

# VERITAS

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## June ACC Meeting

Excerpted from Anglican communion Website.

In June 2005, the Anglican Consultative Council will meet to hear statements from the Episcopal Church (USA)(ECUSA) and the Anglican Church of Canada as invited by **Communiqué** from The Anglican Communion Primates' Meeting of February 2005. This preceded the March 15<sup>th</sup> **Covenant Statement** of the House of Bishops (ECUSA) in which **The Windsor Report** was addressed and an apology was offered:

"We express our own deep regret for the pain that others have experienced with respect to our actions at the General Convention of 2003 and we offer our sincerest apology and repentance for having breached our bonds of affection by any failure to consult adequately with our Anglican partners before taking those actions."

The Covenant Statement was welcomed by The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams:

"I welcome this constructive response from ECUSA's House of Bishops. They have clearly sought to respond positively to the requests made of them in the Windsor Report and in the Communiqué issued after the recent Primates Meeting. It is clear that there has been a real willingness to engage with the challenges posed."

The relevant requests from the Primates' **Communiqué**:

"14. Within the ambit of the issues discussed in the Windsor Report and in order to recognise the integrity of all parties, we request that the Episcopal Church (USA) and the Anglican Church of Canada voluntarily withdraw their members from the Anglican Consultative Council for the period leading up to the next Lambeth Conference. During that same period we request that both churches respond through their relevant constitutional bodies to the questions specifically addressed to them in the Windsor Report as they consider their place within the Anglican Communion. (cf. paragraph 8)

16. Notwithstanding the request of paragraph 14 of this communiqué, we encourage the Anglican Consultative Council to organise a hearing at its meeting in Nottingham, England, in June 2005 at which representatives of the Episcopal Church (USA) and the Angli-

The purpose of Fort Worth Via Media is to support, promote, and educate interested parties concerning the religious doctrines and historical role of The Episcopal Church in the United States of America (ECUSA), to advocate openness and acceptance of all persons in the life and governance of ECUSA, and to provide balanced and accurate information concerning potentially divisive issues facing The Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

can Church of Canada, invited for that specific purpose, may have an opportunity to set out the thinking behind the recent actions of their Provinces, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the Windsor Report."

The Anglican Consultative Council was formed following a resolution of the 1968 Lambeth Conference which discerned the need for more frequent and more representative contact among the Churches than was possible through a once-a-decade conference of bishops. The role of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) is to facilitate the co-operative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, exchange information between the Provinces and churches, and help to co-ordinate common action. It advises on the organisation and structures of the Communion, and seeks to develop common policies with respect to the world mission of the Church, including ecumenical matters. The ACC membership includes from one to three persons from each province. Where there are three members, there is a bishop, a priest and a lay person. Where fewer members are appointed, preference is given to lay membership. The ACC is one of the four Instruments of Unity that serve the world wide family of Anglican/Episcopal churches. They are:

The Archbishop of Canterbury in his international role as primus inter pares, the senior bishop in the Anglican Communion.

The Lambeth Conference (which meets every 10

