

**Notes from a verbal report given by The Rt. Rev. John-David Schofield to the clergy of
The Diocese of San Joaquin on March 7, 2005**

1. Bp. Schofield met with the clergy of the diocese in a roundtable discussion. He let us know that priests from three different dioceses were joining our meeting, including one who is on the diocesan council in Los Angeles. The bishop welcomed them warmly.
2. He began the meeting with a lengthy presentation of the results of the primates meeting in Ireland. He spoke about the shift in power and authority, and of the growing awareness of the divide that already exists.
3. He informed us of the huge anger and deep sense of betrayal among the majority of primates towards the American and Canadian bishops. He stated further that many have a sense that Presiding Bishop Griswold lied to them.
4. Bp. Schofield also reported on the serious financial repercussions of General Convention 2003 across the Episcopal Church, stating that one diocese has lost over a half million dollars in income, while others, such as one in Seattle, face serious financial crises. He also spoke of the small average attendance in congregations across the United States, giving the impression of a church that is bleeding to death.
5. Bp. Schofield was pleased to have participated in a phone conference with 18 other bishops in which Archbishop Venables (Primate of Southern Cone) reported on the recent meeting in Ireland. Bishop Schofield told us that the Archbishop assured this group of bishops that the Anglican Communion is yours (i.e. the AAC's with its Network) in three years. Further, he told the bishops not to give over to those in authority, but to seek legal counsel to protect your selves. He told them to stop complaining, be positive, and to start planting churches to build up the Network.
6. Bp. Schofield told us that the primates asked the Archbishop of Canterbury to establish a Panel for References, and that he has already named the members of that panel. Bishop Duncan has already sent 70 separate grievances.
7. We were told that the African primates set their own deadline for the American and Canadian bishops to repent (Easter Day 2005). Bp. Schofield did not explain what action would follow if this deadline were not met, but he implied that it could precipitate schism. Bp. Schofield is certain that the American and Canadian bishops will not repent. He expects them not to maintain the moratorium imposed by the primates, because they continue to be arrogant and unrepentant. He hears comments about how the Episcopal Church does not need an Anglican Communion. On the contrary, he reminded us that the constitution of the Episcopal Church expressly states that we are constituent members of the Anglican Communion.
8. Bp. Schofield indicated that the separation might happen as soon as in a few months or at least by General Convention 2006. He assured us that the switching sides (understood as the Network taking the place of the Episcopal Church) would happen by next year and we would not have to wait until Lambeth 2008.
9. He expects the majority of primates, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, to

disenfranchise the Episcopal Church by acknowledging the Network as the only Anglican Church in North America. He told us that the decision needs to be made (i.e., we need to make this decision to leave behind the Episcopal Church and align ourselves with the Anglican Communion) because the split is already here.

10. Bp Schofield gave permission for us to take the name Episcopal out of church signs and replace it with the word Anglican.
11. A member of the clergy questioned our sending deputies to the General Convention in 2006, because to do so would imply that we place ourselves under the authority of the Convention and this might hurt us in future legal battles. Bp. Schofield responded by assuring us that a guild of lawyers was actively working on that question and that they are looking at the Episcopal Church constitution, diocesan constitutions, and the laws of various states, including our own (California). Bp. Schofield also stated that after our next diocesan convention (and the passing of the non-compliance canon) he can simply state that certain actions of General Convention do not line up with the Word of God and we will not have to accept them.
12. Bp. Schofield foresees many Bishops and congregations not currently associated with the Network rushing to join, because this AAC organization will be the only authorized Anglican presence in North America.
13. He also said that many of the splinter groups have indicated they will form a common cause with the AAC. This includes the Reformed Episcopal Church, Forward in Faith and the Traditional Anglican Communion. The AMiA has already told the Network that they perceive the AMiA ministry to be only transitional and are looking forward to dissolving and becoming part of Network.
14. Bp. Schofield stated that unlike several liberal bishops who have deposed orthodox clergy, he would not be "mean, like them." However, he stated that the time is coming and it is coming very soon when priests (this was said looking directly at me and another priest on the Steering Committee of Remain Episcopal) are going to have to decide whether they are with us (understood to mean teaching the "orthodox" message) or not. If not, they will have to leave and associate with another diocese, but they cannot stay in this diocese. He said that their congregations will also have to decide. Then he started a sentence that he chose not to complete that I find to be very revealing of the AAC agenda, he said, "That will begin the crumbling...."
15. We were told that "the uglier the Episcopal Church acts, the sooner the day of the split will hasten."

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