

Position of the Anglican Church of Canada regarding the moratoria on the selection of Bishops in same-gender unions, rites of blessings for same-sex unions and cross-border interventions.

The Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, continues to call for **gracious restraint on all three moratoria**. The majority of Canadian Anglican Bishops agree the moratoria are necessary, while recognizing the conscientious difficulties this poses for some. Members of the House of Bishops have committed themselves to talking together and holding each other in prayer. Affirmation of the moratoria will be reviewed at General Synod 2010. In dioceses where resolutions have been passed requesting the authorizing of rites for blessing same-sex unions, or for the lifting of the relevant moratorium, Bishops have shown gracious restraint. They have called for continuing discernment through the drafting and testing of such rites in a limited manner and have advised the House of Bishops accordingly. Resources for reflection and discussion continue to be developed and used throughout the church nationally. While the Anglican Church of Canada struggles to honour the call for gracious restraint in blessing same-sex unions, those who are the proponents of cross-border interventions have and continue to show no restraint. The Primate has endeavored to address this situation since the Lambeth Conference (August 2008) yet regrettably, conversation with the pertinent parties has not been possible. This is disappointing and frustrating, particularly in pastoral response to Bishops and dioceses most adversely affected by these cross-border interventions. The call by the Windsor Continuation Report for the Archbishop of Canterbury to initiate professionally mediated conversations in conflicted situations is encouraging. The Anglican Church of Canada supports this call and has assured the Archbishop of Canterbury of participation in this initiative of “honest exchange and mutual challenge” for the sake of the unity of the Church.

28 May 2009