



News Release

Thursday 8 May 2003
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Evangelical gathering must uphold the Bible

Church Society has called upon the Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) to withdraw an invitation for Dr Rowan Williams to speak at a national gathering of evangelical Anglicans.

The Society publicly opposed the appointment of Dr Williams as Archbishop of Canterbury because of his rejection of the revealed nature of the Bible and his willingness to endorse immoral behaviour.

The fourth National Evangelical Anglican Congress, which is being held in the autumn, falls under the umbrella of CEEC. The decision to invite Dr Williams was not taken by the Council but the organisers came under intense pressure from some theological colleges and Bishops. Writing to members of Church Society the Rev David Phillips, General Secretary stated: "It is hard to see their action as anything other than deliberately divisive knowing the response many have taken to Dr Williams views. They have chosen to see acceptance within the denomination as more important than the upholding of the authority of God's Word and of biblical morality."

The Church of England Evangelical Council is the constitutionally representative body of evangelicals in the Church of England. Church Society has been part of it since its inception and administered its predecessor. Very few Bishops have been involved in the Council in recent years.

Mr Phillips explained: "It is increasingly evident that many who call themselves evangelical have long since ceased to uphold views that are recognisably evangelical by any meaningful or historical definition. In such a situation it is hard to see that a gathering such as NEAC would have much value. To claim the authority of God's Word written and then give a platform to anyone who repudiates it undermines the message."

For further information please contact:

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Church Society exists to uphold biblical teaching and to promote and defend the character of the Church of England as a reformed and national Church.

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