

A RESOURCE GUIDE
For
DISCUSSIONS ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

Faith, Worship & Ministry Committee
The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada
Updated July 2007
www.anglican.ca

INTRODUCTION

The Anglican Church of Canada has, over several years, engaged in a process of discernment on the issue of blessing same-sex unions. Some dioceses and parishes have done extensive study and discussion while others are beginning that process.

In 2007, General Synod requested that Faith, Worship and Ministry “..develop a process to engage dioceses and parishes of the Anglican Church of Canada in a study of Christian perspectives, reason, tradition and current scientific understanding of human sexuality.” As part of that process this Resource Guide has been updated to offer further materials to dioceses and parishes as they engage in that study..

The Committee offers the following:

page 3 Suggestions for establishing discussion guidelines

page 5 A gathered list of resources including study guides, bibliography, videos from the extensive materials already produced by dioceses, the national church and other churches

page 10 Terminology definitions for clarification

Discussing controversial topics can be difficult for us. Yet digging deeper into what we believe and how we live together can enrich our life as a Christian community. Let us engage in this process with courage and faith.

If you have comments or suggestions for other needed resources please contact:

Canon Linda Nicholls, Coordinator for Dialogue, National Office

lnicholls@national.anglican.ca

GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION

Discussion of controversial topics needs to be set within guidelines that help the event be a safe place for people to share their views and learn from one another. Whether the event is a large public forum or a small study group it is essential to establish norms for the discussion that are agreed to by the participants.

Listed below, as examples, are guidelines recommended in the Diocese of Toronto and the Diocese of Nova Scotia and P.E.I. as part of their discussion of homosexuality and/or same-sex blessings. These examples provide a helpful framework that may be used as is, added to by the participants in a particular event or you may choose to design your own.

Once established the guidelines provide the boundaries within which respectful discussion takes place. Facilitators and participants are expected to hold each other accountable for keeping within the boundaries set.

One aspect to consider in planning an event is the role of a facilitator. To allow space for all to participate freely it may be helpful to select a facilitator from outside your group. The role of the facilitator is to hold all participants accountable to the guidelines and to help each to hear the others. That may be easier for someone from outside the community gathered. Contact the diocesan bishop for suggestions of appropriate facilitators or contact the Coordinator for Dialogue: Canon Linda Nicholls: lnicholls@national.anglican.ca.

I FROM the DIOCESE OF TORONTO

SAME SEX BLESSING CONSULTATION DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

(Spring 2004)

In hosting today's consultation the Diocese of Toronto Dialogue Group brings years of experience facilitating events to help people listen and learn from one another around controversial and emotional issues. Some people have expressed concern at how safe they will be at these diocesan educational events. Those concerns are real and deserve to be addressed.

The issues that will be discussed today are very personal. Some of us may well feel that the discussion touches on our very being and most deeply held beliefs. Some of us may feel quite vulnerable from time to time.

Our baptismal covenant calls on us to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbours as ourselves. We have promised to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being.

Each of us must tread carefully at these events, therefore, respecting sisters and brothers in Christ whose views do not coincide with our own. A wide spectrum of feelings and opinions will be voiced from the podium and in the conversations around us. We will hear views expressed with which we agree and views with which we may have real

difficulty. The presenters are aware of these sensitivities and will conduct themselves accordingly.

To help us make the most of today's gathering the Dialogue Group and the Same Sex Consultation Working Group ask that we all agree to honour the following group norms:

1. We will respect people's integrity as members of this community of faith.
2. We will assume that as people of faith we are all sincere in our beliefs, including our reverence for Holy Scripture.
3. We will assume that lesbian and gay persons are present.
4. We will not use language known to be offensive to others.
5. We will respect the right of people to "name" themselves and their experiences.
6. We will ask no questions that we are not prepared to answer ourselves.
7. We will speak in the first person.
8. We will respect the privacy of others.

II FROM the DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA

GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION

Excerpted from Guidelines for Discussion produced by the Human Sexuality Task Force, Diocese of Nova Scotia.

