

Superseded

The Gift of Authority

The Anglican Consultative Council, recalling that the 1988 Lambeth Conference encouraged ARCIC “to continue to explore the basis in Scripture and tradition of the concept of a universal primacy” and that areas for further work identified at that time included: the relationship between Scripture, Tradition and the exercise of teaching authority; collegiality, conciliarity and the role of the laity in decision making; and the Petrine ministry of universal primacy,

- 1 welcomes the publication of the report entitled *The Gift of Authority: Authority in the Church III*.
- 2 expresses its appreciation to ARCIC for this agreed statement, the fruit of five years of dialogue, which seeks to address the issues identified at Lambeth 1988 and to deepen the agreement expressed in previous statements on authority.
- 3 commends this report to the provinces for careful and critical study over the next five years, particularly with a view to considering outstanding issues of ecclesiology and authority, the following questions being offered as a guide to that study:

How does *The Gift of Authority* reflect the understanding and practice of authority which the Anglican Communion has received?

What fresh insights into that understanding are suggested in *The Gift of Authority*, and how do these relate to the suggestions made in *The Virginia Report*? How might these be accepted into the life of the Anglican Communion?

What consequences does the text have for deepening future Anglican-Roman Catholic relations at the local and provincial level?

- 4 directs the Inter Anglican Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations to facilitate and monitor the process of response to *The Gift of Authority* which the Communion will undertake, and to report to ACC-13 in 2005.