



THE DAILY ENCOMPASS



GENERAL CONVENTION 2006 NEWS & COMMENTARY FROM THE AMERICAN ANGLICAN COUNCIL

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2006

A CALL TO MISSION

The American Anglican Council (AAC) is a network of individuals (laity, deacons, priests and bishops), parishes and specialized ministries who affirm Biblical authority and Christian orthodoxy within the Anglican Communion. In response to the Lord's calling and by His grace, we commit ourselves to proclaim the Good News to every person and to reform and renew the Church of Jesus Christ. We are uniting in order to fulfill our apostolic mission and ministry, working to build a faithful Anglican witness in the Americas.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Eph. 6:10-12)

Windsor Report

REPENT + REAFFIRM + ROLLBACK

The Daily Encompass

www.americananglican.org
info@americananglican.org

Exec. Editor: Cynthia P. Brust
Editor: Erik Nelson

Drivers of the Discussion

BY CHRIS SUGDEN

The Special Legislative Committee on the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion (dealing with ECUSA's response to the *Windsor Report*) has held a number of public discussions which have given an intriguing insight into the arguments being used to express the mind of the Convention. Since the resolutions are very concise and carefully nuanced, they do not reveal some of the arguments that have gone into producing them.

There are few references to previous documentation here because, according to committee member Ms. D. Rebecca Snow, past statements such as the Lambeth Conference and the *Windsor Report* only represent what people who happened to be gathered at that time thought. Based on this a-historical understanding, we can assume that people in the future might regard the resolutions of this Convention in a similar a-historical way. This view, therefore, is self-defeating. Take a moment to reflect how this would undermine any system of

government, legislation or judiciary that brings order to human communities. It is a recipe for unaccountable personal power, chaos and manipulation.

Considerable committee time was given to the hearings process without interrogation or debate. This appears to give space for all perspectives to be heard, but they become self-canceling perspectives. From Wednesday's hearing 45 percent wanted to junk the resolutions, 45 percent wanted to go with the *Windsor* language, and 10 percent wanted the resolutions to stand. The previous argument about the compromised status of any document removes the need to engage with the texts received.

Thus, according to Ms. Snow's line of thinking, the listening process can be removed from its historical roots, setting and origins and be redefined. This solvent dissolves the call for clarity. Ian Douglas noted that, "Clarity presupposes that everyone is having the same discussion on the same question. I would prefer more openness

Drivers, continued on page 2...

AAC to Host Media Conference

The House of Bishops will meet in special session to elect the 26th presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA) on Sunday, June 18, 2006 at 10:30 AM. Upon completion of the election process, the presiding bishop-elect will be presented to the House of Deputies.

The American Anglican Council will host a media conference at the Nationwide Arena (in the same space in which the AAC holds its daily deputies' briefings), 30 minutes following the conclusion of the Episcopal News Service (ENS) media conference.

Canon David C. Anderson and other AAC leaders will be available for comment as well as questions from the media.

The AAC 15-passenger van will be available outside the Hyatt Hotel lobby to assist in transporting media to the Arena as necessary. +

Bishop Nazir-Ali Preaches On the Holy Spirit

BY CHRIS SUGDEN

On CNN's *Larry King Live*, the Presiding Bishop said that since the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Church at the Feast of Pentecost, the Church has been continually receiving new truth from God to the present day.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali, bishop of Rochester, UK, preached on the Holy Spirit at the Eucharist hosted by the American Anglican Council Friday evening. He concluded that when people claim something as coming from the Spirit, we have to test it by the clear teaching received from the Bible and confessed by the Church throughout the ages.

He stressed that the leading of the Holy Spirit is not "wild or unpredictable," about which we know nothing. The work of the Holy Spirit is firmly grounded in the person and work of Christ himself. The Holy Spirit bears witness to Jesus. He takes the words and works of Jesus and makes them plain to us, so that we understand their significance. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, we could not understand the word and the works of Jesus. If the "spirit" is not doing these things, it is not the Holy Spirit.