1. We expect that the full range of issues of human sexuality exists within the church;
2. We acknowledge that gay and lesbian persons (as well as members of other sexual minorities*) are in the Church;
3. We will always assume that gays or lesbians (or representatives of other sexual minorities*) are present;
4. While we disagree on issues we will use language which respects the dignity of others;
5. We will respect the right of people to 'name' themselves and their experience.
6. If we ask a question, we will be prepared to respond to it ourselves;
7. We will respect people's privacy;
8. We will respect people's integrity as people of faith.

*eg. Singles, seniors, otherly abled, the sick, the dying, sexually abused, etc.

Tips on applying the guidelines:

- ❖ Speak for yourself. Use "I" statements. Avoid generalizations.
- ❖ Don't argue – but don't be obstinate either! (Don't defend a position just for the sake of argument)
- ❖ Respect each other's sincerity
- ❖ Discuss the issues. Don't name people
- ❖ Don't interrupt – don't monopolize – encourage but don't force others to speak.
- ❖ Use the language of respect

RESOURCES

SAME SEX BLESSINGS/MARRIAGE

The following resources offer a range of materials to assist Anglicans to continue discussion and reflection on issues related to homosexuality and the blessing of same-sex unions. These resources are readily available, either on the internet or for purchase. The materials included have been developed for use in Anglican, Lutheran, or Episcopal churches. This is not an exhaustive list. If you have found other helpful resources please forward information to Canon Linda Nicholls, Coordinator for Dialogue – lnicholls@national.anglican.ca.

SECTION ONE: BEGINNING THE CONVERSATION

Resources for groups holding their first discussions around the areas of homosexuality, same-sex blessings and marriage.

HEARING DIVERSE VOICES, SEEKING COMMON GROUND

- ❖ Anglican resource published by ABC – 1994
- ❖ Video clips, papers – outline for sessions, guided discussion questions & reflections
- ❖ Excellent material on Adult education models; discussion guidelines and framework for facilitators
- ❖ Video clips present speakers from a broad spectrum of positions and include bishops, clergy, and lay people
- ❖ Readily available – can be ordered and shipped across country from the Anglican Book Centre (www.anglicanbookcentre.com)
- ❖ **NOTE:** Original biblical material has been revised and extended by Prof. Terry Donaldson See: "*Seeking to be faithful in the uneasy middle*". ([link to attachment](#)).

AN HONOURABLE ESTATE: Marriage, Same-sex Unions, and the Church

- ❖ Study Guide written 1998 – Permanent Commitments Group, Church of the Redeemer, Toronto
- ❖ Study sections on marriage, singleness, & celibacy, Bible & homosexuality and same-sex couple in the Church
- ❖ Supportive of same-sex couples
- ❖ Available through [Anglican Book Centre](#)

WRITTEN ON THE HEART: The Bible for Anglicans in the 21st Century

- ❖ Not specifically about issues of sexuality but addresses the way Anglicans use scripture
- ❖ Video and study guide – written by Faith, Worship & Ministry Department
- ❖ Produced by Anglican Video 2003
- ❖ Interviews of individual Anglicans across the country – responses and further dialogue by panel group
- ❖ For parish discussion; easy to access

- ❖ Available from the Anglican Book Centre (www.anglicanbookcentre.com)

MARRIAGE: An Exploration of Marriage in Church and Society

- ❖ Prepared by Faith, Worship & Ministry
- ❖ 6 week parish study.
- ❖ Available online at: <http://www.anglican.ca/faith/ethics/documents/Marriage.pdf> or in hard copy from Canon Linda Nicholls (lnicholls@national.anglican.ca)

SECTION TWO: FURTHERING THE CONVERSATION

Resources with further depth on particular areas of discussions of scripture, human sexuality, Anglican identity, marriage and church.

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF TORONTO – SAME SEX CONSULTATIONS

- ❖ Available on Diocese of Toronto website:
<http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/index.asp?navid=149>
- ❖ From consultations held in Spring 2004
- ❖ Series of presentations – 2 speakers from differing perspectives in each area:
 - Scripture
 - Authority & Ecclesiology
 - History & Theology of Marriage
 - History & Theology of Sexuality
 - Liturgies & Blessings
- ❖ Transcripts of oral presentations
- ❖ Varying depth
- ❖ Includes an annotated bibliography produced by Diocesan Same Sex Consultation Group, noting study material from differing viewpoints - proposed by Canon Eric Beresford and Rev. Dr. Dean Mercer
<http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/index.asp?navid=367>

