

International Commission of the Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue

June 2005 Communiqué

The Kykkos Monastery, Cyprus

The International Commission of the Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue met in the Holy Royal and Stavropegic Monastery of Kykkos, in Cyprus, from Thursday, June 2nd - Wednesday, June 8th, 2005, as guests of the Church of Cyprus and of the Most Revd Bishop Nikiforos of Kykkos, the Abbot of the monastery.

The Commission wish to record their gratitude to His Eminence the Abbot, the brothers and staff of Kykkos Monastery for the warmth of their welcome, and to Bishop Vasilios of Trinitus who has organised and co-ordinated the many aspects of this meeting, together with the staff of the Ecumenical Relations Office of the Church of Cyprus.

The Commission consists of representatives of the Orthodox Churches and of the Anglican Communion. The Dialogue began its work by exploring theological and doctrinal issues of concern for dialogue between the Anglican and Orthodox Churches in 1973. Agreements reached in its first two stages were set out in the Moscow Agreed Statement of 1976 and the Dublin Agreed Statement of 1984. In its present third phase, which began in 1989, the Commission has been examining our understanding of the Church in the light of our faith in the Holy Trinity, the Person of Christ and the Holy Spirit. From 1989, the Commission has met on an annual or biannual basis, completing Statements on Trinity and the Church, Christ, the Spirit and the Church, Christ, Humanity and the Church (all 1998), Episcopate, Episcopos, and the Church (2001), Christ, the Priesthood and the Church (2002).

In 2003, at Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, the Commission began its current round of study on the subject of the ministries of women and men in the Church, of questions of Heresy and Schism, and of Reception.

In Kykkos, the Commission completed the work on these Agreed Statements, and will meet next year to finalise the text of the complete cycle of Statements agreed in the current phase from 1989 to date in preparation for publication.

Metropolitan John of Pergamon Bishop Mark Dyer
Orthodox Co-Chairman Anglican Co-Chairman

Kykkos, Monday, 6th June, 2005

Commission Members present in Cyprus were:

Orthodox Representatives

Metropolitan John of Pergamon (Ecumenical Patriarchate) (Co-chair),
Metropolitan Petros of Aksum (Patriarchate of Alexandria),
Fr Alexander Haig (Patriarchate of Antioch),

Bishop Basil of Sergievo (Patriarchate of Moscow),
Archbishop Nifon of Targoviste (Patriarchate of Romania),
Bishop Gerasim of Zugdid and Tsaishi (Patriarchate of Georgia),
Fr Giorgi Zviadadze (Patriarchate of Georgia),
Bishop Vasilios of Trimithus (Church of Cyprus) (host),
Professor Constantine Scouteris (Church of Greece),
Fr Andrzej Minko (Church of Poland),
Bishop Ilia of Philomelion (Church of Albania),
Fr Vaclav Jezek (Church of Czech Lands and Slovakia),
Metropolitan Ambrosius of Helsinki (Church of Finland),
Fr Matthias Palli (Church of Estonia),
Fr Christos B Christakis (Church of Estonia) (co-secretary).

Representatives of the Anglican Communion

Bishop Mark Dyer (Episcopal Church of the USA) (Co-chair),
Bishop John Baycroft (Anglican Church of Canada),
The Revd Dr Timothy Bradshaw (Church of England),
The Revd Canon John Gibaut (Anglican Church of Canada),
The Revd Canon William B Green (Episcopal Church of the USA),
Bishop William Gregg (Episcopal Church of the USA),
The Revd Canon Livingstone Ngewu (Church of the Province of Southern Africa),
The Revd Dr Duncan Reid Anglican (Church of Australia),
The Revd Professor John Riches (Scottish Episcopal Church),
Bishop Max Thomas (Anglican Church of Australia),
The Revd Canon Hugh Wybrew (Church of England),
The Revd Canon Gregory K Cameron (Church in Wales) (co-secretary).

The Address of Welcome by the Bishop of Kykkos, Nikiforos:

Dear brothers in Christ
Dear members of the conference

Today is a day of remembrance of our saintly father Nikiforos the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople, whose holy name I humbly bear.

On the occasion of your conference, hosted by our historic monastery, the monastery of my penitence, I considered it my pleasant duty to come and officiate in the holy liturgy and to pray to God to grant to all of you, conference participants his enlightenment from above, so that this dialogue may bear fruit and so that one day, through the power of the Holy Ghost, we may communicate in the common chalice of the Bread of Life.

The common ground is there. It consists of the first centuries of Christianity, before the one, catholic and apostolic Church of Christ was fragmented.

It is the duty of all Christians to remember always the anxious prayer of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane "Holy Father, keep them in your name, those you have given me, so as to be one, like us."

In order to achieve the reunion of the Christian world what is needed is incessant prayer, an intense dialogue in love, and good will.

I wish all of you a pleasant stay here, and may you come again.

I thank you all