



ANGLICAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

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30th September, 1976.

The Right Reverend Mgr. W.A. Purdy,
Secretariatus ad Christianorum
Unitatem Fovendam,
VATICAN CITY.

My dear Bill,

ARCIC

Many thanks for your letter of 14th September.

About ARCIC and women priests, I think a bit of confusion has crept in. The idea that ARCIC might tackle the subject does not come from the Archbishop of Canterbury, and he made no reference to it when I talked about the future of ARCIC with him a day or two ago.

My own feeling, and Christopher Hill and I have talked about this since, is that it is best if ARCIC does not take on the subject. Any report would be of a different kind from the three Statements and could be a confusing distraction. Also the right people for the one might be less suitable for the other. The matter of membership and extended agenda could be difficult on the Anglican side.

I agree we do not want another Commission. I would suggest a fairly small ad hoc consultation (six to eight a side) which would discuss what we proposed at the informal talks last year, namely "to try to find to what extent and in what ways churches with women priests and churches without can be reconciled in sacramental fellowship." I believe an Anglican team for this could be got together without too much delay.

No doubt we can talk about this when we meet in Rome at the beginning of November. Christopher will, of course, be there too.

All good wishes,
Yours ever,

JH.

c.c. ✓ The Reverend Christopher Hill

JH/PB