



THE RT. REV. STEVEN ANDREW MILLER, D.D.

BISHOP OF MILWAUKEE

January 19, 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

*"It's Déjà vu all over again"*  
- Yogi Berra

The words above were the first ones which came to mind as I heard the report of last week's meeting of the Primates of the Anglican Communion. I am not the only person who felt this way. Anglicans Online began their weekly letter making a similar observation.

As I am certain you know, the Primates both affirmed their desire to walk together as a Communion of which the Episcopal Church is a member and resolved that the Episcopal Church not participate in certain parts of our common life for the next three years as a consequence of our decision in General Convention to allow same-sex marriage. This is a similar outcome to the gatherings which followed the ordination of Gene Robinson as bishop of New Hampshire.

It remains clear that members of the Anglican Communion disagree over issues of human sexuality and that some members believe our actions at General Convention went too far. It is also clear that some want us to step back from these actions and that other members of the Communion support the decisions of the Episcopal Church. This state of being is also nothing new as is the multiplicity of letters and responses to the events of the past week. For that matter, members of the Anglican Communion disagreeing is nothing new either. We are a Communion which has room for different understandings about Christ's presence in the Eucharist, the rite of Confirmation, and the interpretation of Holy Scripture.

At our Baptism we vow to respect the dignity of every human being. That includes those who disagree with us no matter what our position or belief on any given matter. The task for us is one of doing all we can to be in the deepest level of relationship with all our sisters and brothers while praying that Christ, who is the source of our Unity, will reveal himself to us as we engage this relational work. This means continuing our partnerships with the Diocese of Newala in the Church in Tanzania and with other Anglicans around the world. It means continuing to listen to those whose views differ from us in our own parish communities.

I believe living our vow to respect the dignity of every human being while seeking and serving Christ in all persons is the most important witness we can make as followers of Jesus Christ. It is then that the words of the song from my youth will be fulfilled, "they'll know we are Christians by our love." It is to this work that I dedicate myself and invite you to join me.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Andrew Miller".

The Rt. Rev. Steven Andrew Miller  
Bishop of Milwaukee