

A IGREJA EPISCOPAL ANGLICANA DO BRASIL

HISTORY

The Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil (IEAB) was part of the Episcopal Church of the United States for some eighty years. As the autonomy process was completed for the Church in Brazil, no formal agreement was reached between these two churches regarding the terms of their separation and the continuing relationship between them. The Episcopal Church of Brazil found herself isolated and separated from the U.S. Episcopal Church and therefore initiated a number of conversations with the Episcopal Church USA over the years following autonomy, in search of support, both financial and legal.

In 1987, Provincial Secretary Jubal Neves visited the US Episcopal Church and ECUSA staff officer Ricardo Potter-Norman visited Brazil. In 1988, formal communication about the needs of the Brazilian Church was relayed to Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning by the Brazilian Primate Dom Olavo Ventura Luiz. Bishop Luiz visited the US Episcopal Church and Ms. Judy Gillespie, Executive for World Mission, visited the Brazilian Church for the Confelider Conference (IEAB leaders) and the Synod meeting in the same year. Presiding Bishop Browning and Bishop Luiz also had conversations at the Lambeth Conference in 1988. In 1989, Canon Jubal Neves and Bishop Olavo Luiz met with Presiding Bishop Browning and presented "Plano 90", their five-year plan for development of mission and ministry in the Brazilian Church. The following year, Brazil was the site of a Partners in Mission Consultation. That same year (1990) Presiding Bishop Browning visited Brazil to participate in the celebration of the Centennial of the Brazilian Church. At that time, he was asked for a response to the series of conversations that had been held with him and various other US Church staff during the preceding four years.

Accordingly, Bishop Luiz and Presiding Bishop Browning resolved to name a joint committee to write and monitor a new covenant for these sister churches. The Committee met for the first time in Sao Paulo, Brazil in May of 1991. In July of that year, the General Convention of ECUSA approved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church in the United States be urged to work with the churches in Brazil to support structural changes which will fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ in alleviating the poverty of people;

The Brazil-US Committee met again in Cincinnati, Ohio in May 1992 and for a third time in New York, NY in November of 1992. Clearly it is time to define a formal relationship of mutual support and affirmation for these two churches.