

ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, September 3rd 1975: 8.15 p.m.

1. Final Report of ARCIC

A large number of members contributed to the discussion on the form which the Final Report might take and whether informed experts, not now members of the Commission, should be invited to assist in the writing of it. Many members felt that the Report might consist of the three Statements with an historical introduction explaining how they came to be written and an appendix detailing some of the major criticisms made about them. It was generally considered that there would be no advantage in inviting other theologians to assist in the writing of it, but that it might be wise to have the help of an expert in publishing to help with the practical side. It was decided, however, that it would be inappropriate to make any final decision about these matters until the work of the Commission had reached a more advanced stage.

2. Graymoor Prize

It was reported that the balance held in the East Anglian Trustee Savings Bank for ARCIC now amounted to £2,491.14. Although many members felt that this money should be kept for use on the publication of an eventual full documentation of the Commission's work, anxiety was felt about its investment in England in the present inflationary situation. The following resolution was therefore passed.

RESOLUTION: That the Co-Chairmen be given discretion to act on behalf of the Commission in safeguarding the money and to take expert financial advice on its investment.

3. Publications

(a) Confidentiality of ARCIC Statements Before Publication

The Revd. Christopher Hill reported that he had discussed this matter on the Anglican side with Bishop Howe and that the Bishop planned to send a careful covering letter to Metropolitans, and others who had advance sight of the text of any future statement, to ensure that there was no leak before publication.

(b) Publication of the Statements on the Eucharist and on Ministry and Ordination in one pamphlet

The publication on August 21st of "The Agreed Statements: Eucharistic Doctrine 1971, Ministry and Ordination 1973" by SPCK at 15p was noted. It was also reported that the sales of the earlier booklet containing the Statement on the Eucharist only had amounted to 12,538 and that containing the Statement on Ministry and Ordination to 14,840.

4. Reports

(a) The Marriage Commission

Mgr. Purdy, Roman Catholic Secretary of the Marriage Commission, outlined the content and most significant recommendations of its Final Report, which had been submitted to the Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope Paul with a request that permission for publication should be granted, following the Commission's Final Meeting in Venice in June 1975.

(b) Anglican/Orthodox Joint Doctrinal Discussions

The Revd. Christopher Hill said that three Sub-Commissions had met in July 1975 in England: the first at Truro from July 7th - 11th had discussed "Inspiration and Revelation in Holy Scripture" and had drawn up Nine Principles, and Three Theses on the Knowledge of God for further consideration; the second meeting in London from 14th - 18th July had considered "The Invocation of the Holy Spirit in the Eucharist" and had prepared an Agreed Statement on "The Invocation of the Holy Spirit in the Eucharist"; and the third at St. Albans from 21st - 28th July "The Authority of the Councils" and had drawn up an Agreed Statement on the Authority of the Councils. The work done at these meetings would form the basis of the full meeting of the Commission which it was hoped would take place in Moscow from 26th July - 3rd August 1976.

Following this Report there was a discussion of the usefulness of tri-partite discussions. Many members stressed that their experience of them had been unfortunate. "Confessions in Dialogue", a third edition of which revised and enlarged by Nils Ehrenström was about to be published, should provide information on what was going on in other dialogues.

(c) Roman Catholic Dialogues with Other Churches

Mgr. Purdy reported that dialogues were continuing with the Methodist Church, the Lutheran Church, the Reformed Church, the Pentecostal Church, and the World Council of Churches. An invitation had recently been received to embark upon discussion with the Disciples of Christ. In particular the ARCIC Statements on the Eucharist and Ministry had stimulated some useful discussion at the Methodist dialogue. Dr. Gassmann reported that a working party of Lutherans and Roman Catholics had been producing a document on the Eucharist, a conflation of the Dombes, Lutheran/Roman Catholic and Windsor Statements. In the United States the Roman Catholic/Methodist Group were about to publish a document on "The Spiritual Life of Priest and Minister".

(d) A Report on Anglican/Roman Catholic Relations and National Dialogues, 1974-75

This Report by the Revd. Christopher Hill (ARCIC 138) was received. It was suggested that it might be appropriate to publish something on the work of National ARCs to coincide with the Lambeth Conference, if one were held in 1978. It was also felt impracticable, for financial reasons, for a meeting of representatives of National ARCs to be convened, but it was suggested that Lambeth 1978 might also prove to be an opportunity for such a meeting between representatives of the various ARCs already gathered for the Conference.

(e) Communications Group

Bishop Howe reported that these meetings would be informal conversations held once a year with about four people from either side. This November the agenda was likely to include the subject of women priests and another look would be taken at the Malta Report to consider a number of matters mentioned in it which had never been taken up, e.g. the Church's evangelisation mission and meetings of the hierarchies in various regions.

(f) The Ordination of Women

Bishop Howe said he felt that the turning point of this matter had been the decision taken by the Church in Canada. It now seemed likely that by 1980 there would be women priests in New Zealand as well as Canada, and perhaps elsewhere. In England the Synod in July 1975 had agreed, as some other Anglican General Synods had agreed previously, that there were no fundamental objections to the ordination of women. England had left the Bishops to decide when the time was appropriate for women to be ordained, and the Synod had also requested urgent talks with the Roman Catholic Church on the question. He felt that ideally this was a matter which the whole Church should decide, but the impossibility of such procedure was one of the consequences of the divisions in the Church.

Bishop Vogel reported that US ARC had considered the question at a meeting in June at which a number of papers on different aspects of the matter had been presented.

5. Dates of Future Meetings

(a) The dates of future meetings were agreed as follows:

1976	24th August - 2nd September
1977	30th August - 8th September
1978	29th August - 7th September

(b) It was regretted that it was not possible to change these dates for the benefit of members for whom they were inconvenient. They would seem to suit the majority.