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International Commission of the Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue

February 2001 COMMUNIQUÉ
Volos, Greece

The International Commission of the Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue met in Volos 12th-15th February 2001 as guests of His Eminence Metropolitan Ignatios of Dimitrias and Almyros. The Commission is composed of representatives of the Orthodox Churches and the member Churches of the Anglican Communion. The members of the Commission were welcomed by Metropolitan Ignatios, who offered an official dinner to the Commission and dignitaries of the city of Volos. The Commission attended the Divine Liturgy at the Monastery of the Archangels in Pelion, celebrated by Metropolitan Ignatios. The Commission enjoyed the generous hospitality of several parishes in Volos and of the nuns at the monastery.

The Dialogue began its work of exploring and reconciling doctrinal differences 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, the Commission in 1998 produced Interim Agreed Statements on "The Trinity and the Church", "Christ, the Spirit and the Church" and "Christ, Humanity and the Church, Parts I and II". They will form part of the final agreed statement to be published at the end of this phase of the dialogue.

At its meeting in Volos, the Commission began its examination of ordained ministry in the Church, and its relationship to the unique high priesthood of Christ and the royal priesthood of the whole Christian community. It approved an agreed statement on "Episcopate, Episcopos and Primacy". Anglican and Orthodox papers on ordained ministry in the Church were presented and discussed.

The Commission intends to meet again in 2002 to continue its work on ordained and other ministries in the Church. It will approve an agreed statement on ordained ministry. It is anticipated that the agreed statements of this phase of the dialogue will be published in 2005.

Metropolitan John of Pergamon
Orthodox Co-Chairman

Bishop Mark Dyer
Anglican Co-Chairman

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