

**1 July**

**The Anglican Communion Covenant – Extracts**

*The International Covenant to be discussed at Regional Conferences is available on the Waiapu website. Here is a summary made up of key extracts from the 9 page document*

**Each Church affirms:** 1) its communion in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2) the catholic and apostolic faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds

3) the Holy Scriptures as containing all things necessary for salvation and as being the rule and ultimate standard of faith.

4) the Apostles' Creed, as the baptismal symbol; and the Nicene Creed.

5) the two sacraments ordained by Christ himself – Baptism and the Supper of the Lord

6) the historic episcopate

7) the shared patterns of our common prayer and liturgy

8) its participation in the apostolic mission of the whole people of God

**Each Church affirms:**

1) communion as a gift of God

2) our ongoing refashioning by the Holy Spirit through the gifts and sacrificial witness of Anglicans from around the world; and our summons into a more fully developed communion life.

3) in humility our call to constant repentance

4) As the Communion continues to develop into a worldwide family of interdependent churches, we embrace challenges and opportunities for mission at local, regional, and international levels.

**Each Church affirms:**

1) that by our participation in Baptism and Eucharist, we are incorporated into the one body of the Church of Jesus Christ

2) its resolve to live in a Communion of Churches. Each Church, with its bishops in synod, orders and regulates its own affairs and its local responsibility for mission. Churches of the Anglican Communion are bound together “not by a central legislative and executive authority, but by mutual loyalty sustained through the common counsel of the bishops in conference.”

3) the central role of bishops as guardians and teachers of faith, representing the universal Church to the local, and the local Church to the universal and the local Churches to one another.

4) We acknowledge four particular Instruments at the level of the Anglican Communion which express this co-operative service in the life of communion:

- The Archbishop of Canterbury
- The Lambeth Conference
- The Anglican Consultative Council is comprised of lay, clerical and episcopal representatives from our Churches. It facilitates the co-operative work of the Churches of the Anglican Communion
- The Primates’ Meeting is convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury for mutual support, prayer and counsel.

Acknowledging our interdependent life, each Church, reliant on the Holy Spirit, commits itself:

1) to have regard for the common good of the Communion in the exercise of its autonomy, to support the work of the Instruments of Communion with the spiritual and material resources available to it, and to receive their work with a readiness to undertake reflection upon their counsels, and to endeavour to accommodate their recommendations.

2) to respect the constitutional autonomy of all of the Churches of the Anglican Communion, while upholding our mutual responsibility and interdependence in the Body of Christ, and the responsibility of each to the Communion as a whole.

3) to spend time with openness and patience in matters of theological debate and reflection, to listen, pray and study with one another in order to discern the will of God. Some issues, which are perceived as controversial or new when they arise, may well evoke a deeper understanding of the implications of God’s revelation to us; others may prove to be distractions or even obstacles to the faith. All such matters therefore need to be tested by shared discernment in the life of the Church.

4) to seek a shared mind with other Churches

5) to act with diligence, care and caution in respect of any action which may provoke controversy,.

6) in situations of conflict, to participate in mediated conversations.

7) to have in mind that our bonds of affection and the love of Christ.

Mutual commitment does not represent submission to any external ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

The Covenant does not grant to any one