

# The Diocese of Virginia

## R-22a A Diocesan Response to the Windsor Report

*As adopted by the 210th Annual Council*

**Whereas,** We in the Diocese of Virginia are members of the Anglican Communion, are united in Christ and are called to live out our witness in our workplaces, churches and communities; and

**Whereas,** We desire to serve as a model of civility to the Anglican Communion for resolution of the present divisions by working together and honoring conscience through a process that is respectful and peaceful; and

**Whereas,** We respect the Windsor Report of the Lambeth Commission on Communion, which has recommended to the Episcopal Church concrete ways to strengthen the Anglican Communion; and

**Whereas,** The 210th Annual Council recognizes that the Windsor Report admonishes the Episcopal Church for failing, in its recent actions regarding the approval of the election of the Bishop of New Hampshire and the adoption of Resolution C051 pertaining to the blessing of same gender unions, to give adequate consideration to the impact that these decisions had on bonds of affection with other parts of the Anglican Communion; and

**Whereas,** The 210th Annual Council recognizes that the Windsor Report admonishes those bishops throughout the Anglican Communion who have intervened in dioceses and provinces other than their own; and

**Whereas,** The Lambeth Conference of 1998 commends us to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptized, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ; and

**Whereas,** Bishop Lee has served as a model of civility and generosity and has called us to embrace the concept of mutual submission, which – according to the New Testament – means that we voluntarily refrain from actions that hurt our brothers and sisters or create stumbling blocks for others in the life of faith; now therefore be it

**Resolved,** that the 210th Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia expresses regret for this diocese 's share of responsibility for actions of the 74th General Convention that breached the proper constraints of our bonds of affection with other parts of the Anglican Communion; and be it further

**Resolved,** That the 210th Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia formally requests that the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church effect a moratorium on the election of and consent to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate who is living in same-gender union, until some new consensus in the Anglican Communion emerges; and be it further

**Resolved,** That all Anglicans have a moral responsibility to acknowledge and respond with compassion and understanding to the pain and suffering of those who, because of their sexual orientation, endure marginalization and rejection in the church and in the world; and be it further

**Resolved,** That the 210th Annual Council calls upon the member churches of the Anglican Communion to maintain faith with the traditions and polity of the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church while the implications of an Anglican Covenant are being studied; and be it further

**Resolved,** That the congregations and regions of the Diocese of Virginia be urged to use the Report of the Diocese of Virginia 's Commission on Reconciliation as a vehicle to further theological conversation; and be it further

**Resolved,** That this resolution represents the desire of the Diocese of Virginia to remain together and a part of the Anglican Communion.

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