

A Partnership Agreement for the Dioceses of El Camino Real, Gloucester and Western Tanganyika

1. We are three dioceses of the Anglican Communion ministering in three very different contexts - El Camino Real in the United States of America, Gloucester in England, Western Tanganyika in Tanzania. We recognise that, in all sorts of ways, our approach to theology, church order and pastoral care differ widely. There are some aspects of one another's approach we find it difficult to understand.
2. We all believe that the Anglican Communion is a gift of God to be cherished and that our communion one with another ought to transcend and transform our differences and lead us all into a deeper sense of mutual affection and a more profound experience of truth.
3. We therefore respond to the urging of the Lambeth Reflections Document to create new partnerships across the Communion and commit ourselves to a three-way partnership of equals, a companion relationship, for our three dioceses. We receive this opportunity of a partnership as one which may build us up, despite the great diversity represented in our three dioceses. We enter this agreement desiring that Jesus Christ may be glorified.
4. The purposes of our partnership are
 - to share with one another the good news of Jesus Christ as we have received it;
 - to deepen and broaden our understanding of what it means to belong to one another in a world-wide Communion;
 - to learn more about one another and the context of our mission;
 - to pray for one another and for our Communion;
 - to find ways together of promoting the Millennium Development Goals;
 - to explore together the issues that threaten the future of our Communion.
5. We resolve to enter this partnership initially for a period of five years from the First Sunday of Advent 2008, reviewing the partnership during the third year, with a hope and expectation that we shall then want to make it a more permanent part of our life and mission. During those five years we pledge ourselves to remain faithful to the partnership whatever events in our Communion might seem to further threaten our unity.
6. We envisage the development of this partnership through
 - initial visits by the bishops to their partner dioceses;
 - visits by others both to learn about each other's life and mission and to address in a humble spirit the issues that divide the Communion;
 - commitment to prayer for one another and a developed cycle of intercession and thanksgiving;
 - exploration of a Rule of Life to which members of our dioceses might wish to commit themselves;
 - on-going communication and sharing through websites and emails;
 - a relationship among the three cathedrals;

- some specific mission or development projects emerging from our visits and conversations, authorised in each case by the appropriate diocesan body.
- 7. Behind these specifics lies the fundamental calling to deepen the bonds of affection that strengthens communion.
- 8. We undertake to appoint a small group of people in each diocese to encourage and monitor our partnership and, within it, a particular person, with regular access to the bishop, to take the lead for each diocese.
- 9. We pray that God will bless this partnership, will help us to experience through it the grace and peace of Jesus Christ, and will use it to make us more effective in our sharing of the good news.

+Gerard
Bishop of Western Tanganyika
+Mary
Bishop of Camino Real
+Michael
Bishop of Gloucester