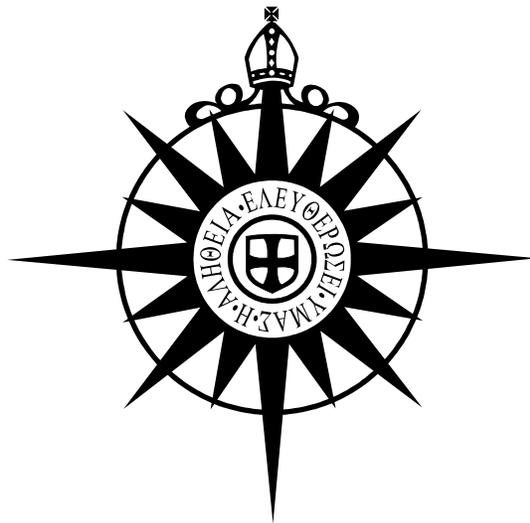


The Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion



Minutes

**St Andrew's House, London
15-18 December 2009**

The Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion

List of Members December 2009

President:

The Most Revd and Rt Hon Dr Rowan Williams England

Chair:

The Rt Revd Dr James Tengatenga Central Africa

Vice Chair:

Canon Elizabeth Paver England

Elected by the Primates' Meeting:

The Most Revd Dr Mouneer Anis Jerusalem & The Middle East

The Most Revd Dr Phillip Aspinall Australia

The Most Revd Dr Katharine Jefferts Schori The Episcopal Church

The Most Revd Dr Barry Morgan Wales

The Most Revd Henry Orombi *unable to attend* Uganda

**The Most Revd Justice Akrofi attended as an alternate to Abp Orombi*

Elected by the ACC:

Mrs Philippa Amable West Africa

The Revd Prof Ian Douglas The Episcopal Church

Dr Anthony Fitchett Aotearoa, New Zealand &

Polynesia

Dato Stanley Isaacs South East Asia

The Rt Revd Kumara Illangasinghe Ceylon

The Rt Revd Azad Marshall Jerusalem & The Middle East

Ms Nomfundo Walaza Southern Africa

Secretary General:

The Revd Canon Dr Kenneth Kearon

In Attendance:

The Revd Canon Joanna Udal

Mrs Yoshimi Gregory

Introductions

The Chair of the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion, the Rt Revd Dr James Tengatenga, welcomed everyone. He commented that it was the first meeting since Jamaica, and invited a brief introduction from the members. He gave a particular welcome to all new members of the Standing Committee, Dato Stanley Isaacs from South East Asia, Dr Tony Fitchett from New Zealand, Revd Prof Ian Douglas from The Episcopal Church, and Bp Azad Marshall from Jerusalem and the Middle East. He said he and Canon Elizabeth Paver also were both new as Chair and Vice Chair. He gave a warm welcome to Archbishop Justice Akrofi from West Africa, who was attending as an alternate to Archbishop Henry Orombi.

The Secretary General, gave notices including the pattern of the meeting, which would be joined by the Archbishop of Canterbury on the last two days, and commented that trust was the key to a successful meeting, and confidentiality was essential. He said as a request of both Chairs – the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bp James Tengatenga - that no mobile or laptop should be used at the meetings.

1. **Minutes** of the meetings of 29 April-1 May, and 12 May 2009

The draft minutes of the meeting of 29 April-1 May 2009 had been circulated. A minor amendment was made in the description of the Secretary General in Resolution 3 and the rest of the Minutes passed unanimously.

The draft minutes of the meeting of 29 April-1 May:

Resolution 1: Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Standing Committee of the Primates of the Anglican Communion and the Anglican Consultative Council held in Jamaica on 29 April-1 May 2009.

That the Joint Standing Committee of the Primates of the Anglican Communion and the Anglican Consultative Council resolves the Minutes of the Meeting held in Jamaica on 29 April-1 May 2009 be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

The draft minutes of the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion on 12 May 2009 had been circulated and were agreed unanimously.

