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February 23, 2007
The Friday after Ash Wednesday

Regarding the Primates' Communiqué

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have received some inquiries soliciting my response to the February 19, 2007 Communiqué of the Primates' Meeting in Dar es Salaam. Right now, beyond the comments made by the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, our Presiding Bishop and Primate, who was both present and a participant in the meeting, I believe further comment would not be appropriate.

I will suppose your next question is "why." There are two basic reasons: First, in the Communiqué the Primates "request, through the Presiding Bishop, that the House of Bishops" respond to several points. For this to happen with integrity, I believe it is imperative for the members of the House of Bishops, to prayerfully come together to hear from those who were actually there, to listen to one another, and to listen deeply to the Holy Spirit. Commentary at this point could imperil my ability to be genuine to that task. Second, as you may know, as President of the Province of the Midwest (Province V), I sit on the Presiding Bishop's Council of Advice. At this writing, the Council has not gathered, physically or electronically, with the Presiding Bishop. That is scheduled to take place a few days from now. For me this adds another layer of importance to my obligation to listen before speaking.

I know that the Communiqué has evoked a wide range of feelings and thoughts in many of my sisters and brothers across this diocese ranging from delight to desolation. Please know of my prayers for each of you.

I conclude with a singular request: Pray for the Church.

Your bishop and your brother,

+Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr.

The Right Reverend Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr.

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The Episcopal Church in southeast and south-central Michigan