

Final

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* and all other reports of ARCIC II which have yet to be considered;
- 2 expresses its appreciation to ARCIC for these agreed statements, in particular for *The Gift of Authority* which seeks to address the issues identified at Lambeth 1988 and to deepen the agreement expressed in previous statements on authority;
- 3 commends these reports to the provinces for careful and critical study over the next five years, particularly with a view to considering any outstanding issues of ecclesiology and authority;
- 4 directs the Inter Anglican Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations
 - a) to facilitate and monitor the process of response to *The Gift of Authority* and the other reports which the member Churches of the Communion will undertake;
 - b) to ask helpful questions to the member Churches of the Anglican Communion based on the suggested questions circulated to the Primates in May 1999 and those offered by ACC-11; and
 - c) to report to ACC-13 in 2005.