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THE AGREED STATEMENT ON MINISTRY AND ORDINATION (CANTERBURY 1973)
AN ELUCIDATION

1. Among the comments and criticisms evoked by the Canterbury Statement on Ministry and Ordination, the Commission notes the following topics as matters of special concern calling for further elucidation.

There are some who feel that in the discussion of priesthood insufficient attention was given to the ministry of the whole people of God, so that the document seemed to have too exclusively clerical an emphasis. In this connection it was also felt that the distinction between this general priesthood and the ordained priesthood was not clearly enough explained. Questions have also been raised about the Commission's treatment of the origins and historic development of the ordained ministry, particularly in its threefold form, about the Commission's intention in comparing that development to the emergence of the canon of scripture, and about the relationship of episcope with episcopacy.

The Commission has also been asked whether the Statement sufficiently expresses the sacramental nature of the rite of ordination. There have been enquiries about the significance of the Agreed Statement for the mutual recognition and reconciliation of the ministries of the two churches. Finally, the Commission has been requested to apply the principles contained in the Statement to the question of the ordination of women.