Questions were raised regarding the change of the name of the Committee after the Joint Standing Committee of 29 April-1 May 2009, and the Secretary General explained that the change was noted at the meeting on 12 May. Until the meeting in Jamaica, the Primates' and the ACC Standing Committees met together, hence the Joint Standing Committee. However, the ACC Constitution had changed, and the new body was called the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion.

The new Standing Committee has 5 Primates' Standing Committee members, now *ex-officio* members of the ACC and of the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee noted the decision made at the meeting on 12 May 2009 to appoint Mr Robert Fordham as a consultant to the Finance Committee.

A question was asked regarding membership numbers at the ACC, and the Secretary General explained the schedule of membership process where publicly acknowledged

numbers of members dictate one, two, or three representatives at the ACC meeting, and that any Province whose membership had increased could apply for increased representation according to the ACC Constitution, as was the case recently for the Province of the Indian Ocean, where the church membership increase resulted in the number of representatives at the ACC going from one to two at ACC-14. Canon Kearon said that each Province was responsible for this process.

Resolution 2: Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion held in Jamaica of 12 May 2009.

That the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion resolves the Minutes of the Meeting held in Jamaica of 12 May 2009 be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters Arising

- a) Canon Kearon reported that Archbishop Justice Akrofi was present as an alternate to Archbishop Henry Orombi.
- b) He had received a letter from Ms Nomfundo Walaza resigning from the Standing Committee and the Anglican Consultative Council due to her work commitments. The following decisions were made:
 - i) The Standing Committee accepted her resignation and wished her well in her important task in getting the Desmond Tutu Peace Centre off the ground.
 - ii) Canon Kearon reported that he had spoken to the legal adviser, Revd Canon John Rees, regarding this matter and he was advised that it was the Standing Committee who would appoint a new member to replace Ms Walaza according to the ACC Constitution.
 - iii) The Standing Committee discussed the criteria in electing the replacement of Ms Nomfundo Walaza and noted that the Constitution required it to consider region, gender and order. The Secretary General was requested to contact the legal adviser to check the clauses in the ACC Constitution.
 - iv) The Revd Janet Trisk was duly elected to be the replacement, and the Committee requested that the Secretary General's Office contact her to see if she would accept the invitation.
- c) At the request of a number of members of the Standing Committee, it was agreed to add an extra item to the Agenda, 'Recent developments in the Anglican Communion' after Agenda Item 3.
- d) Canon Kearon said that the Anglican Communion Covenant final text would be circulated to the members prior to the session and reminded the Standing Committee that particular confidentiality would be needed before the text was approved and sent out to the member churches.
- e) Questions were asked by new members regarding the procedures for reporting back to their Provinces after the meeting:
 - i) Handling the decisions made at the meeting
 - ii) The Minutes of the Standing Committee

iii) Implementation of decisions

Canon Kearon reported that the final text of the Anglican Communion Covenant be sent to the Primates and Provincial Secretaries, and then placed on the Anglican Communion website. He expected the Primates and Provincial Secretaries would share the text within the Provinces according to their Provincial procedures.

3. Secretary General's Report

The Secretary General introduced the session and highlighted the main activities in the Anglican Communion Office since the last meeting in Jamaica in May. He noted that they were mainly concerned with implementing the many decisions of ACC-14 and the Windsor Continuation Group Report recommendations, and most appeared at some stage on the Agenda.

These included the Listening Process becoming Continuing Indaba; the Primates' Standing Committee members becoming full members of the ACC and its Standing Committee; establishing the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission for Unity, Faith and Order whose first meeting had taken place before the Standing Committee meeting; the Bible in the Life of the Church Project has been launched and its first meeting had taken place just before the Standing Committee meeting; the emergence of the Anglican Communion in North America; the *moratoria* in North America; the recent General Convention resolutions; the election of a partnered person as suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Los Angeles; and decisions about same sex rites in the Dioceses of Ohio and Massachusetts, as well as continued interventions into other Provinces.

4. Recent Developments in the Anglican Communion

Discussion began with a review of developments in the Communion over the past few months, in particular, the election of a person in a same gender relationship as suffragan bishop of Los Angeles in The Episcopal Church (the election has not yet been confirmed), and the authorisation by the Bishops of Massachusetts and Ohio of rites of same sex blessings, contrary to both the Windsor Report and the more recent Windsor Continuation Group Report.

