

The Diocese of Virginia

The Right Reverend Peter James Lee
The Bishop of Virginia

January 6, 2006
The Feast of the Epiphany

The Most Rev. Henry Luke Orombi
Archbishop of the Church of Uganda
The Church of the Province of Uganda
Willis Road, Namirembe
P.O. Box 14123
Kampala, Uganda

My dear Archbishop,

I have read your "open letter" to me dated January 5, 2006.

My decision with regard to Mr. Asheby, based upon his letter to Bishop Jones, his comments to me and to the Standing Committee of the Diocese, concerned Mr. Asheby's clear and unambiguous desire to be removed from the *Episcopal Church*.

I am disappointed that you and the Church of the Province of Uganda have chosen to exercise episcopal acts outside the jurisdiction of your Province without collaboration with me, and contrary to my understanding of traditional Anglican principles.

The Diocese of Virginia has had a long and affectionate relationship with the Church of Uganda. The late Most Rev. Yona Okoth, Archbishop of Uganda, participated in my consecration in 1984. He and his family were provided asylum in Virginia during the reign of the tyrant, Idi Amin, for their protection. I will continue to encourage churches in Virginia to support mission efforts in Uganda in parishes and dioceses, including such projects as the Solar Light Project and the Chain Foundation. We believe all these efforts have the approval of local Ugandan bishops.

My prayer is that our attention to mission in the name of Christ will help put differences among us in perspective and unite us more fully in Christ.

Sincerely yours,



Peter James Lee

PJL: wlp