

An Update from Bishop Megan at Lambeth Conference



Dear Friends,

Today and yesterday I had experiences that were very different from each other. On one hand I sat in the historic nave of Canterbury Cathedral, prayed, listened to our voices echoing among those pillars and received communion. There was a complex flow of people leaving and entering their seats, yet I could see that some bishops chose not to rise and receive communion. It was clearly on purpose and that sight hurt my heart and saddened me.

That same morning I experienced multiple friendly conversations with bishops from around the world, some in places known for their conservatism and some without that reputation. They were uniformly filled with a friendly curiosity. Sometimes I approached folks and often they approached me.

To me this reveals that the known disagreements around sexuality are still present to some degree, and that disagreements are NOT having the last word. In fact the vast majority of bishops seem to be keeping our main purpose front and center: Worship, study, relationship building.

To be clear, there is some anxiety and we are careful for the needs of our friends who may feel marginalized. TEC is very clear we will not stop including everyone. But the Spirit of God seems to be leading us to a bigger vision, where reheating an old impasse begins to feel like a distraction from the real work we have to be about here.

The Archbishop gave an excellent first keynote speech. He told us straight up that we would not be solving this old disagreement in this gathering. Instead he challenged us, in the power of Christ, to be the church that engages with the need of our fellow humans. These needs involve power and poverty, technology used for good or ill, displacement from climate change and the challenge of new crops. His list was more complete and eloquent but the call remains clear—we must be about our Father's business—rooted in scripture and worship, ready to engage and connect across differences. This is our call, for Lambeth and for the days to come.

I agree. I hope you will join me.

+ Bishop Megan