Honest opinions were expressed on all sides, and eventually it was decided to adjourn the discussion until later in the Agenda.

The second session, this time with the Archbishop of Canterbury present, resumed the earlier conversation. At the end of that session three resolutions were presented.

These were voted on the following morning:

a) First resolution:

***That** in view of the recent actions of the 76th General Convention, particularly Resolutions DO25 and CO56, representatives of TEC should be invited to withdraw from all Anglican Councils until ACC-15. This [time] would give both TEC and the AC a temporary safe distance for discernment in regard to the issues that currently threaten the unity of the Anglican Communion.*

2 votes *for*, and 8 votes *against*, no abstention recorded

b) Second resolution:

The Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion meeting in London from 15th-18th December 2009, noting that the Episcopal Church had at its 76th General Convention in July 2009 resolved to reopen a process for the blessing of same gender relationships and to recognise the right of gay and lesbian persons to any ordained ministry in the church:

- i) Expresses its deep disappointment and regret over such decisions, having regard to the declared position of the Anglican Communion over those matters through various Lambeth Resolutions; the recommendations of the Windsor Continuation Report and the resolutions of the Primates' Meeting held in Dromantine in February 2005 and at Dar-es-salaam in February 2007;*
- ii) Disassociates the Anglican Communion from those decisions of The Episcopal Church as well as with any actions that may be taken by churches in The Episcopal Church in North America pursuant to those decisions.*

2 votes *for*, 7 votes *against* and 2 *abstentions*

c) Third resolution:

The Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion resolved that, in the light of:

- i) The recent Episcopal nomination in the Diocese of Los Angeles of a partnered lesbian candidate*
- ii) The decisions in a number of US and Canadian dioceses to proceed with formal ceremonies of same-sex blessings*
- iii) Continuing cross-jurisdictional activity within the Communion*

The Standing Committee strongly reaffirm Resolution 14.09 of ACC-14 supporting the three moratoria proposed by the Windsor Report and the associated request for 'Gracious Restraint' in respect of actions that endanger the unity of the Anglican Communion by going against the declared view of the Instruments of Communion.

8 votes *for*, 1 vote *against*, 1 *abstention* recorded.

The Secretary General was asked to place the resolution in the Anglican Communion website.

5. Review of ACC-14

(a) Evaluation

The Vice Chair of the Standing Committee, Canon Elizabeth Paver chaired the session and welcomed Mr Stephen Lyon to the meeting.

Mr Lyon introduced the document and said evaluating the ACC-14 would help to improve ACC meetings in the future. He explained how he evaluated ACC-14 meeting.

The following suggestions were made from the Standing Committee to help future meetings:

- i) Use of flip charts in sessions for the comments in groups, and then those flip charts could be used for resolution sessions, reminding people what was discussed earlier
- ii) Bible and Discernment group leaders & facilitators to have more briefing and training prior to the meeting, as the quality of these leaders would determine the success of the sessions and the outcomes.

There were some queries regarding the process and procedures of the meeting, in particular the resolutions sessions.

Resolution 3: Hospitality at ACC-14

That the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion thanks the Province of the West Indies and the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands for their hospitality at ACC-14, and asks the Secretary General to write a letter on behalf of the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion.

(b) Constitution

The Standing Committee considered the revised Constitution and passed the following resolution:

Resolution 4: the Constitution of the ACC

That the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion notes the revised Constitution of the Anglican Consultative Council and the establishment of the Council as a company limited by guarantee under UK law.

(c) Resolutions

i. ACC-14 Resolution 14.01

The Standing Committee welcomed the fact that the newly established Inter-Anglican Standing Commission for Unity, Faith and Order had met and would report to the meeting.

ii. ACC-14 Resolution 14.38

The Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates' Meeting

Canon Kearon reported that at the Primates' Meeting in Alexandria in January, a request was made to increase the Primates' number at the Joint Standing Committee from 5 to 8

Since the Lambeth Conference of 1988 the Communion had been divided into 5 regions. In the case of the new Standing Commission for Unity, Faith and Order, the Communion is divided into 9 regions. It would require a constitutional change in the ACC Constitution, with approval by two thirds of the votes, to change the representation of Primates in the Standing Committee.

