

A - O

International Commission of the Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue

September 16-23, 2011 COMMUNIQUÉ
Shen Vlash, Durrës, Albania

In the name of God, the All Holy and Blessed Trinity, and with the blessing and guidance of our Churches the International Commission for Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue (ICAOTD) met at the Monastery of Shen Vlash, Durrës, Albania, during 16 -23 September 2011. The Commission is grateful for the hospitality offered by the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania, under the leadership of His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana, Durrës and all Albania, whom they were pleased to welcome to their meeting.

The members of the Commission were welcomed by His Grace Bishop Ilia Katre, His Grace Bishop Nikolla Hyka, by students of the Seminary at Shen Vlash, and by the faithful of the Church of Albania.

ICAOTD is deepening and consolidating its work on a joint study of the theological riches, in Scripture and our traditions, of the understanding of the nature of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God. From this understanding flow many implications which are of particular importance to our world today. These relate directly to human rights, ecology, the environment and agricultural practices, and the questions that arise around the ethics concerning the beginning and the end of human life, the nature and relationship of man and woman, technology, and the constant warfare that plagues many parts of the globe. At this meeting the Commission developed a framework for its fundamental theological work on the question of the human person.

In the course of their discussions and in intercessory prayers members of the Commission were made aware of the violation of human rights taking place in many parts of the world, and expressed great concern.

Members of ICAOTD visited the Home of Hope children's home; Tirana's new Resurrection Cathedral, almost completed; a medical centre which provides affordable care to the poorest in the capital; and the historic city of Kruje.

The Commission rejoiced at the resurrection of the Church in Albania in the years since the end of communism, and gave thanks to God for the leadership of Archbishop Anastasios and his clergy. The Church has done remarkable work in the re-evangelisation of the nation, the formation of people in the Christian life, and the reconstruction of worshipping communities, and of buildings. Work in education and in health care is also flourishing. Starting in a society from which all forms of religious expression had been almost completely eliminated, great and inspiring work has been done, and this is cause for celebration and continued support by the wider Christian world.

The work of the Dialogue was strengthened by shared daily prayer. Members attended services at the Cathedral in Tirana, and in the Church of St Vlash and the Chapel of the Resurrection.

The Commission will continue its discussion at its next meeting in the Anglican diocese of St Asaph, in September 2012, at the invitation of the Rt Revd Gregory Cameron of the Church in Wales.

Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia
Orthodox Co-Chairman

Archbishop Roger Herft of Perth
Anglican Co-Chairman

Shen Vlash, Thursday 22 September 2011

Commission Members present were:

Representatives of the Orthodox Church

Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia
Ecumenical Patriarchate, *Co-chairman*
Metropolitan Seraphim of Zimbabwe
Patriarchate of Alexandria
The Revd Fr Alexander Haig
Patriarchate of Antioch
The Revd Dr Cyril Hovorou
Patriarchate of Moscow
Professor Dr Bogdan Lubardic
Patriarchate of Serbia
Metropolitan Nifon of Târgoviște
Patriarchate of Romania
Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Kition
Church of Cyprus
Professor Dr Miltiadis Konstantinou
Church of Greece
The Revd Andrzej Minko
Church of Poland
His Grace Bishop Ilia of Philomelion
Church of Albania

The Revd Dr Christos B Christakis (*Co-Secretary*)

MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND

Fr George Dragas
Patriarchate of Jerusalem
Archpriest Giorgi Zviadadze
Church of Georgia

Representatives of the Anglican Communion

The Most Revd Roger Herft of Perth
The Anglican Church of Australia, *Co-Chairman*
The Revd Dr Timothy Bradshaw
The Church of England
The Most Revd Richard Clarke of Meath & Kildare
The Church of Ireland
The Revd Canon Jonathan Goodall
Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative
The Revd Deacon Dr Christine Hall
The Church of England
The Rt Revd Michael Lewis of Cyprus & The Gulf
The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East
The Revd Dr Duncan Reid
The Anglican Church of Australia
The Revd Canon Professor John Riches
Scottish Episcopal Church
The Rt Revd John Stroyan of Warwick
The Church of England
The Revd Canon Dr Alyson Barnett-Cowan, *Co-secretary*

The Revd Neil Vigers
Anglican Communion Office

MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND:

The Revd Marc Billimoria

The Church of Ceylon

The Revd Canon Philip Hobson OGS

The Anglican Church of Canada

Ms Natasha Klukach

The Anglican Church of Canada

The Revd Dr Gloria Mapangdol

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

The Revd Joseph Wandera

The Anglican Church of Kenya

PAPERS SUBMITTED TO THE MEETING:

The Revd Dr Cyril Hovorun

“Hermeneutics of the Russian Orthodox Church, Human Dignity, Freedom and Rights”

Professor Dr Miltiadis Konstantinou

“Sacrifice as an expression of man and God’s relationship”

The Rt Revd John Stroyan

“The Human Person: Sacrifice, Salvation and Community with particular reference to human limitation”

The Revd Canon Professor John Riches

“Human rights and Christian Theology”

The Most Revd Roger Herft

“An overview of Anglican Understandings of the Divine Image and Likeness in humanity”

The Revd Deacon Dr Christine Hall

“Human responsibility for Creation: Towards a critical overview of recent statements by our churches” and

“Bibliography: Human Responsibility for Creation”