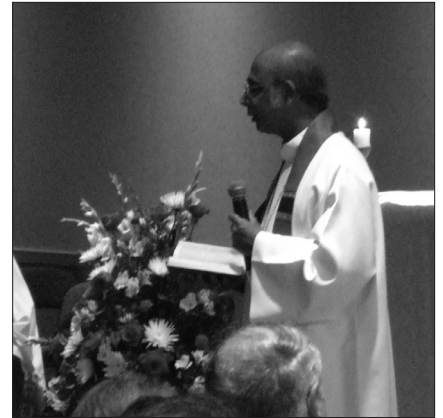
Bishop Nazir-Ali emphasized that the Holy Spirit cannot be "domesticated" by Christians. He said that the Spirit is "convincing the world of sin, of righteousness and judgment."

"The Spirit is continually interrogating people's minds, hearts and consciences so that the truth will

emerge and become clear. The Spirit convinces the world that something is deeply wrong. No Christian anthropology can be complete without taking this wrongness into account. The Spirit convinces the world of rightness. This has to do with the restoration of God's will for us. It brings us back to a personal integrity. The second meaning of the term 'rightness' is related to justice. When we are right with God and ourselves, we can be just in relation to God and our neighbors."

According to Bishop Nazir-Ali, judgment is about what we have, are doing or will do to ourselves. If we have not lived according to God's will for us, we will be judged for it. In addition, he emphasized that no one could come to repentance and to faith in Christ without the prior work of the Spirit in their lives.

"It is the Holy Spirit who leads us to faith in Christ and makes it possible to have faith at all. If we ask about the Spirit's work we must ask about its fruit of love, joy, peace and patience." +



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali preaches at the AAC eucharist on Friday evening.

Drivers, from page 1...

and space for the Holy Spirit to work. Nailing it down is deadly for both sides as it creates winners and losers."

There is a desire in the committee discussions to globalize the listening process. Statements in the special committee indicate that part of the commitment to the Communion is to engage with the Communion in the listening process. This is expressed in different ways in other resolutions, for example in the amendment to Resolution 167. "The Episcopal Church pledges to include openly gay and lesbian persons on every committee, commission or task force developed for the specific purpose of discussing issues about sexuality and request the same of our sister churches in the Anglican Communion and Anglican Communion bodies."

Finally, the goal is to educate people about the nature of active same gender relationships. The goal of the "listening process is so that greater common understanding might be obtained on the underlying issue of same-gender relationships". Canon Kenneth Kearon, told the House of Bishops "the listening process is mutual. It is not one group being listened to by the others. All must listen and engage with the others." This

appears to suggest that other views must also be listened to, including those who testify to changing under the power of Christ and his Holy Spirit, and with the support of the people of God, from same-sex practice to biblical faithfulness through chastity or heterosexual, lifelong marriage. +

"EVEN IF SOME OF THE WORDS GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF COMPLIANCE, WHEN YOU LOOK AT ALL THE OTHER RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE BEING PASSED, IT IS CLEAR THIS CHURCH INTENDS TO PROCEED AT FULL SPEED FORWARD WITH THE REVISIONIST AGENDA... THE TIME HAS COME FOR CLARITY. ALL WE ASK IS FOR ECUSA TO BE CLEAR IN WORD AND ACTION ABOUT ITS INTENT TO WALK TOGETHER OR WALK APART."

THE REV. CANON DAVID C. ANDERSON,
AAC PRESIDENT AND CEO.

"...ITALIAN PLAYER DI ROSSI HAS IN THE LAST FEW MINUTES INFLICTED THE MOST AWFUL BLOODY NOSE ON AN AMERICAN PLAYER AND BEEN SENT OFF FOR HIS PAINS. BUT I WONDER IF DI ROSSI BELIEVES THERE IS ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REPENTANCE AND REGRET? BEING I EXPECT A GOOD CATHOLIC, I AM SURE HE DOES. HE WILL DOUBTLESS BE DELIGHTED TO DISCOVER HE NEED ONLY NOW REGRET THE EFFECT OF HIS TRULY TERRIBLE FOUL, AND NOT THE FOUL ITSELF, AS FAR AS AMERICAN ECCLESIASTICAL DOCTRINE IS CONCERNED."

RUTH GLEDHILL