

PRIMATE'S PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON THE SUMMARY REPORT CONCERNING THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD.

Points revealed by the Summary

1. There is deep division between honestly held opinions within our Church.
2. There is evidence of a growing conviction on the part of an increasing number of persons in most Provinces of the Communion that we should be moving towards the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood. A growing conviction does not automatically make an action 'right', but is the way action is determined within our Communion.
3. Lambeth and the Anglican Consultative Council both agree that it is appropriate for Provinces to act independently while keeping each other informed. The fact that other Provinces remained in communion with Hong Kong after that Diocese acted seems to indicate a respect for the right of dioceses or provinces to act.
4. There is recognition that action will affect relationships with other Churches. Both Lambeth and the Anglican Consultative Council believe that ecumenical considerations are important, but that they should not be decisive. "The Churches of the Anglican Communion must make their own decisions", said the Anglican Consultative Council of Dublin.
5. There is general agreement that Ordination of Women to the Priesthood should not be seen as an isolated act but should be a part of a continuing study of Ministry. The Anglican Church of Canada is requesting that the Lambeth Conference give this concern high priority and that efforts be made to discern more clearly God's purpose in creating us male and female.
6. The Anglican Consultative Council emphasizes the importance of maintaining unity within the Communion as action proceeds. It does not believe the issue is crucial enough to result in schism.
7. The Anglican Church of Canada has acted with "due process" at each step and has fulfilled all the requirements agreed upon by the wider Communion acting as a family. It has not met all the requests of individual Provinces nor met all the points raised by individuals and groups within our Communion. This is not possible given existing differences of opinion.

Comments re Ecumenical Relationships

There is rightfully real concern within our Church about the impact of our action on ecumenical relationships, particularly with the Orthodox, Old Catholic, Polish National Catholic Church and Roman Catholic Churches. This concern is shared by people in favour and those opposed to the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood. There is general recognition that it will constitute another obstacle in achieving closer relationships but it is also

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