

Time Line of Recent Events in the Anglican Communion

2003

- Diocese of New Westminster in the Anglican Church of Canada authorized a Rite of Blessing for same sex unions.
- General Convention consented to the consecration of Gene Robinson, a gay man living in a committed relationship, as Bishop of New Hampshire.
- Some parishes have removed themselves from the Episcopal Church and have joined “continuing Anglican churches” or placed themselves under the oversight of a bishop of a different province
- International reaction included several primates announcing that they would no longer be in communion with TEC.
- In October of 2003, the ABC appointed the Lambeth Commission to “find a way forward.”

2004

- In October, the Commission published “The Windsor Report” which recommended: (1) that the Episcopal Church apologize for having broken the “bonds of affection” with the Anglican Communion, (2) a moratorium on ordinations to the episcopate of anyone living in a same sex union, (3) that the Episcopal Church explain how it came to consider that an openly gay person was eligible to be a Bishop (4) a moratorium on Public Rites of Blessings of same sex unions and that Bishops who had authorized such rites apologize for having done so and (5) asked Bishops who have intervened in other provinces, dioceses and parishes to express regret for their actions and affirm their desire to remain in the communion..

2005

- In February, the Primates met in Dromantine, Ireland and asked that TEC and the Anglican Church of Canada voluntarily withdraw their delegates to the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) until Lambeth, 2008. Both churches agreed to withdraw.
- In March, the House of Bishops met and determined that General Convention (GC) was the only body that could officially respond to the Windsor Report. The bishops agreed to a moratorium of all ordinations of bishops (both gay and straight), a moratorium on the creation of public rites of blessings of same sex unions and they apologized for the effect that GC 2003’s actions had had on the communion.
- In June, both TEC and the Canadian churches sent their delegates to the ACC meeting as observers. Both provinces were voted out of the ACC until Lambeth 2008. During the meeting, a presentation was made by a team from TEC that complied with the request of the Windsor report to “explain how TEC considers an openly gay person eligible to be a bishop.”

2006

- In April, the Special Commission on the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion (formed in response to the Windsor Report and subsequent meetings) distributed its report.