

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH AND GAY BISHOPS

Dr. Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the leader of the world's 77 million Anglicans, has said that the worldwide Anglican Church might have to split up because of a bitter row concerning the consecration of gay Bishops.

Lambeth Palace issued a statement on Tuesday indicating that all Churches would be asked to sign a covenant stating that they believed in the defining biblical standards of the Anglican doctrine .Any church that refused to sign the doctrine would be excluded from full membership of the church. The Anglican Churches in the United States and Canada are at the greatest risk of being excluded.

The trouble started when the General Convention of the United States of America failed to resolve the crisis concerning the consecration of the openly gay Gene Robinson as a Bishop in 2003.

The Diocese of Jamaica is currently considered a conservative province which does not engage in gay ordination. Liberal provinces in the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Scotland which do not sign the covenant will become "associate" provinces of the Anglican Communion.

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