Statement by Bishop Robert Duncan upon the Concurrence by the House of Bishops to the Election of the Rev. V. Gene Robinson

August 5, 2003

Note: *Immediately after the vote was announced in the House of Bishops, the Presiding Bishop yielded the podium to Bishop Robert Duncan (Pittsburgh) and approximately 19 other bishops. Bishop Duncan read the following statement. The statement was also read in Spanish.*

The bishops who stand before you are filled with sorrow. This body, in willfully confirming the election of a person sexually active outside of holy matrimony, has departed from the historic faith and order of the Church of Jesus Christ. This body has denied the plain teaching of Scripture and the moral consensus of the Church throughout the ages. This body has divided itself from millions of Anglican Christians around the world, brothers and sisters who have pleaded with us to maintain the Church's traditional teaching on marriage and sexuality.

With grief too deep for words, the bishops who stand before you must reject this action of the 74th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. As faithful Episcopalians and members of this house, we are calling upon the Primates of the Anglican Communion, under the presidency of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and in accordance with Lambeth Resolution III.6(b), to intervene in the pastoral emergency that has overtaken us. Most Reverend sir, we must go to take counsel with our people and minister to them.

May God have mercy on His Church.