



ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF TASMANIA

THE RIGHT REVEREND
DR RICHARD CONDIE
BISHOP OF TASMANIA

26 June 2017

To the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I have been invited to participate in the consecration of Canon Andy Lines as a missionary bishop to faithful Anglicans in the UK and Europe. His consecration, by the GAFCON Primates and other bishops, will take place while I am in Chicago attending the Anglican Relief and Development Fund global council meeting at the end of this month. This consecration is in direct response to the Episcopal Church of Scotland's decision to change their canon on marriage to include same sex unions. This decision is a departure from the scriptures, the teaching of the church, and the consensus of the majority of Anglicans in the communion. It leaves faithful Anglicans in Scotland in a vulnerable position, and has brought schism to the global Anglican fellowship.

The consecration is an emergency measure to protect the precious gospel of Jesus Christ, his authoritative word in the scriptures, and faithful Anglicans who have been marginalised by this schismatic behaviour. The new Bishop will provide oversight for those ministers and congregations who remain true Anglicans. So-called "cross-border interventions" by bishops into other dioceses are to be shunned in normal circumstances. However, when the gospel is at risk, these kinds of unusual measures are needed.

Some may ask why an Australian bishop would get involved in something so far away, that may be characterised as "someone else's fight". However, the Anglican communion is a global fellowship, and we need to stand in solidarity with faithful Anglicans across the globe. This is especially important for those who are marginalised because of the doctrinal unfaithfulness

of their bishops. I believe we should all be committed to support them, and recognise our deep fellowship with them.

The Primate has counselled me against participation on the grounds that it may impair my fellowship with you. This potential consequence grieves me, and has made me wrestle hard with the decision about whether to participate. While I acknowledge that some of you will think my participation is an error and will disagree with me, I ask that you judge me by my intentions, which are to stand in solidarity with those who will act to protect the gospel of Christ. I do not wish to cause our relationships any harm, but only to act in accordance with my conscience.

My senior team here in Tasmania, a number of my episcopal colleagues, and many members of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans in Australia, have urged me to take part. My Diocesan Council have offered their unanimous support for my involvement in the consecration.

In light of this, I have decided to accept the invitation of Archbishop Foley Beach to participate in the consecration. I ask for your forgiveness for any unintended hurt caused to our collegial relationships.

In Christ



The Right Reverend Dr Richard Condie
Bishop of Tasmania