

## **Report on the Continuing Churches**

For the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Forward in Faith Assembly

Meeting in the Emmanuel Centre, Westminster, London, 19 October 2007

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In the United States we have the enormous task of building a single province for the orthodox. Solid progress has been made this past year. The continuing jurisdictions and allied bodies are networking together more strongly than ever. We are engaged in shared church planting, shared summer youth camps, Sunday School curricula, training for permanent deacons, seminaries, common standards for clergy training, discipline and marriage, reciprocity among our clergy and bishops, and gradual geographic alignment.

The Federation of Anglican Churches in the Americas has grown dramatically. The Federation started out a few years ago with the Anglican Province of America and the Reformed Episcopal Church. The Anglican Mission in America joined, then the Anglican Church in America. The Diocese of the Holy Cross followed, and then the Episcopal Missionary Church and the United Anglican Church. Of the ten major jurisdictions and groupings in the U.S., seven are in the FACA, comprising over 500 parishes. The Federation exists for our common mission in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for communication, cooperation, support and mutual accountability. The Federation's Episcopal Visitor is Archbishop Gregory Venables, and two Foundation members, APA and REC, are in a covenant of union with the Province of Nigeria. Two members of the Federation, Anglican Province of America and Diocese of the Holy Cross, have covenants of intercommunion with Forward in Faith.

The three major jurisdictions that are not in FACA are the Anglican Catholic Church, the Province of Christ the King and the United Episcopal Church. They are moving toward an informal federation which is actually quite dynamically linked through back doors with ours. I believe that this grouping and the FACA are on converging paths, and there are many who labor to make this so.

Last week the Federation became a partner in Common Cause, the emerging new province in North America. In Common Cause, as with the FACA, member bodies retain their sovereignty and are this federated together. Forward in Faith North America is a Common Cause Partner. We are about where the Continental Congress was in the 1780's, putting together the Articles of Confederation. Each of the 13 colonies retained its own sovereignty and entered voluntarily into a confederation with the others.

Many of us in the FACA believe that our relationship with Common Cause has a prophetic element to it. We can witness it in regarding the apostolic ministry as instituted by our Lord and the apostles. It *is* a Gospel issue. The ordination of women, in Common Cause circles, is about where Soviet communism was in 1983.

The one province for North America called for by the Global South primates is fast becoming a reality. Common Cause is the nucleus. FACA and Forward in Faith bishops (those who are orthodox on the ordination of women) will have the overwhelming majority vote in it. We see the hard work before us, but we also sense that we are well out of the first phase. We are grateful to Almighty God for the privilege of His call upon our lives, to secure the future of our Anglican heritage in North America. We are grateful to you for the invaluable help you have rendered thus far, and we look forward to your continued help and interest in the days to come.