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It is heartening to read the statement from the 5th Consultation of Anglican Bishops in Dialogue from Coventry England, May 2014 *A Testimony of Our Journey Towards Reconciliation*. These meetings between bishops from Africa and North America, continuing conversations begun at the 2008 Lambeth Conference, are encouraging signs of hope.

I found the location of this fifth meeting in Coventry Cathedral--with its rich heritage and leadership in the ministry of reconciliation--and the participation of the current Archbishop of Canterbury, inspiring. The creative melding together of themes from St. Paul's two letters to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 13: 12; 2 Corinthians 5: 18-20) was particularly fascinating linking together an existential agnosticism ('...now we see in a mirror dimly...now I know only in part...') with a clarion call to reconciliation ('..Christ...has given us the ministry of reconciliation...'). Holding together the sense of not knowing with the eschatological call to reconciliation articulates an important acknowledgement of the deep need to listen, understand and work tirelessly toward the reconciliation to which we are called.

There are numerous phrases in the bishops' testimony that offer hope to a communion deeply affected by differences in theological and ethical views: it was encouraging to read, "It is in this middle ground between what was and what will be that all Christian people stand, but it is *the particular vocation of Anglicans to stand in the middle, to be the incarnate people of reconciliation.*" The great *via media*, the comprehensiveness characteristic of classical Anglicanism has, sadly, been overshadowed, in recent years by an Internet-fueled conflict between competing theologies. In that light, the statement affirms the love experienced in the community of bishops gathered, the '*movement of the Spirit in our midst filling us with courage that the hand of God will lead us, break apart the barriers around us and reveal bridges God has already laid across the chasms of broken relationships. In our diversity, cultural, racial, geographic and indeed theological, we are convinced that what binds us together is greater and stronger than what divides.*' Amen!

The centrality of prayer and worship at Coventry within the architectural witness of that holy place shines through the Bishops' statement and it was particularly moving to read of the intercessions of the bishops: "*During our time together, we upheld and prayed for South Sudan,*" The Very Rev. Peter Elliott reflection on "A Testimony of Our Journey Toward Reconciliation." June 2014

Kenya, Nigeria, Syria, and other areas of the world experiencing conflict.” Grounded in prayer, focused on reconciliation, inspired by the leadership of the Archbishop and in the context of a Cathedral community who have experienced the destruction of conflict, the Bishops clearly grew closer together as a community. Sadly lacking however, in my perspective, was any reference, in the closing statement, to issues of human sexuality, particularly the divisive issue of inclusion of the LGBT community in the life of the communion. While I am aware that the conversation seeks to explore wider contextual issues of culture and theology, I am particularly concerned for gay people in countries where homosexual identity or activity is illegal with punishment ranging from imprisonment to the death penalty. I hope that these consultations continue, that the ground work that is being so carefully laid will, in the future, enable the bishops to address more openly the many areas in the world where oppression and violence continue to touch and affect people, including, but not limited to, the experience of those Anglicans and others in every part of the Communion who identify as part of the LGBT community.