed:

Whereas the Diocese of NW and Bishop Michael Ingham have continued to defy God by teaching and promoting practices that are expressly forbidden by Holy Scripture, and

Whereas, they have repeatedly ignored and intentionally misinterpreted the clear call of the leadership of the world-wide Anglican Communion for the Diocese and Bishop to cease their approval and promotion of same-sex blessings, and

Whereas, the Bishop and diocesan leadership have wilfully and unrepentantly disobeyed Article 1 of the Constitution of the Synod of Diocese of New Westminster, in that they no longer hold and maintain the doctrine of Christ as the Lord has commanded and the Anglican Church has received them, and have changed, without the authority or approval of the Anglican Church of Canada...the formularies of the church, and

Whereas, Bishop Michael Ingham has not guarded the faith of the church, and has therefore set aside his ordination and consecration vows, and finally,

In response to Bishop Michael Ingham's defiant participation in the invalid and desecrating consecration of Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire,

Therefore, be it resolved that this congregation of St. Andrew's Church Pender Harbour, including its pastor, The Rev. Barclay Mayo, declare that communion with the Diocese of New Westminster, its Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Michael Ingham and all who agree with and support their position, has been hereby broken by their actions. We also declare that these relationships must remain severed until and unless there is an equally deliberate repentance and return to the orthodox faith of Christ as the world-wide Anglican church has received and continues to declare it.

Be it resolved that the congregation of St. Andrew's Anglican Church Pender Harbour remains "in communion" with all faithful Anglicans in the Diocese of New Westminster, The Province of BC and Yukon and the Anglican Church of Canada who continue to uphold and declare the orthodox faith of Christ as the Lord has commanded and the Anglican Church has received it.

Be it resolved that the congregation of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Pender Harbour BC affirm our conviction that the Diocese of New Hampshire, its Bishop the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson and any person who took part in or supports his invalid & desecrating consecration, have by their actions taken themselves out of the Anglican Communion worldwide and with this congregation.

At the Inaugural General Meeting of Christ The Redeemer, Anglican Church, Pender Harbour held following the St. Andrew's AGM on February 29, 2004, the following additional motions were passed unanimously.

Motion #1 Naming of our New Ministry

Be it resolved that the new Anglican ministry in Pender Harbour be called Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church, Pender Harbour.

Motion 2. Offer of Temporary Adequate Episcopal Oversight

Whereas, a crisis of faith and leadership has been created in the Diocese of New Westminster by the passing of a motion to bless same-sex unions, and the actual performance of the same in a church with the authorization of Bishop Michael Ingham: and

Whereas, a special October 2003 meeting of the Primates of the Anglican Communion called upon the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada to provide temporary adequate Episcopal Oversight to those churches and clergy who, because of their refusal to accept the revisionist direction of the diocese, are now in a state of broken communion; and

Whereas, said Episcopal Oversight was to have been offered in consultation with the global Primates through the Archbishop of Canterbury; and

Whereas, to date no such Episcopal Oversight has been offered, but instead church members have been lost, leadership has been threatened, and churches have been closed and their standing threatened; and

Whereas, the clergy and congregations of New Westminster cannot be left to fend for themselves while the task force of the Canadian House of Bishops and the Communion appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury are doing their work.

Be it resolved, that the congregation of Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church, Pender Harbour (formally of St. Andrew's, Anglican Church Pender Harbour) does hereby accept

the offer from the Primates of the Provinces of Congo, Central Africa, Rwanda, Kenya and South East Asia of Temporary Adequate Episcopal Oversight made available to the clergy and congregations of New Westminster, and to other Canadian clergy and congregations who seek such covering, on the following basis:

- 1. The Temporary Adequate Episcopal Oversight, as contemplated by the Primates Meeting of October 2003, will be offered in consultation with the Primates and the Archbishop of Canterbury.**
- 2. The Most Rev. Datuk Yong Ping Chung has been requested and will serve as Chairman of the sponsoring group of Primates.**
- 3. The Rt. Rev. Thomas Johnston, with the support of the administrative resources of the Anglican Mission in America, will coordinate the provision of this oversight on behalf of the undersigned.**
- 4. Representatives of the Canadian clergy and congregations seeking oversight will meet with Archbishop Yong and/or Bishop Johnston to work out the administrative details of this offer.**

Therefore, and regrettably, as of this date, your services as our Bishop are no longer required and our relationship with you and with the Diocese of New Westminster is hereby severed. We are in a state of broken communion.

Given that the trust relationship between the people of the Parish of St. Andrew's, Pender Harbour, (now Christ The Redeemer Anglican Church, Pender Harbour) and the Bishop and the Diocese of New Westminster has been broken by the actions of the Diocese and Bishop, and given that the land, church building and resources have been acquired, built and maintained wholly by the Anglican constituency of this community, it is our congregation's intention to retain the beneficial ownership of the said properties, buildings and resources for present and future orthodox Anglican ministry in this locale. We will advise the Diocese of New Westminster regarding the transfer of said properties in the near future and in the meantime assume that the Diocese will continue to hold title in trust for the congregation. We will fulfil our financial obligations to the Diocese in relation to the Brooks House property at 12858 Harbourview Drive and arrangements will be made for full payment of the balance of the mortgage and outstanding grant upon transfer of the title held in trust by the Diocese into the care of our congregation. Our legal counsel will contact the Diocese to discuss these transfers in the near future.

For and on behalf of the congregation of Christ The Redeemer Anglican Church, Pender Harbour.(St. Andrew's, Pender Harbour)

Mr. Alan Stewart, Warden
Mr. Max Kretschmer, Warden
The Rev. Barclay Mayo, Rector