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF EDMONTON - Resources

- ❖ List of resources on website (www.edmonton.anglican.org) in following categories:
 - An Introduction from Bishop Victoria Matthews with Prayer
 - Anglican Understanding of Authority
 - The Authority of Scripture
 - Civil Law Consideration
 - Ecumenical Perspectives
 - Human Sexuality
 - Interpretation of Scripture Theology of Marriage
- ❖ Resources include web links, books, papers, other references
- ❖ Suitable for individuals or groups – in-depth writing, no study guides

EASTERN NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR – Bible Study

- Two study programs:
 - Section 1 Sexuality in Scripture;
 - Section 2: Homosexuality in Contemporary Experience

- Includes biblical material with questions; reference to video resources; discussion suggestions
- Available from national office through Canon Linda Nicholls, Coordinator for Dialogue
lnicholls@national.anglican.ca

SOME ISSUES IN HUMAN SEXUALITY: A guide to the debate

- ❖ Discussion document from the Church of England House of Bishops' Group on *Issues in Human Sexuality – Church of England*, Published 2003 – Church House Publishing
- ❖ Extensive book (350 pgs) giving background to the current debate; nature of the current debate and responses in life of the church; exhaustive discussion
- ❖ Even-handed review of differing perspectives
- ❖ Chapters include:
 - Current debate on sexuality
 - Use of the Bible in sexual ethics
 - Theology of sexuality
 - Homosexuality and biblical teaching
 - Gender identity, sexual identity, and theology
 - Bisexuality
 - Transsexualism
 - Homosexuals, bisexuals, and transsexuals in the life of the Church
 - Handling some current controversies over sexual morality
- ❖ Selected bibliography
- ❖ Also published: *A Companion to Some Issues in Human Sexuality* – a brief study guide, questions
- ❖ Available through **Anglican Book Centre**

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

- ❖ Web site: <http://elcic.ca/Human-Sexuality/default.cfm> contains study materials including a series of papers on a variety of related topics in the areas of:
 - biblical;
 - theological and confessional;
 - pastoral and societal;
 - ecclesiastical and ecumenical.
- ❖ Papers produced in 2004/2005; are accessible for parish use
- ❖ More specifically Lutheran perspective - posted for ongoing discussions
- ❖ *Studies on Homosexuality and the Church* 1995 – updated 2001
<http://elcic.ca/Study-On-Sexuality-And-The-Church/default.cfm> – thorough investigation including general study guide available on the web.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH in AMERICA

- ❖ *Journey Together Faithfully: Parts One (2002) & Two (2003) & Three (2007)*
<http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/resources/>
- ❖ Background essays for *Journey Together Faithfully: Introducing a Resource on Scientific Research; Background Essay on Biblical Texts*
- ❖ **NEW Part 3** focuses more broadly on sexuality and other areas of life through a study of Galatians.

- ❖ All of the above are very thorough pieces of work, available on the internet and in hard copy.

OTHER RESOURCES:

DIOCESAN PROCESSES

Diocese of Ottawa – an outline of the ongoing discussions including links to study resources and a bibliography. <http://ottawa.anglican.ca/samesex.shtml#materials>

Diocese of New Westminster has information on the extensive process it has engaged in over since 1997 in dialogue on the issue of the blessing of same-sex unions. The website: <http://www.samesexblessing.info/> includes synodical decisions, the process of decision making, and a process for parish twinning for dialogue.

- The following papers prepared for the Faith and Doctrine Commission by the Rev. Dr. William Crockett, Dr. Edith Humphrey and Canon Eric Beresford are available from the Diocese of New Westminster (www.vancouver.anglican.ca) or Canon Linda Nicholls:
 - The Interpretation of Scripture and Human Sexuality*
 - What is disordered sexuality?*
 - Homosexuality in Scripture, Tradition and Contemporary Theology*
 - What Would It Mean for the Church to Bless Same-Sex Unions?*
- Stories of Lesbian and Gay Christians – 13 personal stories - available from the Diocese of New Westminster

Diocese of Algoma has produced a Study On the Blessing of Same-Sex Unions.

The study package consists of a video tape and a parish study book.

