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Anglican-Lutheran International Commission

Sixth Anglican-Lutheran International Commission

June 18-25, 2011
Jerusalem, Israel

The third Anglican-Lutheran International Commission (ALIC) held its sixth and final meeting in the holy city Jerusalem between 18 and 25 June 2011, under the leadership of the Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, Primate of Canada, and of the Right Reverend Dr Thomas Nyiwe, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon.

The meeting was hosted by the Anglican Communion with the generous assistance of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Jerusalem was chosen as the venue for this meeting in response to a request from Bishop Munib Younan, President of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), at the time of his election at the Stuttgart Assembly of the LWF. In his address to that Assembly, the Archbishop of Canterbury had made a plea for greater cooperation between Anglicans and Lutherans in the Middle East, and the Commission met here to learn of the hopes and cares of the two churches in Jerusalem in particular.

Bishop Suheil Dawani, the Anglican bishop, hosted an ecumenical reception for local church leaders, and the Commission was addressed by His Beatitude Theophilos III, the Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem. The Commission spent one of its sessions with Bishop Dawani and Bishop Younan. At both this session and at the reception, members of the Commission heard of the struggles of Christians in Jerusalem and Palestine: of the strain of living a restricted life, of the lack of jobs and opportunities particularly for young people and of lacking peace with justice for all in society, all of which lead many Christians to leave the holy land and diminish the witness of Christianity in the very places of its birth. At the same time, they heard of the dedication of the local churches to advocate for a just peace among all, to seek good relations among all the faith communities, and to offer high quality education and health care to the whole society, as the hands and feet of Christ.

The focus of the work of the Commission at this meeting was the writing of its final report, which it will share with the two Communion. Entitled "To Love and Serve the Lord", the report focuses on the theme of *diakonia*: the service and witness of the Church. Many ecumenical agreements have examined *koinonia*, the unity of the Church; this report looks at the essential connection of *koinonia* with *diakonia*.

Present at the meeting were:

Anglicans:

The Most Revd Fred Hiltz, Canada (Co-Chair)
The Revd Dr Charlotte Methuen, Germany and United Kingdom
The Rt Revd Musonda T. S. Mwamba, Botswana
The Revd Professor Renta Nishihara, Japan
The Very Revd William H. Petersen, USA
The Revd Canon Dr. Alyson Barnett-Cowan, Anglican Communion Office (Co-Secretary)
Mr Neil Vigers (administrative assistant)

Apology

The Revd Dr Cathy Thomson, Australia

Lutherans:

Rev. Dr Thomas Nyiwé, Cameroon (Co-Chair)
Rev. Angel Furlan, Argentina
Rev. Dr Cameron R. Harder, Canada
Landesbischof emeritus Jürgen Johannesdotter, Germany
Rt Rev. Dr Ndanganeni P. Phaswana, South Africa

Rev. Canon Helene Tärneberg Steed, Sweden and Ireland
Professor Dr Kathryn Johnson, Lutheran World Federation (Co-Secretary)

Apologies:

Professor Dr Kirsten Busch Nielsen, Denmark
Professor Dr Kenneth G. Appold, USA

Ecumenical Observer:

The Revd Dr Günter Esser, the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht, Germany

The Commission was established by the Anglican Consultative Council and The Lutheran World Federation to continue the dialogue between Anglicans and Lutherans on the worldwide level which has been in progress since 1970. ALIC has built upon the work reflected in *The Niagara Report* (1987), focusing on the mission of the church and the role of the ordained ministry, *The Diaconate as Ecumenical Opportunity* (1995), and most recently *Growth in Communion* (2002), the report of the Anglican-Lutheran International Working Group (ALIWG), which reviewed the extensive regional agreements which have established close relations between Anglican and Lutheran churches in several parts of the world.