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ANGLICAN - REFORMED INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

August 31-September 7, 2017 Durban, South Africa
Communiqué

The International Reformed-Anglican Dialogue (IRAD) between the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) and the Anglican Communion met for its third meeting, at the Bandla Hotel, Ballito, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, 31 August to 7 September 2017. The Co-Chairs are the Revd Elizabeth Welch (Reformed) and the Rt Revd David Chillingworth (Anglican).

The current series of bilateral discussions is the first that the Anglican and Reformed Communion have had globally since 1984, when the Dialogue released the report, *God's Reign and our Unity*. In 2011, this new Dialogue was mandated to study the nature of communion (*koinônia*), and the pressing issues which emerge for both Communion out of such reflection. During this third meeting, the Commission has deepened its exploration of communion as an unbreakable gift and calling, within the context of our diverse world Communion.

Papers were prepared by members of the Commission over the last year as an initial contribution to the first draft of an Agreed Statement. They were presented in plenary during this meeting. The Commission is also grateful for other papers from expert theologians in related fields. This work formed the basis of intense small group analysis, covering areas including the essence of *koinônia*, scriptural and historic testimony to its character, how communion is lived and responded to, as well as identifying and critically engaging with diversity in the church and the wider world. A drafting group has been tasked for the next stage of the Commission's work.

The South African context offered a profoundly influential focus for the Commission's reflection, as it heard of the churches' roles during the apartheid and post-apartheid democratic eras. In particular, the group is extremely grateful to have heard the incisive analysis of Dr Jerry Pillay, immediate past President of the WCRC, and Professor of Church History and Church Polity at the University of Pretoria. Additionally, the group enjoyed the hospitality of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, at a seminar led by faculty members and students, reflecting contextually on the dynamic of *koinônia* and social transformation. En route, the Commission was privileged to pause for poignant reflection at the site of Nelson Mandela's capture in August 1962.

The Dialogue opened with a celebration of Holy Communion in the Anglican tradition, and closed with a celebration of Holy Communion in the Reformed tradition. The members of the dialogue prayed together each morning and evening.

This third meeting of the Commission was generously hosted by the Anglican Communion. It was warmly welcomed by Bishop Dino Gabriel of Natal, and greatly encouraged by Bishop Nkosinathi Ndwandwe, Bishop-Suffragan of Natal. On Sunday morning, the Commission attended the Eucharist with the Anglican Parish of All Souls', Umhlali.

The Commission will reconvene at the end of August 2018.

Members of the Dialogue present at this meeting

ANGLICAN

The Rt Revd David Chillingworth
Dr Clint Le Bruyns
The Revd Dr James Hawkey
The Revd Prof Dr Renta Nishihara
The Revd Helene T. Steed

The Scottish Episcopal Church
The Anglican Church of Southern Africa
The Church of England
The Anglican Church in Japan
The Church of Ireland

Staff

The Revd Canon Dr John Gibaut (Co-Secretary)
The Revd Neil Vigers

Anglican Communion Office
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The Revd Elizabeth Welch
The Revd Dr Peter Donald
The Revd Professor Priscille Djomhoué
The Revd Professor Roderick Hewitt
The Revd Professor R Gerald Hobbs
The Revd Aimee Moiso
The Rt Revd Dr Royce M. Victor

United Reformed Church in the UK
Church of Scotland
Église Protestante Unie de Belgique/ Cameroon
Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa
United Church of Canada
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Church of South India

Staff

The Revd Dr Hanns Lessing (Co-Secretary)

OBSERVERS

The Revd Dr Nadia Marais
The Revd Thulani Zikhali

Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa
The Anglican Church of Southern Africa