

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Title: **ANGLICAN COMMUNION COVENANT DIOCESAN SYNOD
MOTION – WITHDRAWAL**

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I. INTRODUCTION

A motion on the Anglican Communion Covenant was passed down to Dioceses by General Synod under Article 8, and debated at the Chelmsford Diocesan Synod on 3 March 2012.

The Article 8 motion was defeated, but a ‘following motion’ put forward by a member of the Chelmsford Diocesan Synod was passed. A handful of other dioceses passed similar or identical motions. The text of our motion is as follows:

‘This Diocesan Synod requests the General Synod to debate the following motion:

“That this Synod:

(a) rejoice in the fellowship of the world-wide Anglican Communion, which is rooted in our shared worship and held together by bonds of affection and our common appeal to Scripture, tradition and reason;

(b) thank the Archbishop of Canterbury for his tireless efforts throughout the Communion to sustain and strengthen unity in difficult times; and

(c) call on the House of Bishops:

i. to find ways to maintain and reinforce strong links across the world-wide Anglican Communion and to deepen the Church of England’s involvement with the existing Communion ministries and networks (especially the continuing Indaba process);

ii. to publicise and promote this work within the dioceses of the Church of England in order to broaden understanding of, and enthusiasm for, the Anglican Communion; and

iii. to encourage a wide understanding of, and support for, the next Lambeth Conference.” ’

Such motions are passed onto the General Synod for debate, and whereas Private Member Motions lapse at the end of each triennium, diocesan motions remain on the future business list until either debated or withdrawn. To date this motion has not got onto an agenda of the General Synod but it is first on the list of following motions on the Anglican Communion Covenant.

Members may recall that the Covenant motion failed to receive support in a majority of dioceses.

Following consideration by the Standing Committee and the Bishop's Council, it is proposed that this motion now be withdrawn on the basis that the following motion is now out of date (for example the references to 'the Archbishop' refer to the previous Archbishop). Withdrawal requires a further motion to be passed by this Synod.

2. PROPOSED MOTION

The proposed motion to request the withdrawal is as follows:

That this Synod:

'Note and commend the work of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Anglican Communion since his appointment, note that the following motion passed by this Diocesan Synod on 3 March 2012 is now out of date, and therefore rescind the said following motion and withdraw the request for it to be debated by the General Synod.'

'This Diocesan Synod requests the General Synod to debate the following motion:

"That this Synod:

- (a) rejoice in the fellowship of the world-wide Anglican Communion, which is rooted in our shared worship and held together by bonds of affection and our common appeal to Scripture, tradition and reason;
- (b) thank the Archbishop of Canterbury for his tireless efforts throughout the Communion to sustain and strengthen unity in difficult times; and
- (c) call on the House of Bishops:
 - i. to find ways to maintain and reinforce strong links across the world-wide Anglican Communion and to deepen the Church of England's involvement with the existing Communion ministries and networks (especially the continuing Indaba process);
 - ii. to publicise and promote this work within the dioceses of the Church of England in order to broaden understanding of, and enthusiasm for, the Anglican Communion; and
 - iii. to encourage a wide understanding of, and support for, the next Lambeth Conference." '