The video tape is a 5-part debate on the blessing of same-sex unions, and the study book is divided into the same 5 categories as the debate, with additional reading and discussion questions for each part. It can be done in one day or as a five-week discussion series.

It is available through the Diocese of Algoma by contacting Heather Manuel at programyouthalgoma@yahoo.ca or the phone number (705) 641-8787.

ANGLICAN BOOK CENTRE

- ❖ Extensive resources – books, study materials, videos – can be ordered and shipped readily:
 - See website: Sexuality section... www.anglicanbookcentre.com.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ❖ Anglican Diocese of Toronto has a bibliography including voices from a variety of perspectives at:
 - <http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/index.asp?navid=367>

- ❖ Additional Bibliography **UPDATED:**

WEBSITES

Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality

http://www.sexscience.org/about/index.php?category_id=419 Includes information on journal articles and extensive materials on human sexuality.

The International Encyclopedia of Sexuality

<http://www2.hu-berlin.de/sexology/IES/index.html> Sexuality information in different cultures.

Anglican Documents

Each of the following reports has been commended to the Anglican Church for study, comment and action as appropriate.

- *The Virginia Report: The Report of the Inter-Anglican Theological and Doctrinal Commission*, 1999 Morehouse Publishing, Harrisburg, PA. A study of the nature of the Anglican Communion and authority within it. Available on the web at:
<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/lambeth/reports/report1.html>.
- *The Windsor Report: The Lambeth Commission on Communion*, 2004 Morehouse Publishing, Harrisburg, PA. A report of the commission requested by the Anglican Primates to consider ways of sustaining communion in light of the deep divisions raised by decisions in the Diocese of New Westminster and the Episcopal Church of the USA. Available on the web at:
<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/windsor2004/downloads/index.cfm>.
- *The St. Michael Report: The Primate's Theological Commission (Anglican Church of Canada)*, 2005 Anglican Book Centre. A report on the question of whether or not the issue of blessing same-sex unions is a matter of doctrine. Available on the web at:
<http://www.anglican.ca/resources/index.htm>.

RELATED TERMINOLOGY

Bisexual (COD¹): adjective. **1.** sexually attracted to persons of both sexes. **2.** Biological. Having characteristics of both sexes. **3** of or concerning both sexes. Noun. a bisexual person.

Blessings: (From *Book of Occasional Celebrations* – Anglican Church of Canada, 1992, pgs. 119-120)

We bless people not to increase their spiritual dignity but to give thanks for the role they have been called to play within the reign of God and thus to release them to play their part.....For centuries the church has blessed people, places, and things apart from celebrations of the eucharist, and this is appropriate as long as the eucharistic context of the Church's whole life is remembered. ... Every prayer of blessing is thanksgiving for creation and redemption, offered in petition for the fulfilment of the divine purpose in God's people and in all the world. Like the eucharist itself, prayers of blessing are the return of refracted light to its source. Blessings are always extensions and applications of the church's central prayer.

Celibate (COD) **1.** committed to abstention from sexual relations and from marriage, esp. for religious reasons. **2.** abstaining from sexual relations.

Members of religious orders make vows of celibacy as part of their commitment to Christian community life, seeing it as part of their vocational calling. Other people may live in celibacy as a social requirement prior to marriage but do not see it as a permanent vocation. The Church expects those who are not married to be celibate.

Civil Union: the commitment of two same-sex persons to one another as recognized by local legal standards. A couple can be joined in a legally recognized civil union in several provinces of Canada at the present time.

Gay: (COD) adjective. **1a** homosexual; **b** of or pertaining to homosexuals. The use of *gay* to mean 'homosexual' is favoured by homosexuals, and is now well established and in widespread general use. In many instances it is restricted in application to male homosexuals and contrasted with *lesbian* when discussing homosexuals as a group.

Homosexuality: (COD): **1.** a feeling of or involving sexual attraction to persons of the same sex. **2** concerning homosexual relations or people **3** relating to the same sex. Noun. a homosexual person

Lesbian: (COD): Noun: a woman who is sexually attracted to other women. Adjective Of or pertaining to lesbians.

Lesbigay: a frequently heard contraction of lesbian-bisexual-gay to indicate all three kinds of sexual attraction.

