



# **DIOCESE OF PORT MORESBY**

## **ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

**Bishop: The Right Reverend Peter Ramsden**

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The Revd Canon Kenneth Kearon,  
Secretary General,  
Anglican Communion Office,  
St Andrew's House,  
16 Tavistock Crescent,  
London W11 1AP.

1<sup>st</sup> December 2011

Dear Canon Kearon,

Greetings from Papua New Guinea.

The 2011 meeting of the Provincial Council of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea unanimously approved and accepted the Anglican Covenant. On behalf of the House of Bishops, who met in Popondetta last week, I am writing to you in order to notify the Anglican Consultative Council of this decision.

Our decision is based on our understanding of the name "Anglican Communion", the name by which we are known to the world.

"Anglican" was one of the styles of Christianity brought to this land and people near the end of the nineteenth century. It never pretended to be the only form of Christianity, but it did reflect how one part of the Christian family had developed, built on the importance of scripture, creeds, sacraments and episcopal order. Today we try to combine our Anglo-Catholic theological heritage and personal discipleship to the Lord Jesus in the way we witness to the five marks of mission with our ecumenical partners in PNG and our Anglican partners overseas.

"Communion", in our understanding, describes a particular kind of close relationship which both ensures autonomy and requires responsibility. It is an expression of the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and as such is a precious gift to God's people. It clearly requires mutual respect, open communication and patience in dealing with issues that threaten it. In recent decades we have been saddened by the apparent lack of these things in the controversies concerning the ordination of women and issues of human sexuality.

We also feel it important to remember that there is a greater unity to pray for than simply within Anglicanism. Anglicans are only part of the wider Christian "communion" that is the Church of God, which must have an important role in discerning the truth. Anglicans, we believe, have been

called to live a particular style of Christian witness which, because it is less juridical and confessional than that of some others, clearly requires a high level of mutual concern and respect.

Meanwhile, Anglicans in Papua New Guinea are proud to belong to the Anglican Communion. As bishops we attended the 2008 Lambeth Conference, supported the three moratoria, endorsed the covenant process and value the efforts of the Archbishop of Canterbury to promote our unity. The Covenant might not have been proposed if some Anglican Provinces had not acted in the way they did, but recent history has produced it and we believe it deserves our support as a contribution to shaping and strengthening a future Anglican Communion, faithful to our calling to be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph 4.3).

With prayers and good wishes for the season of Advent.

Yours in Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Peter Ramsden" with a horizontal line underneath.

Rt Revd Peter Ramsden  
Bishop of Port Moresby  
on behalf of the House of Bishops of the Anglican Church of PNG.

cc Canon Joanna Udal, Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for Anglican Communion  
Affairs

Louise Ewington, General Secretary, PNG Church Partnership