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Anglican-Lutheran International Commission

Fifth Anglican-Lutheran International Commission

April 17-24, 2010
London, Ohio, USA

Amid the travel chaos caused by the eruption of Mount Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland, half the members of the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission (ALIC) were able to meet in the United States of America, 17-24 April, at the Procter Center in Ohio. The meeting was hosted by the Anglican Communion, and met under the leadership of The Most Revd Fred Hiltz, Primate of Canada, and The Revd Dr. Cameron Harder, of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Canada.

Much time was given to the theme of the final report, with reflection on the connection between *koinonia* and *diakonia*, and the language of unity. The heart of the report will be *diakonia* – the servant ministry to which all Christians are called through Baptism, and which the ministry of deacons exists to encourage, model, and support. The Commission explored the fullness of *diakonia* arising from the life of the worshipping community and expressed through compassionate service and political action. They considered how the churches might deepen their commitment to *diakonia* in local, regional and global contexts. A final report for submission to the Lutheran World Federation and the Anglican Communion will be prepared within the next year.

ALIC visited The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. The Museum commemorates the long struggle for the abolition of slavery, and confronts visitors with the continuing challenges of racism in the world today. Members of the Commission were also guests for a day at Trinity Lutheran Seminary and Bexley Hall Seminary (Episcopal), partners on one campus in Columbus, Ohio; and joined in eucharistic worship. Afterwards, they spoke about the work of ALIC, and listened to faculty members and seminarians share their experiences of preparing for ministry in the spirit of full communion. Commission members are grateful for the welcome of The Revd Cal Holloway, Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Bishop Thomas Breidenthal of Southern Ohio, The Episcopal Church.

The Anglican Communion will host the next meeting of the Commission 18-25 June 2011 at a venue to be decided.

Members of the Commission able to attend the meeting were:

Anglicans:

The Most Revd. Fred Hiltz, Canada (Co-Chair)
The Revd. Professor Renta Nishihara, Japan
The Very Revd. William H. Petersen, USA
The Revd. Dr. Cathy Thomson, Australia
The Rt. Revd. Dr. Musonda T. S. Mwamba, Botswana

Lutherans:

The Revd. Dr. Cameron R. Harder, Canada (Acting Co-Chair)
The Revd. Angel Furlan, Argentina

Consultants:

Professor Dr. Kenneth G. Appold, USA
Rt. Revd. Dr. Ndanganeni P. Phaswana, South Africa

Administrative support was provided by

Staff:

Mr. Neil Vigers of the Anglican Communion Office.

Members unable to attend:

Bishop Dr. Thomas Nyiwé, Cameroon (Co-Chair)

Professor Dr. Kathryn Johnson, Lutheran World Federation (Co-Secretary)

The Revd. Canon Dr. Alyson Barnett-Cowan, Anglican Communion Office (Co-Secretary)

The Revd. Canon Dr. Charlotte Methuen, Germany and United Kingdom

Professor Dr. Kirsten Busch Nielsen, Denmark

Bischof em Jörgen Johannesdotter, Germany

The Revd. Helene Tärneberg-Steed, Sweden and Ireland

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