

Statement Issued by the Council of Associated Parishes on the Admission of Children to Communion

January 1969

The Council of Associated Parishes calls upon our bishops to create a climate which will support clergy who wish to communicate baptized children.

We call attention to a report by the Lambeth Conference which suggests two possibilities for the church to follow: admission to holy communion after baptism and adequate instruction; or infant baptism and confirmation together followed by admission to holy communion.

We also suggest that the guest communion resolution passed by the General Convention in Seattle allows baptized members of other communions to receive at our Altars, but our own children are not given this opportunity.

We believe our children should not be able to remember when they had not received communion. When they were baptized they were admitted to the church or koinonia, and the koinonia expresses its commonness in the eucharistic meal.

We also believe the church should recognize the mobility of the population and the problems this creates when practices vary too greatly as to when a person can receive communion. Already many of our parishes are admitting children, and a five-year-old may be a regular communicant in one city and be rejected from the Lords table in another.