Canon Kearon explained that the attendance at the Standing Committee costs £1,200 per head, and also the costs of the UN Observer and the Financial Consultant would need to be met. The Archbishop of Canterbury's costs were paid by Lambeth Palace.

Concern was raised regarding the balance between lay, clerical and episcopal representation on the Standing Committee, and whether the increase in the number of Primates in the Standing Committee might create an imbalance between the clergy/bishops/Primates and lay members.

After a full discussion exploring various possibilities, the Standing Committee passed the following resolution and agreed to discuss this item fully at the next Standing Committee meeting.

Resolution 5: Number of Primates Attending the ACC Meeting

That the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion requests the Secretary General, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, to respond to the request of the Primates on the increase of up to 8, by formulating a proposal for consideration by ACC-15, and to request 'a draft proposal for consideration' by the next Standing Committee meeting.

The draft proposal is to consider the following:

- i) Financial implications and funding options
- ii) Balance of Primates and non-Primates at the meeting
- iii) Geographical representation
- iv) Balance of lay, clergy, bishops and primates

Resolution 6: ACC Members' Participation at the Primates' Meeting

That the Secretary General be requested to refer ACC-14.38 to the Primates' Meeting, and if the Primates' Meeting agrees in principle to include non-primatial members of the Standing Committee as non-voting participants in the Primates' Meeting, then the Secretary General be requested to refer to the Finance Committee the question of funding such participation, for report to the Standing Committee.

6. Communications Strategy Review

The Secretary General introduced the report including the proposal to proceed to appoint a Director for Communications.

7. Finance

The Chair of the Standing Committee announced that Canon Paver had been appointed Chair of the Finance Committee, and Mr Robert Fordham had been appointed the Vice Chair, the previous day.

Canon Paver chaired the session and noted that the Finance Committee met the previous day. She reported that the Finance Committee dealt with a significant number of papers,

and distributed its report, 'Report to the Standing Committee by the Finance and Administration Committee' to the Standing Committee. She noted the following:

- a) Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of the Inter-Anglican Finance and Administration Committee
- b) Inter-Anglican budgets - Projections for 2009 and 2010
- c) Provincial Contributions
- d) Governance Issues
- e) Lambeth Conference Finances

The Chair invited Mr Andrew Franklin to introduce the papers G and H, Financial Projections for 2009 and 2010, to the Standing Committee.

Mr Franklin reported a general downturn of income, in particular, the budget for the Compass Rose Society would be down by £60,000, and income forecast was scaled down to reflect this, together with news of reductions in Provincial contributions. As a result of this, the Anglican Communion Office has taken steps to make staff post redundancies.

Some savings had been made in 2009, notably: recruitment of Director for Unity, Faith and Order came late in the year. He also explained movements of staff into more appropriate financial categories which would see some figures being amended. He reported that the ACO allocated funds each year for meetings which didn't happen every year, as designated funds.

In addition, the Final Salary Pension Scheme would be closed to existing members on 28 February 2010.

Mr Franklin reported that two Provinces had informed him of their intention to reduce their Provincial contributions in 2010 - The Episcopal Church and the Church of Ireland. This would cut the income to the Inter-Anglican budget considerably.

It was requested that the Chair and the Secretary General write a joint letter to remind the Provinces who had not contributed of their obligations.

Resolution 7: Provincial Contribution to Inter-Anglican Budget

That the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion requests the Chair and the Secretary General to write jointly to those Provinces that have not paid their contributions to the Inter-Anglican Budget in 2009, reminding them of their obligation and requesting a response concerning their intention in this regard.

It was noted that several Provinces had not paid their cost at the recent Primates' Meeting.

