



3 Jung-dong, Jung-gu, Seoul, 100-120, Republic of Korea / Tel.82-2-738-8952 Fax.82-2-737-4210 /
www.topik2007.org / topik2007@gmail.com

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Dear Archbishop,

May the peace of the Lord be with you.

At the 13th General Assembly of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) held in 2005 it was resolved to mutually cooperate to realize peace on the Korean peninsula and in North East Asia. In line with this momentum, the World wide Anglican Peace Conference was held in November 2007 under the management of the Anglican Church of Korea and it introduced various types of combined peace projects for the Anglican Church. Three types of major combined projects were identified. Firstly, for the leaders of the Anglican Communion to visit North and South Korea at the same time. Secondly, to hold a peace forum concerned with peace on the Korean peninsula. Thirdly, to establish and extend a humanitarian assistance program in North Korean society itself. We believe all these projects to be from the grace of God. Through the Peace Conference we were able to respond by assembling the combined efforts of the worldwide Anglican Communion toward peace on the Korean peninsula and in North East Asia. We deeply appreciate and thank all those who attended the Conference and prayed together for this in the body and various members of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Following on the basis of the resolution of the 13th General Assembly of the ACC in 2005 and the results of the Worldwide Anglican Peace Conference in 2007, the Anglican Church of Korea is resolved to make continuous efforts on behalf of peace on the Korean peninsula and in North East Asia. Especially at this coming 2008 Lambeth Conference it is our intention to inform the global Anglican Communion of the results of the Worldwide Anglican Peace Conference and to introduce the participants to the continued efforts we are making on behalf of unity in Korea and peace in North East Asia. In order to achieve this we have prepared a series of events under the title of the “Lambeth Peace Program.”

Firstly, this coming Sunday July 20th at 8.00 pm we are holding a peace concert in the Main Hall at Kent University around the theme of our hope for peace in Korea and throughout North East Asia. The message of peace in the Korean peninsula will be conveyed through the “Jubilee Cantata” prepared and performed by the Mothers’ Union Choir of the Anglican Church of Korea.


Secondly, the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Korea will celebrate Holy Communion and preach on the theme of peace in Korea and North East Asia on Monday July 21st at 7.15 am

in Kent University Big Top. This is a special time for us to pray and share God's word together about peace in Korea.

Thirdly, we will hold a special TOPIK Session at the Lambeth Conference on Tuesday July 22, 2008 starting at 4.00pm. In this session we will examine the results of the 2007 TOPIK Conference and seek to explore ways for continued cooperation and partnership with the Worldwide Anglican Communion in developing a joint successor program to continue the work of the TOPIK Conference.

As an instrument directed towards the unity of world Anglicanism, we can envisage that there will be some dispute at this year's Lambeth Conference over questions of mission and points of disagreement within the Anglican Communion worldwide. My hope is that our difficulties and debates will form a type of fertilizer that will enrich the soil for even deeper unity between us. In this context there can be no doubt that the issue of peace in North East Asia will feature among the various concrete questions about mission that will draw people's attention in the upcoming debates.

As this is the first time in ten years that the Anglican Bishops from all over the world will have met together I believe that there are no issues that are too much for us to deal with. I don't know if we will have enough time to do all we have to do amid the joy of meeting face-to-face, sharing and comforting each other in our burdens and giving thanks. In spite of all this I hope we can take a moment to cast our eyes in another direction and pray for peace on the Korean peninsula and in North East Asia while combining our efforts to seek out a path for common mission in this region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a cross symbol followed by stylized Korean characters.

The Most Rev. Francis Kyong-jo Park,
Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Korea