

**Statement of Robert Duncan  
The Bishop of Pittsburgh  
on the  
Confirmation of Canon Gene Robinson**

You cannot imagine my grief, or the grief of many, many people. Thousands are elated just now, but millions at home and abroad share my—our—vast sorrow.

My entire life has been lived within the Episcopal Church. Within it, I have been baptized, discipled, confirmed, married, ordained and consecrated. I have spent my life for Christ through the Episcopal Church. Many in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and in the wider Episcopal Church, are like me, being cradle Episcopalians. Others have chosen this Church because of what it was and what it stood for; as truly catholic and truly evangelical.

Those who rejoice at this moment will, I pray, at least understand what has been stolen from us: unity with the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church ecumenically; unity with our brothers and sisters in the Anglican Communion across the globe; unity with the Faith once delivered to the Saints.

The action taken today is unconstitutional as to the three foundational principles of the first sentence of our Church's Constitution. As such, I will stand against the actions of this Convention with everything I have and everything I am. I have joined with many other bishops in an appeal to the primates of the Anglican Communion to intervene in the pastoral emergency that has now befallen us. I have not left, and will not leave, the Episcopal Church or my apostolic role as Episcopal Bishop of Pittsburgh. It is this 74th General Convention that has left us, betrayed us, undone us.

Dear People of Pittsburgh: Do not let the sheep scatter. The Great Shepherd is faithful and has won the eternal victory. It may take a season, but He always reforms His Church. Do not give up. Do not lose heart.

May our merciful Lord Jesus have pity on us, His broken bride.