Resolution 8: Frequency of the Primates' Meetings

That the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion agrees with the recommendation from the Finance Committee that in light of the accumulated deficit from the holding of Primates' Meetings, that there be a two-year gap between the Primates' Meetings so as to discharge the debt and put aside a suitable amount of funds towards the budget to undertake these meetings.

A question was asked regarding how the Provincial Contributions were calculated, and a request for revision was made.

Resolution 9: Calculation of Provincial Contributions to the Inter-Anglican Budget

That the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion requests a working group to be established to consider and report upon an alternative basis of apportioning contributions by the member-churches to the Inter-Anglican Budget. The new model to be made available by the next Finance Committee meeting.

Mr Robert Fordham introduced the topic of governance. In terms of governance, he reminded the Committee of their obligations as trustees.

He commented on his meeting with the auditors the previous week, and felt they were comfortable with the direction the ACO was heading financially.

Resolution 10: Governance

That the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion requests a policy objective be adopted to progressively establish over the next three years unrestricted general reserves sufficient to cover three months of operating costs. It also requests the Secretary General and the Consultant to prepare a statement on governance arrangements.

The Standing Committee agreed the recommendations and requests made by the Finance Committee, and the following resolutions were passed:

Resolution 11: Trustees' Roles and Responsibilities

That the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion noted the roles and responsibilities of the trustees, as outlined in the page 6 from The Essential Trustee published by the Charity Commissioners.

Resolution 12: Annual Return

That the Standing Committee seeks to time its meetings to enable it to approve the Annual Return during the annual meeting.

Resolution 13: Merging of the existing unincorporated charity (registered under Registration Number 276951) with the new company

That the Standing Committee resolves to merge the existing unincorporated charity (registered under Registration Number 276951) with the new company incorporated to take its place, and requests the Charity Commissioners to register the new company.

Resolution 14: Transfer of the staff, contracts, assets and liabilities

That the Standing Committee approves transfer of the staff, contracts, assets and liabilities of the Anglican Communion to the new company.

Mr Fordham noted that it would be most helpful if the Standing Committee could meet between April and September when the accounts closed and the auditors met.

It was noted that the Finance Committee had resolved to add Canon Barnett-Cowan's name as an Account Signatory.

8. The Lambeth Conference Company

The Secretary General introduced the session and presented two reports: one written by the three directors of the Lambeth Conference Company which illustrated the way in which fundraising and finance had evolved, and the other report written by himself, which included the history of the Lambeth Conference Company and analysed the Ormerod Report and worked through the suggestions and recommendations. He reported that a lot of items came at the Conference as a gift, and towards the end many bodies gave their services free of charge. He reported at one point it appeared that there might be a short fall of up to £1.2 million pounds. In the end the Company had borrowed £400,000 from the Church Commissioners and the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England (£200,000 each).

The Standing Committee made the following comments:

- a) It was the responsibility of this Standing Committee to move it forward.
- b) Future Lambeth Conference would need to be organised more professionally and more efficiently.
- c) The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference Design Group, and the Lambeth Conference Company should ensure a close working relationship in any future conference.
- d) The Lambeth Conference Company should be more central to the structure of the Lambeth Conference.
- e) Encourage this body to look at other non-Anglican models, such as the WCC.
- f) The Company was still in debt and it wouldn't be able to plan anything new until it cleared the debt.

The Standing Committee resolved:

Resolution 15: Structure of Future Lambeth Conferences

That the Secretary General consults with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference Company and relevant others and advise the Standing Committee on a comprehensive structure and governance arrangements for future Lambeth Conferences, taking into consideration the issues and recommendations reviewed in the Ormerod Report, with a report to the next Standing Committee.

Mr Robert Fordham was to meet the Lambeth Conference Company later that day. Canon Kearon was requested to speak to the Archbishop of Canterbury about who the Chair might be.

9. Future Lambeth Conferences

Ms Sue Parks joined the meeting and introduced her report.
A number of comments were made:

- a) If we were to talk about 2013, we have a short time left before big decisions would need to be made.
- b) Next Primates' Meeting has been scheduled for January 2011.
- c) Totally impractical to consider a meeting at present.
- d) Impossible to consider a meeting in a current financial situation.
- e) Ecclesial questions to be asked in common life of Communion.
- f) Congress idea has not been given an opportunity to be considered.

