

St Albans DEF Statement

Date : 24 May 2004

Source : St Albans Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship

Appointment of Canon Jeffrey John

The St Alban's Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship (DEF) Committee met again on 21st May and received a report from those of its number who met privately with the Bishop. It continues to believe that the lack of appropriate consultation over the appointment of in the diocese renders it fundamentally flawed and a cause of considerable disquiet.

It values the statement by Archbishop Gomez in support of the restraint called for in the debate surrounding the appointment of Canon Jeffrey John as Dean of St Albans and note that this is especially pertinent regarding the Bishop of St Albans' endorsement of the appointment since three of the Archbishop's Dioceses in the West Indies are linked to that of St Albans.

It calls upon the Bishop to reconsider the appointment.

The text of Archbishop Gomez's letter is attached below.

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TEXT OF LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP DREXEL GOMEZ TO ARCHBISHOP ROBIN EAMES.

7 May 2004

The Most Revd Dr Robin Eames

Dear Robin,

Thank you very much for your letter to the primates, providing some update on the work of our Commission, and drawing our attention to some important guidelines on the way in which the Communion may assist the process established by the Primates at their meeting in London last October.

Whilst your letter made some important and valuable points, to which I hope we will all give attention, I felt that the call for restraint appeared to be addressed only to those who take objection to recent developments. Surely, in this grave situation, all sides need to give space for the Commission's work.

There is no small feeling amongst conservative members of the Communion that they are being asked to show restraint whilst the liberal agenda moves ahead, with bishops in ECUSA taking action against conservative parishes; the Church of Canada proceeding to debate the blessing of same sex unions; dioceses in the Episcopal Church actually going forward with the authorisation of such rites, and the appointment of known advocates of same sex unions to senior office in the Church of England. This is only likely to create a situation where the playing field is perceived as skewed - conservative reaction is held back, whilst liberal viewpoints are allowed to claim too much territory. It creates the question in many minds, "Why should we wait, if others are not showing the same restraint?" I should be grateful therefore if some way could be found of addressing this question, and pointing out to our Communion that in the period of preparation of the work of the Lambeth Commission, restraint needs to be shown on all sides, and provocation to "precipitate action" avoided.

I look forward to our next meeting and continue to pray that we may find Christ's will for his church in our deliberations.

Sincerely in our Lord,

The Most Revd Drexel W Gomez
Archbishop of the West Indies

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