

# The Porto Covenant of the Bishops of the Four Anglican Jurisdictions of Continental Europe

WE, the Bishops of the Anglican Jurisdictions in Continental Europe, responded to the Archbishop of Canterbury's request that we gather to consider entering into covenant with one another. We met in Porto on July 3-5, 2006, to draft a covenant. The present document is a refinement of that covenant based on a discussion of COABICE held in Lambeth Palace on 18 July 2018, with further revisions proposed at a meeting in Lambeth Palace on 22 November 2019 and in our annual gathering on 27 November 2020.

1. We re-affirm our commitment to one another as the College of Anglican Bishops in Continental Europe (COABICE), formed of the Bishops of the Anglican jurisdictions in Continental Europe.
2. We will continue to meet at least annually to consider in prayer and conversation the many issues and questions arising from our unique situations as multiple jurisdictions in a rapidly-changing Europe, ministering in many languages, contexts and cultures.
3. We may call together a Consultation consisting of our College, a cleric, and a layperson from each jurisdiction, when we deem it necessary to consider matters requiring wider discussion and agreement;
4. We agree that COABICE shall choose from its members, on a rotational basis, a chairperson to serve for one year. The chairperson will be responsible to host the annual meeting during the term, (including all arrangements for the venue) and would chair the meeting itself. We are grateful to the Anglican Communion Office for providing secretarial assistance to record minutes and communicate decisions, as required. The chairperson and the ACO person responsible will prepare and circulate the agenda.
5. The bishops of COABICE will agree which aspects of their deliberations will be shared, by appropriate means, with their broader jurisdictions.
6. We agree that COABICE requests that each of our jurisdictions adopt the policy of full consultation with the other jurisdictions when contemplating the replacement of one of our episcopal members, or the addition of suffragan or other actively assisting bishops. We define such "full consultation" to mean that when a bishop is being elected or appointed, those responsible will, prior to the selection of candidates, inquire of the other three jurisdictions as to what qualities and other attributes they consider important in selecting candidates.
7. We recognize that in making appointments of clergy to serve congregations in those places where a congregation of another jurisdiction is nearby, the two bishops concerned shall ensure proper and appropriate consultation with one another. This is particularly important where there is the development of new work. We will share, on a semiannual basis, information on vacancies we are seeking to fill, and invite observations and comments from each other.
8. We acknowledge the history of discussions aimed at addressing certain jurisdictional issues and challenges peculiar to Continental Europe. These discussions, which are ongoing, have also taken into account the interests of the Old Catholic International Bishops' Conference, with whom we are also in permanent consultation. We value nonetheless the opportunity as a College of Anglican Bishops to consult together about our common life and mission in Europe from our perspective of our shared Anglican identity, and quite apart from any future decisions regarding jurisdictional anomalies.
9. We agree to review this agreement at our regular meetings every three years to hold ourselves accountable to its provisions and to discern whether changed circumstances suggest any modifications to them.



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The Rt Rev'd David Hamid  
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The Rt Rev'd Carlos López Lozano  
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The Rt Rev'd Dr. Jorge Pina Cabral  
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