

FROM THE NATIONAL FRONT

Archbishop did not endorse Southern Cone's invitation to San Joaquin, Anglican Communion spokesman says

By Mary Frances Schjonberg

December 08, 2007 [Episcopal News Service, Fresno, California] — Delegates attending the 48th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin on Saturday, December 8, overwhelmingly voted to leave the Episcopal Church and to align with the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone.

December 10, 2007 [Episcopal News Service] — Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams had not endorsed an invitation by Southern Cone Primate Gregory Venables to offer oversight to dioceses outside that province, a spokesman for the Anglican Communion said December 10.

“Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams has not in any way endorsed the actions of the Primate of the Southern Cone, Bishop Gregory Venables, in his welcoming of dioceses, such as San Joaquin in the Episcopal Church, to become part of his province in South America,” the spokesman said in an email to media outlets, including the Episcopal News Service.

Delegates attending the 48th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin on December 8 overwhelmingly voted to leave the Episcopal Church and to align with the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone.

Bolivia Bishop Frank Lyons from the Southern Cone told the same gathering of reporters that Williams approved of the new affiliation and also described it as “a sensible way forward.”

However, in a November 27, 2007 letter to a Diocese of Fort Worth delegate who had asked for verification of similar assertions Lyons made during the Texas diocese's November 17 convention, the Rev. Canon Kenneth Kearon, Anglican Communion secretary general, disagreed. “I would be surprised to hear that the Archbishop would formally support such a development which is contrary to the Windsor Report,” he wrote.