

Text of Letter Sent to PCCs October 1998

"As you will know many of the resolutions made at the Lambeth Conference 1998 were very encouraging. The controversial issue of homosexuality received a lot of attention and the resolution, which had the full support of the Archbishop of Canterbury, is very welcome. In the present climate in the Church of England it is important that this is followed up. With this in mind we are suggesting that as many PCCs as possible endorse the Lambeth resolution.

To help you in this you will find the following helpful:

** A suggested resolution - this will need to be copied for all members of the PCC*

** A briefing paper - setting out the context, again for all members.*

** **Sexuality in the purpose of God** - this assumes the clear authority of scripture and is really an attempt to expand on points 5 and 6 of the Kuala Lumpur Statement. It set the sexuality question positively and in the context of God's full revelation but of necessity does not address the red-herrings about the meaning of words. There is a brief bibliography pointing to other resources some of which address the questions in more depth.*

Aim

The primary aim in passing the resolution will be to have a clear and positive statement made by parishes on the issue of sexuality. Secondly we are seeking to ensure that the position of the Church of England within the Anglican Communion is not threatened by the widening gulf between some of the statements issuing from this country and those from Africa and Asia in particular. Thirdly, we want to see the teaching and practice of the Church of England brought into line with the bible and with our brothers and sisters in other parts of the Anglican church.

Practicalities

In order to get the resolution discussed at the PCC it is necessary only for a member of the PCC to send notice in writing to the Secretary before the Agenda is issued for the next meeting (See Church Representation Rules Appendix II section 4). If you are not a member of your PCC you will need to find at least one sympathetic member to get the item on the agenda. You should send the resolution to the Secretary and the Briefing in order to get these distributed. In some instances you may think your PCC unlikely to pass the resolution, you will have to assess what to do but at least by putting and rejecting the resolution the issue is out in the open for all to see and you must warn the PCC that they are creating schism within the church of Christ.

The next step

Once the resolution has been passed it will be sent to the Deanery Synod. Do make sure that someone does this and that the Deanery Synod adapt the words to reflect which body is passing it and who it will go to next. You will need to brief Deanery Synod reps well. Ideally find other churches in the Deanery who can pass the same resolution at their PCC before it is debated at the Deanery, the head of steam generated should keep things moving. The briefing and amended resolution will need to go to all Deanery Synod reps.

Feedback

If you require help in getting other materials then please do contact us. Gifts towards the cost of this and towards distributing more widely would be very welcome and encouraging. We also would be grateful to hear when the Resolution has been passed by your PCC etc.

Finally

It is important that the matter is handled in a spiritual way, therefore be prayerful, firm but gentle: pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit (Eph 6.18) a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, 26and that they may come to their

senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. (2 Tim 2.24-26).

Resolution for PCCs to send in response to the Lambeth Resolution on Sexuality

Resolution

That this Parochial Church Council desiring to remain fully part of the Anglican Communion and recognising the moral authority of the Lambeth Conference:

affirms the biblical teaching on human sexuality set out in Resolution I.10 of the Lambeth Conference 1998 calls on the Bishops of the Church of England to ensure that their own teaching and guidelines are fully consistent with the above mentioned resolutions.

calls on all parishes, synods, boards, councils and other bodies of the Church of England not to pursue or continue to pursue any policy or action in conflict with the above mentioned resolutions.

calls upon the _____ Deanery Synod to debate these resolutions and then forward them for debate by the _____ Diocesan Synod and General Synod as soon as possible.