



# The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Geoffrey Woodcroft  
Bishop of Rupert's Land

*We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1, 2 and 3 Land, the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Dakota, Sioux and Oji-Cree people and the homeland of the Metis Nation. We are grateful for their stewardship of this land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work and service God the Creator here.*

March 4, 2021

The Most Reverend Justin Welby  
Archbishop of Canterbury  
Lambeth Palace,  
London, SE1 7JU

Your Grace,

I bid you greetings in this season of yearning and prayer.

My purpose in writing to you this day, on behalf of many Anglicans in the Diocese of Rupert's Land, is to voice our deep concern for the Anglican Communion and its participation in the lives of human beings around God's good Earth.

In recent days a statement was publically circulated by the Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria, a statement which we understand calls for violence, hatred and malice against other Anglicans, Christians and the wider human family. We understand that the words of Primate Ndukuba will be taken literally in many parts of the world, causing physical violence upon people to the point of death, and ostracizing people to the point of fractured and unhealthy communities around the world.

Although the Anglican Communion has deep divisions on some aspects of human sexuality the Lambeth Conference of 1998 did offer the following affirmations:

*Lambeth Conference 1998 - Lambeth 1:10 c & d*

- c. recognises that there are among us persons who experience themselves as having a homosexual orientation. Many of these are members of the Church and are seeking the pastoral care, moral direction of the Church, and God's transforming power for the living of their lives and the ordering of relationships. We commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and we wish to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ;*
- d. while rejecting homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture, calls on all our people to minister pastorally and sensitively to all irrespective of sexual orientation and to condemn irrational fear of homosexuals, violence within marriage and any trivialisation and commercialisation of sex;*

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The Archbishop's letter states among other things:

*"A Gay is a Gay, they cannot be rightly described otherwise. In the same vein, we cannot describe people as 'Christian Murderer', 'Christian Adulterer' and 'Christian terrorist'; neither should we even have 'Gay Christian' or 'Gay Anglican'. "*

*"The deadly 'virus' of homosexuality has infiltrated ACNA. This is likened to a Yeast that should be urgently and radically expunged and excised lest it affects the whole dough (Luke 13:20-21; Gal. 5:9). The response of ACNA leadership so far has been palliative, weak and unwilling to discipline the erring bishops and priests and taking a clear stand to totally reject their actions and underlying motives."*

Clearly, Archbishop Ndukuba's written word to ACNA is arguably in opposition to Lambeth Resolution 1.10 (1998), but that does not provide the wherewithal for one of our member Churches in the communion to have people *urgently and radically expunged and excised*. We believe that the Archbishop's tone and words have grieved the mind and heart of Christ.

We are aware of continuing discernment regarding sexual expression in the Anglican Communion. However, we are deeply concerned that a primary recognition of the humanity of all God's people is the calling of God's love and our baptism. We may disagree about how one's sexuality may be expressed within the Body of Christ but we are called to respect the dignity of every human being.

We realize that Archbishop Ndukuba and his Province have not chosen to participate in the Anglican Communion in recent years, particularly in the Instruments of Communion. His Province is however still perceived to be part of the Anglican Communion at this time. Therefore, it is distressing that the remarks in his letter may be seen as representative of our beloved Communion, even if directed towards the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).

We ask that you consider, as Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the Anglican Communion, writing to the Primates of the Anglican Communion or offer a public comment in regard to the inappropriateness of this public denunciation of a gracious and pastoral intent originally expressed in ACNA.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. May you, and those whom you love, continue in blessing and courage.

In Christ,



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