After a discussion, the Standing Committee agreed to the following resolution:

Resolution 16: Future Lambeth Conferences

That the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion recommends to the Archbishop of Canterbury, in view of the remaining debt coming from Lambeth 2008, that a mid-term Lambeth Conference meeting of bishops is impractical and ought not to be undertaken.

10. Anglican Communion Office/Lambeth Palace Review Panel

The Chair welcomed the Rt Revd Clive Handford and introduced him to the Standing Committee. *This report was at an interim stage and so is treated as confidential. Because of the content of the Report staff were asked to withdraw from the meeting.*

11. Provincial Reviews

(a) The Province of West Africa

The Standing Committee noted the summary of the situation as presented by the Secretary General. At the request of the Primate of West Africa, who was present, the Standing Committee agreed to close the matter of the discussion of the Province.

(b) The Province of Central Africa

The Standing Committee noted the update from the Secretary General, and agreed to defer the matter until a Primate is elected and has had time to settle in.

(c) The Iberian Churches

The Standing Committee considered the Resolution 14.37 from ACC-14 concerning the Iberian Churches and their relationship with the ACC.

With respect to Section (a) (to consider their admissions to full membership of the ACC) the Standing Committee recognised that full membership simply was not possible. With respect to Section (b) (request to set up a review) the Standing Committee decided not to.

Guidelines

The Standing Committee discussed the Provincial Guidelines, and it was suggested to add a phrase *Financial Support to Anglican Budget* in the Guidelines.

It also welcomed the suggestions:

- i) That a note requesting on how ordination training and preparation will be organised in the proposed Province be included.
- ii) That future financial projections for the proposed Province should include provision for the Primate's attendance at Primates' meetings, and for bishops attending the Lambeth Conference.

It was suggested that a document be produced consolidating the guidelines, to come back to the Standing Committee before ACC-15, for consideration at ACC-15.

12. Covenant

The Director for Unity, Faith and Order, the Revd Canon Dr Alyson Barnett-Cowan introduced the revised draft of the Anglican Communion Covenant and outlined the revision process of Section 4 since ACC-14.

A draft letter from the Secretary General to accompany the Covenant was also discussed, together with the Commentary on Revision to Section 4 from the Covenant. After some discussion and clarification the following resolution was approved:

Resolution 17: The Anglican Communion Covenant

That the Standing Committee requests the Secretary General to send the text of the Anglican Communion Covenant to the Provinces of the Anglican Communion in accordance with the ACC Resolution 14.10 (e), together with an accompanying letter from him as revised at the meeting; and that these two documents, together with the Covenant Working Party Commentary on Revisions to Section 4, the document, 'The Anglican Communion Covenant – Section 4 final text compared with the previous draft, with alterations noted'; and 'Responses to Section 4 of the Ridley Cambridge Draft of the Anglican Covenant' to be made available on the Anglican Communion website.

13. Inter-Anglican Standing Commission for Unity, Faith and Order (IASCUFO)

The Director for Unity, Faith and Order, Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan, presented a report. She explained that the new Commission held its first meeting in Canterbury from 1-8 December, and she was pleased to present the first report to the Standing Committee. She commented that after the initial introduction the Commission worked well and made much progress under the capable leadership of Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi. Members were also given the paper 'Approach to the work of IASCUFO'.

Questions were asked on the 'Immediate Projects' in the 'Approach' paper, and Canon Barnett-Cowan responded that the emphasis of the Mandate was theological, and each item would be looked at carefully at the next meeting in 2010.

The Secretary General added that 4a was both a theological reflection on the Instruments and related to future financing of Lambeth Conferences and Primates' Meetings.

Canon Barnett-Cowan also commented that IASCUFO affirmed the work of ARCIC III, which she believed was a specific request from the Standing Committee.

A question was asked regarding Anglican-Roman Catholic relations in view of the publication of the Apostolic Constitution. The Archbishop of Canterbury responded and said that it was an 'internal Roman Catholic matter' and it would not replace any existing ecumenical relationships.

