

The Traditional Anglican Church in Britain (TACB)

Synod 2019

Statement from Bishop Ian Gray.

At the (TACB) Synod held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 in St Katherine's Cathedral in Lincoln, I outlined several issues of importance relating to the following:-

- a) Proposed changes to the Constitution of the Traditional Anglican Communion (TAC).
- b) Ecumenical dialogue.

The (TACB) is a member of the (TAC) as an autonomous continuing Anglican Church. The (TAC) is the largest grouping of continuing Anglican Churches in the world with a settled identity and purpose.

The TACB has now for a number of years actively pursued Ecumenical discussions both with the Nordic Catholic Church (NCC) and the Free Church of England (FCE). Recently, the NCC has entered into useful and meaningful dialogue. However, it is accurate to say that progress has been stalled for the time being at least.

We have taken a conciliar approach thus allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us in our deliberations to be both meaningful and practical allowing with a good will on every side the best opportunity of ultimate success.

After much prayer careful consideration, a consensus has been reached whereby Synod has agreed that the best opportunity of success will be if talks were progressed at the level of the College of Bishops (COB) and equivalent within the Union of Scranton Churches namely the Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC) and the NCC.

At the same meeting Synod was informed of the outcome of the meeting of the TAC College of Bishops held in Calgary, Canada in June 2019. The COB debated proposals placed before them in the form of a "New Draft Constitution" for the TAC. The matter was discussed at length whereby a unanimous decision was reached to approve and implement the said "Draft Constitution", subject to ratification of each national member Church.

The principle change would be to move from the designation of "Communion to Church" The title subject to approval would be "The Traditional Anglican Church". This in effect means we become one entity, although importantly national identities would remain including existing Canons (subject to redrafting where required reflecting the changes as envisaged with the "Draft Constitution").

A prime reason for the proposed changes is to improve our standing within the context of current and ongoing Ecumenical discussions. Approved within the "draft Constitution" were the following clauses:-

*13.2 Towards these ends we rely upon the Primate, with advice and consent of the College of Bishops of the Church, to continue all efforts to establish ecumenical relationships with other ecclesial bodies attempting in good faith to maintain traditional and orthodox Faith and Order with a view to full communion and eventual full union with this Church.*

*13.3 The Primate, with the advice and consent of the College of Bishops, shall have specific responsibility for entering into and initiating such conversations with Bishops of other Orthodox communities within the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church as may promote Unity which is Christ's will for His Church.*

*13.4 While the principal authority and voice responsible for ecumenical relations of the Church devolves upon the Primate, this shall not prevent a Province of the Church from pursuing ecumenical relationships with other ecclesial bodies within their geographic boundaries, attempting in good faith to maintain traditional and orthodox Faith and Order; providing that, in pursuing any such ecumenical relationships, the College of Bishops shall be informed at the earliest possible opportunity, and the counsel of the College of Bishops shall be sought and considered.*

Synod discussed the TAC Draft Constitution at length, greatly assisted by a comprehensive analysis paper prepared by Father Michael Gray. In addition we considered relevant elements of a report written by Bishop Brian Marsh of our sister Church in the United States, the Anglican Church of America (ACA), concerning the G4 Joint Synod. The G4 comprises the four leading Continuing Anglican Churches in the USA, of which the ACA is a member.

Synod, decided to support the changes as stated in the Draft Constitution subject to satisfactory clarifications being received from the Primate. The final decision therefore will be taken at the TACB Synod to be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at St Katherine's Cathedral, Lincoln.

Synod, will have the opportunity to discuss and debate amongst other items

- A) The proposed Draft Constitution.
- B) To apply to the College of Bishops that the TACB become the Province of Great Britain and Europe.
- C) The creation of a Faculty of Theology to be based on the Cathedral estate in Lincoln.

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