



13 June 2018

By email attachment only

Your Grace

Greetings from the Anglican Communion Office in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am persuaded to write to you all, as members of the Primates' Meeting and therefore and one of the four instruments that make up the smooth running of our Communion of Churches, about this month's letter from the Chairman of GAFCON.

In paragraph four of that letter Archbishop Okoh, talking about the forthcoming GAFCON Conference, refers to: *the launch of nine key networks: Theological Education, Church Planting, Global Mission Partnerships, Bishops Training, Youth and Children's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Sustainable Development together with an Intercessors Fellowship and a Lawyers Task Force.*

This appears to be a call to GAFCON members to endorse a parallel administrative organisation to the existing one within our Anglican Communion. The office that I lead is active across all of these areas with dedicated and highly experienced Directors leading work in partnership with individual Provinces and with regional groups.

We should all welcome additional energy and resources devoted to key areas of ministry. However, we must protect against both duplication and the setting up of rival bodies for influence, activity and impact. This route would be one of division and confusion and it should be questioned and avoided.

Any structures that GAFCON might seek to establish that involve geographic representation on the model of the Anglican Consultative Council would be a further dangerous step.

I am therefore calling for your prayers and counsel in relation to GAFCON. Whilst it is a group that claims to champion "renewal", it appears to be setting up what clearly looks like a rival structure that is clearly not in conformity with our understanding of what it means to be Anglican.

I call for your prayers and wise counsel on how to avoid the potential for schism within our Anglican Communion.

Blessings

The Most Revd Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon
Secretary General of the Anglican Communion