

Bishops call for Canada's expulsion in gay crises

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Source : The Daily Telegraph

There were calls yesterday from the conservative Global South group of bishops yesterday (representing more than half of worldwide Anglicanism) for the Canadian Church to be removed from the Anglican Communion because the Canadian General Synod described same sex relationships as having "integrity and sanctity."

Last week it looked as though the Canadian synod had placated the conservatives when it decided to delay a vote on homosexual blessings at its meeting in St Catharines, Ontario.

This delay was also praised by Dr Williams, who said that it would help the work of the Lambeth Commission, the body he set up to try to maintain unity.

However an amendment introduced late by liberals at the synod infuriated the conservative primates representing 50 million Anglicans in the 70 million worldwide Church.

Conservative primates, including a member of Dr Williams's Lambeth Commission, said using the term "sanctity" put same-sex unions on the same level as marriage.

In a statement on behalf of 22 Global South primates, Archbishop Gregory Venables, the Primate of the Southern Cone (South America), said: "The use of the word sanctify means that the whole issue has already been decided and that is devastating.

"It's saying that God has agreed to bless same-sex unions as the word carries the implication that this isn't just right, but that this is God's will and he has set it apart for the human race.

"It's rewriting the Christian faith. There's nothing in the Bible about the sanctity of same-sex relationships. Canada's action merely confirms the sad reality of the fragmentation of the Anglican family.

"We would like to see them expelled. This is going against Christian

teaching and they should either repent or shut the door behind themselves."

Archbishop Drexel Gomez, the Primate of the West Indies and also a member of the Commission, added: "It is completely unacceptable to Bible believing orthodox Christians that same-sex unions are described as 'holy'. Such language is reserved for marriage alone.

"The attempt to give 'committed adult same-sex relationships' the same theological stature as marriage exacerbates the crisis in the Communion and will reap devastating consequences."

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