

Comments by the Revd. Dr. R.J. Halliburton on the Draft Paper on "Ordination" (May 1973) drawn up by the Southern Africa Commission and on the Draft Paper on "Ministerial Priesthood in Relation to Christ and the Church" drawn up by the North American Sub-Commission

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With regard to the South African draft, I find it overlaps in some respects with ours, [Oxford Sub-Commission] though this does not matter a great deal. I am mostly disappointed with their treatment of the rite of ordination which I had hoped they would have gone into with more precision. I think they ought to have grasped more firmly the nettle of the question of form and matter in ordination. I know it may be argued that people nowadays do not use this kind of language. But it is an area of historic disagreement between our two churches and ought to be faced, just as we faced terms such as 'sacrifice' and 'transubstantiation' in our eucharistic statement. There has also been some useful discussion of this apart from the controversy stemming from 1896, e.g. Pius XII's 'Sacramentum Ordinis' and some Roman comments on the form of eastern rites.

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With regard to the North American draft, I find that this says a lot of good things. I fear they may have overlaid their hand in stressing so much the eucharistic ministry of the minister as the supreme expression of his and the church's priesthood. I don't disagree with this, but there are other expressions of Priesthood (as is in fact mentioned), and I can see evangelicals and perhaps others raising their hands somewhat at the balance of the North American statement.