¹ Items noted (COD): From The Oxford Canadian Dictionary. Copyright 1998, 2004 Oxford University Press

Marriage: Three definitions of Marriage:

Dictionary:(COD) noun. **1.** the legal or religious union of a man and a woman in order to live together and often to have children. **2.** an act or ceremony establishing this union.

Bill C-38: Gov't of Canada (passed 2005): "Marriage for civil purposes, is the lawful union of two persons to the exclusion of all others."

Anglican Church of Canada: General Synod Canon XXI: The Anglican Church of Canada affirms,....., that marriage is a lifelong union in faithful love, and that marriage vows are a commitment to this union, for better or for worse, to the exclusion of all others on either side. This union is established by God's grace when two duly qualified persons enter into a covenant of marriage in which they declare their intention of fulfilling its purposes and exchange vows to be faithful to one another until they are separated by death. The purposes of marriage are mutual fellowship, support, and comfort, and the procreation (if it may be) and nurture of children, and the creation of a relationship in which sexuality may serve personal fulfilment in a community of faithful love. This covenant is made in the sight of God and in the presence of witnesses and of an authorized minister.

Pedophilia (COD) noun. sexual desire directed towards children.

Pedophiles can be either heterosexual or homosexual.

Same-sex Blessings: There is no official definition of a same-sex union being blessed by the Church.

From the St. Michael Report (Primate's Theological Commission, Anglican Church of Canada, May 2005):

The Commission understands the term 'committed same-sex unions' to mean committed, adult, monogamous, intended lifelong, same-sex relationships which include sexual intimacy.

The following are found in rites for blessing such a union as practiced in Dioceses that have already granted permission:

I) From: Diocese of New Westminster:

GUIDELINES FOR ADMISSION

In order to request this Rite of Blessing each member of the couple must:

- a) be free to enter into such a covenant. That is, they must not be in an existing covenantal relationship, including marriage.
- b) enter the rite with an understanding that the relationship is to be exclusive of any other partners and have the expectation of permanence.
- c) satisfy the requirements of any previous relationship. This involves appropriate support of dependants from any previous relationship and the appropriate dissolution and meeting of obligations that arise from the same.

II) From: Guidelines & Rite for Blessing, Diocese of Washington, ECUSA:

"Our intent is to provide faithful same sex couples and families in our congregations with the same affirmation and blessing we offer to opposite sex

couples and their families. We hope this rite will strengthen the faithful, uphold the couples who come to us seeking God's blessing, promote the stability of couples and families, and confirm in us the traditional values of fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, open communication and steadfast love. This rite is a covenant marked by sacred trust and commitment, witnessed and blessed in the presence of God by the community of the faithful."

From the rite: "Each one of us is called to live out the Covenant of Baptism in our daily life and work. For some this includes a special relationship of fidelity and mutuality with another person that becomes a sign of God's steadfast love."

III) From: Diocese of Vermont Intention Form for Same Sex Union

"We believe that the union of two partners is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the encouragement and support given one another in daily life and changing circumstances, for the deepening of faith as they experience God's love in their love for one another, and (if it may be) the physical and spiritual nurture of children. Such relationships are nurtured and characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help hereto."

Sexual Orientation: (COD) noun. the fact of being attracted to people of the opposite sex, of one's own sex, or both sexes.

There is ongoing discussion among professionals as to the origins of the sexual orientation of an individual. Some evidence points to biological/genetic factors; other studies show the influence of social factors. Current discussions outline a complex web of contributing factors that determine our primary sexual orientation along a continuum.

Church Terms:

Archbishop of Canterbury: The head of the Church of England, appointed by the crown. Symbolic head of the Anglican Communion but with no legal jurisdiction in any Anglican-related Church outside of England. He is however considered *primus inter pares* – 'first among equals' among the primates and bishops of the Anglican Communion.

Anglican Communion: 38 provinces of churches with historic links to the Church of England and adherence to the Lambeth Quadrilateral.

Anglican Consultative Council: The ACC membership includes from one to three persons from each province, including bishops, clergy and/or laity. Both the USA and Canada have three members each. Each province pays toward the inter-Anglican budget for the ongoing work set forth by the ACC and the other instruments of unity as required.

Purpose:

- ❖ To share information about developments in the provinces and to serve as an instrument of common action, often by resolutions or initiating programs.

