

(E) 75  
13th April, 1977.  
(→ 24 Nov. 1977)

ANGLICAN ACTIONS ABOUT THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO THE PRIESTHOOD

- Notes: A. All information here is, and has been, available to the Roman Catholic Church:
- (i) They were present at the Lambeth Conference in 1968, and all meetings of the ACC.
  - (ii) All issues of AIS (Anglican Information Service) are sent to the Secretariat.
  - (iii) All Reports by Churches are public documents.
- B. \* = Decisions to act.

- July 1968 Lambeth Conference (This before the appointment of ARCIC, which also derives from LC.68)  
Report p.106: No conclusive theological reasons against.  
Res.34: Theological arguments at present inconclusive.  
35: All to study: report to ACC. ACC make available to Anglican Communion.  
37: Before taking final action to ordain women, consult ACC.
- 1970 (end) ACC-1 advance papers: LC Res.35, no reports yet; but Commissions etc. appointed by Australia, Burma, Central Africa, Ireland, South Africa, USA.
- Feb. 71 ACC-1: Hong Kong made application under LC Res.37.  
Res.28(b) - Council voted by 24 to 22 that Hong Kong action to ordain would be acceptable.  
Response to LC Res.35 called for: "urgent matter".
- \* Nov. 71 Hong Kong ordained two women.
- Jan. 72 Burma accepted principle: action when required AIS.2 Mar.72  
Apr. 72 Central Africa referred to dioceses AIS.3 Jul.72  
Apr. 72 New Zealand. Commission reported. Approved ordination (2 dissenting) AIS.3 Jul.72  
Headings: Biblical, Theological, Biological, Psychological, Ecumenical, Practical  
This Report: lost in one House.  
Synod approved: in principle.
- Apr. 72 South Pacific (SPAC) not yet ready socially, practically. AIS.3 Jul.72  
Apr. 72 Wales: Commission appointed AIS.3 Jul.72  
72 England: Consultative Document (Christian Howard), many aspects of subject - and both sides AIS.4 Nov.72  
AIS.4 Nov.72  
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- Oct. 72 West Africa. Subject commended for study  
Nov. 72 USA. House of Bishops narrowly in favour. Recommended canonical action by General Convention 1973 AIS.4 Nov.72
- Nov. 72 Wales: Commission reported in favour, on theol. grounds. AIS.4 Nov.72
- 73 Central Africa recommended delay AIS.5 Mar.73  
73 South Africa: Commission reported in favour AIS.5 Mar.73  
May 73 Australia: Report - majority in favour referred to 1977 AIS.6 Oct.73
- May 73 Canada: Synod accepted principle - action to be taken after ref to ACC and House of Bishops
- Jul. 73 ACC-2: The English Report (see Apr.72) to all members of ACC. All Reports available at A&C.  
Advance papers: 10-page up-dating (all countries) by Christian Howard. Subject matter reviewed under Biblical, Trad'l and Historical, Theological, etc.  
ACC-2: Action. Review since ACC-1, thus:

Ordained 1 (Hong Kong)/Approved in principle 3/  
Preliminary action 4/Negative action 2.

Re-affirmed decision rests with the Provinces.  
Advised (p.41) Stay in communion

Ecumenical implications, but Ang.Com.  
must make own decisions.

Aimed for consensus of opinion by 1975.

