

General Synod Report

Date : 9th February 2004 (Monday)

Source : EVNEWS

The General Synod commenced today at 3.15pm. The opening business was the welcome of new members a report on the progress of Measures and Statutory Instruments.

Report of the Business Committee. There were a lot of adverse comments regarding the volume of business on the agenda. Several agenda items are of major concern and there is a fear that they will be squeezed and that many ordinary members unable to speak in debates.

During the above debate the he Archbishop of Canterbury spoke about some of the wider issues facing the Anglican Communion. Spoke about the setting up of the commission to look at the issues arising from unilateral action by one province against the wishes of the others. In the light of this it would be inappropriate 'second guess' their work. He also referred to the action in New Hampshire and the call of the Primates that oversight be provided to those unable to accept the action in ECUSA. Dr Williams asserted his commitment to work for this and that he was in consultation regarding the setting up of the new Network in the US. The Commission will report to the Primates at the beginning of 2005 and make interim reports before then.

Just after 4pm the Synod began a final approval debate on the new Additional Collects. There was concern expressed in the debate concerning the text of one collect which at best is woolly in its wording and at worst implies salvation by works. However, there had been no formal recommittal motion at the July General Synod and therefore there was no opportunity to change the text merely vote against the whole package. Final Approval was given and the collects are authorised for use from 15 Feb 2004 until rescinded by the Synod.

Questions began at 5pm with some 85 questions tabled. A few of these questions were about the relationship with those sections of ECUSA which had agreed to the appointment of Gene Robinson. The Archbishop of Canterbury reiterated his position that Gene Robinson could not minister in the UK within the terms of the Overseas Clergy measure. However, most other questions on this were ducked.

Having got through its business quickly this afternoon at 6.30pm the Synod began a debate on Community At the outcome the Chairman gave a warning against defamation and possible legal proceedings against members if they used inappropriate language.

David Phillips

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