- ❖ To advise on inter-Anglican relationships and formations of new provinces.
- ❖ To share resources of all kinds and support for the mission of the global church.
- ❖ To engage in important ecumenical dialogues and interfaith work on an international level.

Authorized Rites – The diocesan bishop authorizes which rites of liturgy may be used within his/her diocese

Canon:

1. Title used by a clergy or lay person appointed as an honorary official of the cathedral of a diocese.
2. The canon of Scripture is the list of books to be included in the Bible, agreed upon by historic councils of the Christian Church.
3. Canon – a regulatory statute of the church. Canon law provides the legal framework for the life and ministry of the Church.

Exegesis: The process of careful study of a biblical passage in relation to its historical setting; its setting in the overall collection that makes up the scriptures, specific questions of language and literary form, and how it has been understood by past interpreters, in order to provide a foundation for hearing what the passage may have to say to us today.

General Synod: A triennial gathering of:

- i) All bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada
- ii) Elected clergy and laity from every diocese

Governs the work of the national Anglican Church of Canada – which consists of 30 dioceses organized in 4 ecclesiastical provinces.

Instruments of Unity (or: ‘of Communion’) The Virginia Report (1999) identified and suggested the following as the world wide vehicles for maintaining communion. They are: The Lambeth Conference (meets every 10 years, for bishops); the Primates’ Meeting (regular meetings for the senior archbishops and bishops of the 38 Provinces); the Anglican Consultative Council (meeting every 3 years or so, includes laity, bishops, priests, deacons); and the Archbishop of Canterbury in his international role as ‘primus inter pares’ (first among equals).

Lambeth Conference: A gathering, every 10 years, of bishops from across the Anglican Communion at Lambeth, England, called together at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is a conference with no binding legal authority over national churches, but with the moral authority of the Anglican desire for unity.

Lambeth Quadrilateral: It defines four things as essential for the Anglican Church. They are: the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the ecumenical creeds (Apostles’ & Nicene), the divinely ordained Sacraments (Baptism & Eucharist), and the historic episcopate. It is important to understand that these four pillars were originally conceived within the Anglican Communion as a framework to define membership. They arose in the late 19th century in response to the growth of the church throughout the world and the requests by autonomous churches in foreign parts for recognition as

Anglican churches. They remain the only defining criteria for membership in the Communion.

Local Option: The possibility for local segments of the church (parish, deanery diocese) to choose a course of action not chosen by other segments. For example: dioceses in Africa were granted leeway to allow the practice of polygamy to coexist with the preferred teaching on monogamy while the culture was adapting to monogamous marriage; Some provinces of the Anglican Communion permit the ordination of women as priests and bishops while others do not.

Parliament of Canada – Bill C38 - Civil definition of marriage

Primate of Canada: The diocesan bishop elected by General Synod to serve as the head of the Anglican Church of Canada and General Synod.

Primates' Meeting regular meetings for the senior archbishops and bishops of the 38 Provinces called approximately every 3 years by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

St. Michael Report: The report of the Primate's Theological Commission (May 2005) on whether or not the issue of blessing same-sex unions is a matter of doctrine. The report is commended to the church for study.

Synod: A gathering of bishops, clergy and laity for decisions concerning the life of a diocese, province or national Church. Governed by ecclesiastical laws (canons); chaired by the chief bishop (Diocesan, Metropolitan or Primate).

Virginia Report of the Inter Anglican Doctrinal Commission (1994-1998). A report summarizing the work of the commission as it reflected on the nature of communion and how Anglicans might live together in the highest degree of communion possible while different views and practices concerning the ordination of women continued to be held within the Communion.

Windsor Report: The final report produced by the Lambeth Commission on Communion. The Commission was mandated by the Archbishop of Canterbury to review the actions in the Episcopal Church of the USA and the Diocese of New Westminster and report specifically on the canonical understandings of communion, impaired and broken communion, and the ways in which provinces of the Anglican Communion may relate to one another in situations where the ecclesiastical authorities of one province feel unable to maintain the fullness of communion with another part of the Anglican Communion. To include practical recommendations on maintaining the highest level of communion together. The Commission included bishops and laity from across the provinces of the Anglican Communion.