

THE TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN COMMUNION



A MESSAGE TO CHURCH LEADERS WISHING TO APPROACH THE TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN COMMUNION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Traditional Anglican Communion is an international communion of Anglican provinces independent from the Canterbury Communion with dioceses and parishes in Africa, Australia, Britain, Canada, India, Ireland, Latin America, Scotland, the Torres Strait, and the United States of America.

Following from the Congress of Concerned Churchmen in St. Louis, 1977, and formally established in 1990 in Victoria, British Columbia, the Traditional Anglican Communion is a Christ-centred, Biblically-faithful Communion rooted in the traditional Anglican expression of the Christian Faith. We are bound to the Affirmation of St. Louis and the Concordat of the Traditional Anglican Communion, and the doctrine and discipline set out therein.

We continue in the historic Anglican expression of the Christian Faith as the same has been transmitted to us through the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the Creeds of the Undivided Church, and the Book of Common Prayer. We are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship, and Evangelical Witness of the historic Anglican Church, with its traditional liturgy, music and patrimony.

Our ways are ancient because the Faith is unchanging. We stand on the Rock of our faith — the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ — in the midst of the turbulent sea of an ever-changing world. We offer you this firm foundation in order that you may know Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life; and the peace of God which passes man's understanding.

The Traditional Anglican Communion is governed by the College of Bishops comprised of Bishops from each of the Member Provinces with an elected Primate.

All Bishops appointed or elected in the member Provinces are ratified by the College of Bishops of the Traditional Anglican Communion before any Consecration is able to take place. Detailed biographies and evidence of due process having been followed are submitted to the College of Bishops for ratification. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Concordat of the Traditional Anglican Communion.

Church leaders wishing to join the Traditional Anglican Communion need to be aware that there is a lengthy process to be followed before any church is welcomed into the Traditional Anglican Communion. This cannot be by-passed, and the formal process ends only when the College of Bishops has discussed an application brought to the College of Bishops by the Secretary to the College of Bishops and has granted provisional acceptance.

The processes that are in place are not in any way obstructive or exclusive, but because of the multiplication of so-called Anglican churches throughout the world, addresses the need to have certain protective measures in place to prove authenticity and Catholicity before expending time on a wider global conversation. In this regard, we are satisfied that a church leader would willingly submit to what are, in fact, ordinary requirements for good church governance.

When applying to become a member of the Traditional Anglican Communion, therefore, the following needs to take place:

1. Contact should be made with the Secretary to the College of Bishops in order to open the discussion. [*The Secretary to the College of Bishops is a serving Bishop on the College of Bishops: his details are below*] He will refer the applying church to the Traditional Anglican Communion Bishop in closest geographical proximity. The formal conversation can then begin.
2. Detailed documentation needs to be supplied to the Secretary of the College of Bishops by the applying church. The College of Bishops of the Traditional Anglican Communion requires:

- i. Proof of the registration of the church in the country concerned, if required by the laws of that land; as well as a copy of the church letterhead.
- ii. A copy of the Constitution and Canons that govern the church.
- iii. An organizational chart that gives a clear outline of the governing structures of the applying church.
- iv. Financial Statements for the past three years.
- v. A copy of the Directory of Bishops, Priests and Deacons, together with their qualifications and the names of their parishes and their geographical location.
- vi. Details of the affiliation of the applying church with any other ecclesiastical bodies. *[this is necessary in order to see what future difficulties might be experienced in terms of alliances that are already in existence and which could compromise our relationship]*
- vii. Proof of the valid Consecration of the Bishop (or Bishops) of the applying church. This is vital documentation, and would need to disclose:
 - The date and venue of Consecration
 - The names and church affiliation of those Bishops who participated in the Consecration
 - Proof that those Consecrating Bishops were men of the Apostolic Succession in churches that are Sacramental and Catholic in nature and profession.
 - Proof of theological qualification of the Bishop/s of the applying church, including a full Biography for the records of the Traditional Anglican Communion.
 - A copy of the Traditional Anglican Communion Profession of Faith signed by that Bishop, giving a clear indication of his statement of faith.

[Please be aware that the above are most essential documents, as any Bishop that has been ‘consecrated’ outside of all the requirements laid out above cannot be permitted to sit on the College of Bishops of the Traditional Anglican Communion. Likewise, those ordained by him cannot not be accepted as being in valid Holy Orders]
- viii. If there is a church publication that gives details of activities by the applying church, recent copies should be included to give some detail of church life outside of the formal paperwork.

3. Only once all the above have been received, and a dialogue has begun with both the Primate, the Secretary to the College of Bishops, and the nearest Traditional Anglican Communion Bishop that is fully minuted for our records, and once all of the ‘teething problems’ have been fully worked through, can the matter of affiliation be raised at the level of the College of Bishops of the Traditional Anglican Communion. As you can appreciate, this process may require considerable time, travel and interaction.

We are aware that in today’s world, people prefer a rapid response to issues close to their heart. The College of Bishops of the Traditional Anglican Communion are most interested in relationships with other Christian bodies that will last, perhaps even for centuries, and so we are prepared to “err on the side of caution”, especially in matters relating to the fundamentals of faith, doctrine, and order. One could almost compare this process to the ‘testing of the vocation’ of an aspirant clergyman.

We do hope that you will be blessed in the ministry to which the Lord has called you. Should it be that we labour side by side in His vineyard under the banner of the Traditional Anglican Communion sometime in the future, it will be according to His divine will and it will therefore lead to a work that is richly blessed by Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

The College of Bishops of the
Traditional Anglican Communion.

The Primate of the Traditional Anglican Communion is:

Archbishop Shane Janzen

ccsje@shaw.ca or 250-920-9990 (in Canada)

The current Secretary to the College of Bishops is:

Bishop Michael Gill – Metropolitan of the TAC Province of Africa

frmichaelgill@gmail.com or +27 11 442 1830

Further details can be obtained from www.traditionalanglicancommunion.org