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First Church in Spain Joins Gafcon Breakaway Anglican Movement

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"The reset of our beloved Communion is now uniquely in the hands of GAFCON, and we are ready to take the lead."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

A small congregation in Valencia has become the first church in Spain to formally join the Anglican Convocation Europe, the confessional Anglican evangelical movement breaking with Canterbury. The Comunidad Anglicana Evangélica de Valencia (Evangelical Anglican Community of Valencia), led by Pastor Julián Milson, announced the move this week. Its decision makes Spain the latest front in a split now running across the whole Anglican world.

The Valencia congregation leaves the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church (IERE), the historic Anglican body in Spain, which counts about 20 parishes. The IERE reaffirmed its full loyalty to Canterbury in October 2025, choosing to stay with the Archbishop of Canterbury. Valencia has chosen the opposite road.

The move did not come out of nowhere. For years, conservative Anglicans have argued that Canterbury has drifted from the faith the Communion once shared, and the argument has now hardened into two rival structures. Valencia's decision puts a Spanish flag on one side of that divide for the first time.

For the people in the pews, the question is simpler than the politics. They want to know whether their church still believes what it believed when they joined it. When the Church argues about its future, ordinary believers still gather on Sunday to pray, and that is where the real Communion lives.

What Gafcon Declared In October 2025

The wider break took formal shape on October 16, 2025, when the Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (Gafcon) declared that it is now the Global Anglican Communion. In the same declaration it said it no longer recognises Sarah Mullally, the Archbishop of Canterbury, as the head of the Communion.

The numbers behind the declaration are large. In March 2026, 347 bishops from 27 provinces signed the Abuja Affirmation, the document that set out Gafcon's claim to be the true continuation of the Communion. In August 2026, Gafcon announced that its headquarters would be in Abuja, Nigeria.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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