The Chair of the Standing Committee thanked Canon Barnett-Cowan for her report.

Resolution 18: The Inter-Anglican Standing Commission for Unity, Order and Faith (IASCUFO)

That the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion noted the report of the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission for Unity, Faith and Order.

14. Theological Issues

(a) Theological Education for the Anglican Communion (TEAC) Appendix M&N

The Archbishop expressed appreciation the work of TEAC, and the Secretary General commented that the Women Theologians' Meeting earlier in the year was very successful and thanked Mrs Amos for coordinating it.

(c) Network for Inter Faith Concerns (NIFCON)

Mrs Clare Amos reported on Network for Inter Faith Concerns.

Mrs Amos raised the question of the accountability of the Anglican inter faith dialogues (with representatives of other faiths). There is perhaps a lack of clarity as to whether they are dialogues of the Anglican Communion, or of the Archbishop of Canterbury. How far should they be reported to the Standing Committee, and to what extent should the Standing Committee take any responsibility for them? The view was expressed that it was appropriate for the Standing Committee to assume some responsibility for these dialogues, and it was recognised that this had financial implications.

In her report Mrs Amos presented the suggestion that NIFCON should work on a substantial report on the Anglican position(s) on Christian Zionism which would be presented to ACC 15. This suggestion was welcomed and at the request of Archbishop Philip Aspinall the following resolution was passed.

Resolution 19: That the Standing Committee welcomed the proposal by NIFCON to produce a report on the issue of Christian Zionism to be completed in time for ACC-15.

The Standing Committee acknowledged the importance of NIFCON. They gave strong support to the work, and at the same time underlined the need to know where the resources of staff and finance could be found before authorising a new project.

The Committee felt that Inter Faith was an important aspect of our life. For example, an Inter Faith Consultation is happening in Sri Lanka, organised by the WCC, where the Church in Ceylon encourages all clergy and lay people to work with other religious traditions. It was important because significant clashes were happening in the country.

The Standing Committee affirmed that working in partnership with other faiths was important.

(d) The Bible in the Life of the Church

Mr Stephen Lyon introduced the Project. Mr Lyon explained that the Steering Group met for the first time in late November/early December, and would meet twice more before ACC-15. He said finance dictated the numbers represented in the Steering Group. The Chair was Archbishop David Moxon and the meeting had been very productive

A question was asked regarding the Reference Group and where the nominations came from, and Mr Lyon responded that the nominations came from the Steering Group.

15. Continuing Indaba

The Archbishop of Canterbury welcomed Canon Phil Groves and Ms Angharad Parry Jones to the meeting. Canon Groves presented the report and said this was a biblically, theologically and culturally sensitive subject. He invited comments and questions.

There was a question of how Continuing Indaba related to the Listening Process, and Canon Groves said that it was a follow-on from Mutual Listening, and noted for some Provinces acceptance of gay and lesbian people was the key issue, while in other parts of the Communion, very different topics were central.

A question was asked regarding funding of the project. Reference was made to an article in the public domain to the effect that the real providers of the funding supported a liberalising attitude towards sexual ethics. Canon Groves responded that the external funder, the Satcher Health Leadership Institute, was providing funding for the project without any pre condition. Canon Groves commented that unfortunately he had been misquoted on this matter in the press.

Canon Groves said that the Institute was an American institution, specialising in public health promotion and toward the reduction and ultimate elimination of disparities in health such as HIV/AIDS. The organisation worked closely with black Americans and other religious groups.

The Archbishop of Canterbury affirmed the point that the funding of the Project by the Satcher Health Leadership Institute had no agenda attached other than to give financial support to Continuing Indaba so that it could happen.

16. Mission Cluster

The Archbishop of Canterbury welcomed the staff who were involved in the Mission Cluster presentation. Mr Stuart Buchanan introduced the concept of Mission Cluster, using a power point presentation. It involved the integration of work in the area between the ACO, Lambeth Palace and the UN Observer.

