

Lambeth Palace
London SE1 7JU

The Archbishop of Canterbury's
Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs

The Rev. Canon Christopher Hill
Telephone: 01-928 4880

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF ARCIC-II

I have pleasure in enclosing a further draft of our work on Church and Communion. It represents a revision of the earlier Godalming-Ammerdown text (ARCIC-II 87 (89)). It is entitled Church and Communion Part 1: Storrington-Birmingham Draft (ARCIC-II 90 (89)).

Let me try and explain the precise way by which you receive this further text.

I am glad to say that there has been an unprecedented and very full response to the Co-Chairmen's request for written criticism of the earlier Godalming-Ammerdown draft. Eight members not present at either Godalming or Ammerdown sent in their detailed criticisms and suggestions.

Furthermore, at Ammerdown the Steering Committee was able to voice a general criticism of the weakness of the sacramental section of the earlier draft and then asked two members of the original Godalming team to expand the material on sacramentality and the Church.

This is represented by the Storrington meeting - Fr. Jean Tillard and the Revd. Julian Charley. At the Storrington meeting the two drafters felt that paras. 1-36 (of the current draft) were obviously much more mature than the later material, some of which had only seen the first light of day at Ammerdown. They therefore recommended consideration of publication in two parts. This is obviously a decision which will have to be taken by the whole Commission, but the Steering Committee in Birmingham felt that the Storrington drafters had made a strong case. They therefore offer the text in the form of Part 1.

At the Birmingham meeting the written criticisms of members were incorporated in what now stands as Part 1. Should the Commission so decide to divide the text, the substantial number of written criticisms on the remaining material (what would become Part 2) would need to be carefully worked into the Godalming/Ammerdown draft.

At Ammerdown the Steering Committee also decided to invite comment from one or two "outside contractors". In fact three external theological Consultants have sent comments on the Godalming/Ammerdown draft. They are Dr. Nicholas Sagovsky, Dean of Clare College Cambridge, the Revd. Dr. Paul Avis, Incumbent of Stoke Canon, Poltimore with Huxham and Rewe, etc.

Devon (both of these Anglican theologians are writing on koinonia at the moment) and the Revd. Professor Frank Sullivan, SJ of the Gregorian (Fr. Sullivan is a notable Catholic ecclesiologist and has just published Doctrine of the Church (Gill & Macmillan, Dublin, 1988)).

The comments from all three consultants have been sympathetically considered and have also been substantially incorporated into the latest text before you as far as Part I goes.

At Ammerdown Fr. Ted Yarnold was also invited to offer thoughts on the way forward by way of a continuation of the next steps. This you will find enclosed as ARCIC-II 89 (89).

I must apologize for this rather complex textual history, but members have the right to know how the present draft comes to them. Members will also be gratified at the considerable amount of work which has gone into what stands as Part 1 of a paper on "Church and Communion". It will be for the Commission to decide whether this is now mature enough for final work before publication at our Venice meeting and whether it should be published prior to the second part of the work we have in mind - which is obviously in need of much more revision and continuation.

Mgr. McDonald will be writing to you separately about work on Morals which has also been advancing over the year.



(Canon) CHRISTOPHER HILL

Also enclosed:

"Report of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Communion and Women in the Episcopate 1989"

"Archbishop of Canterbury to Visit the Pope" - News Release from Lambeth dated 26th March 1989

"The Place of the Woman in the Orthodox Church and the Question of the Ordination of Women: Ecumenical Patriarchate Inter-Orthodox Theological Consultation: Rhodes, Greece, 30 October-7 November 1988"