

The Reformed Episcopal Church
53^rd General Council
June 8-10, 2011

Unity Committee Report

After 13 years of discussion and effort between representatives of the Reformed Episcopal Church and the Anglican Province of America, we are now prepared to bring a resolution to the matter of Unity to this Council.

At the 52nd General Council, we reported that “we initiated our discussions with the recognition that true unity must be based on a common doctrinal foundation and not something which is artificially contrived. To that end, a Joint Theological Committee (See REC web site for a copy) from both jurisdictions produced a document which identified the Articles of Religion, the Creeds and Ecumenical Councils, and the Book of Common Prayer as the doctrinal standard and detailed those doctrines which both bodies hold in common. This approach enabled us to achieve a substantial measure of unity which includes: mutual recognition of ministry and orders; a full inter-communion between our two jurisdictions; a mutual sharing in common mission in the areas of the Board of Pensions and Relief and the Board of Foreign Missions. The relationship between the Bishops of the Anglican Province of America and the Reformed Episcopal Church remains warm and meaningful. In almost all ways except for jurisdictional union, we have achieved a sense of unity. Truly, we can report that we have been blessed in many ways by the involvement of our two churches together, and we are sure that those involvements will continue.

That said, there are some matters of difference that do affect the ability of our two jurisdictions to completely merge together at this point in time. We still do find that some matters of devotion and church practice are still at variance. These could still be talked about and worked on, but the practical reality is that we find ourselves unable to resolve these matters at the present time. Secondly, our membership as a self-governing sub-jurisdiction of the Anglican Church in North America presents a new and substantial difference of approach to the finalization of organic union. That approach requires that the union of jurisdictions should occur on the level of the Anglican Church in North America. At the present time, this is a step which the Anglican Province of America finds itself unable to take.

Consequently, we find it necessary to report that the degree of union we have achieved is the limit of what we can achieve at the present time.

Therefore, the recommendations of the Unity Committee are:

- A. Resolved: The 53rd General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church
 1. Gives thanks to Almighty God for the level of inter-communion that has been achieved with our sister jurisdiction, the Anglican Province of America.
 2. Recognizes that any further organic union should take place in the context of the larger expression of the Anglican Church in North America.
 3. Expresses its desire to continue in perpetuity that degree of inter-communion and close relationship with the Anglican Province of America which has been achieved.
- B. The Committee further recommends that this committee be dissolved having completed the purpose for which it was intended

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rt. Rev. Royal U Grote
REC Chairman
Unity Committee

Unity Report on Reformed Episcopal Church and Anglican Province of America

After 13 years of discussion and effort between representatives of the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC) and the Anglican Province of America (APA), we are now prepared to bring a resolution to the matter of Unity to this Provincial Synod.

At the 1998 Provincial Synod, we reported that “we initiated our discussions with the recognition that true unity must be based on a common doctrinal foundation and not something which is artificially contrived. To that end, a Joint Theological Committee from both jurisdictions produced a document which identified the Articles of Religion the Creeds and ecumenical councils, and the Book of Common Prayer as the doctrinal standard and detailed those doctrines which both bodies hold in common. This approach enabled us to achieve a substantial measure of unity which includes: mutual recognition of ministry and orders; a full intercommunion between our two jurisdictions; a mutual sharing in common mission in the areas of the Board of Pensions and Relief and the Board of Foreign Missions. The relationship between the Bishops of the REC and the APA remains warm and meaningful. In almost all ways except jurisdictional union, we have achieved a sense of unity. Truly, we can report that we have been blessed in many ways by the involvement of our two churches together, and we are sure that those involvements will continue.

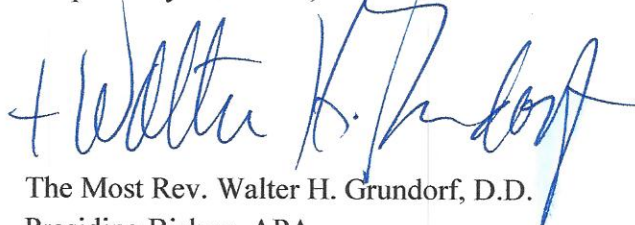
That said there are some matters of difference that do affect the ability of our two jurisdictions to completely merge together at this time. We still do find that some matters of devotion and church practice are still at variance. These could still be talked about and worked on, but the practical reality is that we find ourselves unable to resolve these matters at the present time. Secondly, the REC’s membership as a self-governing sub-jurisdiction of the Anglican Church in North America presents a new and substantial difference of approach to the finalization of organic union.

As a result, we find it necessary to report that the degree of union we have achieved is the limit of what we can achieve at the present time.

Therefore, the recommendation to the Synod is:

- A. Resolved: The 7th Triennial Synod of the Anglican Province of America
 1. Gives thanks to Almighty God for the level of inter-communion that has been achieved with our sister jurisdiction, the Reformed Episcopal Church.
 2. Expresses its desire to continue that degree of intercommunion and close relationship with the Reformed Episcopal Church which has been achieved.
- B. The Unity Committee with the REC be dissolved having completed the purpose for which it was intended.

Respectfully submitted,



The Most Rev. Walter H. Grundorf, D.D.
Presiding Bishop, APA