Oct. 73	USA; Gen.Convention resolution to ordain women defeated in House of Deputies.	AIS.6 Oct.73
* 18 Oct.73	A third woman ordained in Hong Kong	AIS.6 Oct.73
* 74	New Zealand Synod agreed. Must come again for final decision 1976	AIS.8 Jul.74
29 Jul.74	USA: "ord'n" of 11 women by 3 retired bishops and a missionary bishop - without authorisation or consent	AIS.9 Nov.74
15 Aug.74	USA: House of Bishops declared these ord'ns invalid by 129 to 8.	
	House of Bps re-affirmed principle of ord'n of women	AIS.10 Mar.75
74	Ceylon: decided no action	AIS. 9 Nov.74
Nov. 74	South Africa: Commission unanimous in favour: To Prov. Synod in 1976	AIS.11 Jul.75
Mar. 75	<u>Summary by ACC</u> of position to date, covering 15 Anglican Churches	AIS.10 Mar.75
Apr. 75	Wales: Governing Body: No fundamental objections - but not unilateral action at present.	AIS.11 Jul.75
* June 75	Canada: Ordination of Women authorised (in consultation with House of Bishops)	AIS.11 Jul.75
July 75	England: 1. No fundamental objections 2. Authorised Bps to bring it before Synod for action 3. ABC to refer to RC's and Orthodox.	AIS.11 Jul.75
75	Scotland: Commission reported in favour (1973)	AIS.11 July75
July 75	ABC wrote to Pope "slow but steady growth" Pope to ABC (Nov.75) "new course taken by Ang.Com.... introduces element of grave difficulty" (Also letters: to Pope 23 Mar.76 to ABC 14 Jul.76)	AIS.11 Jul.75 AIS.12 Oct.75
July 75	<u>Further Summary</u> by ACC	
Sep. 75	USA: unauthorised ordination in Washington House of Bishops passed vote of censure, regret, repudiation, etc. on ord'ns of July 74 & Sep.75.	AIS.13 Feb.76
Nov. 75	Canada: House of Bps gave notice of intention to ordain women after 1st Nov.76	
Nov.		
Nov. 75	<u>First Ang/RC Informal Talks</u> : Agreed that "member Churches of the Ang.Com. are almost certain to ordain women priests in the next few years" and that discussion on the principle was superseded and should be on the ecumenical implications. (NB. Previously agreed by Card. Willebrands and JH at Vatican on 12 Nov.1973 that Card. W. would report these talks to the Pope. Confirmed by JH in letter to Card. W. of 7 Dec.1973)	
Mar. 76	ACC-3. <u>Summary</u> of decisions etc. by 20 Provinces: Ordained 1 (Hong Kong)/Approved in principle 8/ Some preliminary action 7/Against 4.	AIS.14 Jul.76 AIS.14 Jul.76
May 76	Ireland: Gen.Synod approved in principle	
(*May 76	New Zealand: Gen.Synod passed bill; action can begin in May 77. (Ent: report to Tribunal: see AIS-19)	AIS.14 Jul.76
76	West Africa: Need for further study	

* May 76	Canada: House of Bps set date for first ordinations 30 Nov.76 (13 ordained by April 77)	AIS.15	Dec.76
May 76	<u>ACC additions to previous summary</u>	AIS.15	Dec.76
Jul.76	ABC's correspondence with the Pope published	AIS.15	Dec.76
* Sep.76	USA: Gen. Convention authorised ord'n of women from 1st Jan.77	AIS.15	Dec.76
Nov.76	South Africa: Synod debate postponed for local technical reasons	AIS.15	Dec.76
Nov.76	<u>Second Ang/RC Informal Talks.</u> Proceed on basis of assumption of Nov.75.		
76	Tanzania: Synod not ready to proceed	AIS.15	Dec.76
Nov.76	Kenya: Bps agreed in principle	AIS.16	Mar.77
77	Japan: Bps agreed in principle, but need to consider Anglican and ecumenical relationships	AIS.16	Mar.77
27 Jan.77	Vatican Statement on women priests published		
Mar.77	<u>ACC Summary</u> of position to date, covering 21 Provinces and Regional Councils.	AIS.16	Mar.77
Apr.77	Australia: Doctrine Commission's report - in favour	AIS.17	Jul.77
Aug.77	Australia: General Synod - passed motions in favour Legal problems to be reviewed.	AIS.18	Nov.77
(Sep.77	USA: Exec. Cte's response to St.Louis Affirmation	AIS.18	Nov.77)
Nov.77	New Zealand: Appeal to Parliamentary Tribunal against General Synod's ruling that women may be ordained was dismissed	AIS.18	Nov.77