Separate presentations were made, Revd Rachel Carnegie on Anglican Development and Relief Alliance, Mr Stuart Buchanan on Evangelism & Church Growth Initiative, Revd Terrie Robinson on the Networks of the Anglican Communion, and Ms Helen Stawski presented the UN Observer's report on behalf of Dr Hellen Wangusa who was unable to travel to UK for medical reasons.

(a) Anglican Relief & Development Alliance

Revd Rachel Carnegie commented that membership fees and in-kind contributions were valuable, and they were seeking external core funding. She added that their focus was shared learning and mutual capacity building.

(b) Evangelism & Church Growth Initiative

Mr Buchanan presented this initiative and said their first meeting happened in January 2009. He mentioned 'Edinburgh 2010' and informed the Committee that there would be a Pre- Conference event in Scotland 28 May–1 June, and then 'Edinburgh 2010' for young Anglican leaders 2-6 June in Edinburgh, which would be followed by debriefing in London 7-11 June.

(c) Anglican Observer at the United Nations

Ms Stawski presented Dr Hellen Wangusa's paper on her behalf, and said the UN Observer was engaged in the General Council, the Security Council, the Humanitarian Council, and was part of the ACO Mission Cluster. She added that Dr Wangusa's portfolio included lobbying for the Commission on Status of Women, HIV/AIDS, Gender Budgeting, Climate Change and Child Trafficking, to name a few.

(d) Networks

Revd Terrie Robinson outlined a number of routes to strengthening the Networks, including compounding their position in mission; raising their profile among the Instruments of Communion and in the Communion generally; increasing provincial representation; collaborating more effectively with the Anglican UN presence in New York and Geneva; and reviewing forms of leadership, communication and funding.

A question was asked about how the Office of UN Observer worked. Ms Stawski responded that the aims of the ACO mirrored those of the UN Office, but include lobbying governments. It supports the church and community around it, and works from grassroots, where local church and Mother's Union could make a difference. The work of the UN Observer and its Office could be exciting and challenging, but resources were stretched.

The Standing Committee thanked the team, and the Secretary General, for creating the cluster in such an imaginative way.

Referring to Marks of Mission, concern was raised not to start adding more Marks without careful thinking and review. Rather, there was a need to pay more attention to those Marks already identified and recognised.

It was noted that the cooperation shown in the presentation of the Mission Cluster where staff at the ACO and Lambeth Palace worked well. It would be in line with the ACO/Lambeth Palace Review Panel's good practice example.

The Standing Committee expressed various views on the UN Anglican Observer in Geneva, and in New York, and compared the two institutions. Geneva had a good reputation for humanitarian work, while New York was more politically orientated. They queried the funding of these two offices and the ACO's contribution, and also possibilities of external funding.

It was noted that there was much variation in the Networks and their functions, depending on who was leading, history, funding, etc. There were wishes for the Networks to function more effectively and be relevant, and to see them being strengthened. It was noted that the Networks would look to underpin their activities in theological conversation. It was hoped that their role in mission would continue unaffected by the controversial issues with which the Communion was struggling at present.

The Standing Committee appreciated the work of the Anglican Development & Relief Alliance and its concept, mapping good work in the Anglican Communion, and learning from that.

17. Any Other Business

The Archbishop of Canterbury mentioned two things:

- a) The Church of England had issued guidelines on clergy in civil partnership. He wondered if the *moratoria* included those clergy involved in civil partnership. Some were in celibate same sex partnerships.

In response to the above it was noted that the *moratoria* referred to consecration of bishops, and authorisation of formal blessing of same sex unions. The meaning of civil partnership was unclear as it could include siblings or friends simply living in the one house.

- b) Pastoral Visitors

The Archbishop reported on the work of Pastoral Visitors. They had attended the first meeting of Anglican Communion in North America and Anglican Coalition in Canada. The intention was to facilitate conversations which were different from Continuing Indaba. Could we broker civilised conversations?

The Standing Committee expressed gratitude to the Archbishop of Canterbury for his work in this area.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The Standing Committee agreed to meet in late July and decided on dates 22 July arrivals, 23-27 July meeting, 28 July departures, and 22 July Finance Committee meeting.