

Draft for Bishop Howe

Anglican/Roman Catholic Consultation on the Ordination of Women

The Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council (meeting in the United Kingdom in May 1977) and the Plenary Session of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity (meeting in Rome in November 1976) have agreed together that a small Consultation should take place to consider "to what extent and in what ways Churches with women priests and churches without women priests can be reconciled in sacramental fellowship". This follows a recommendation made at an informal meeting of Anglicans and Roman Catholics in Rome during 1975, involving staff members of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity and an Anglican team led by myself. The recommendation was endorsed the following year by a similar group.

It is hoped to hold such a consultation in Italy between 27th of February and the 2nd March 1978. It is planned that there would be five members from each church and a secretariat. It is anticipated that one position paper from each side would suffice to initiate discussion. \* It is probable that there would need to be a second meeting.

I write now to ask, in spite of the comparative short notice, whether you would be able and willing to take part in such a Consultation. The Archbishop of Canterbury has taken a particular interest in the composition of the Anglican team and hopes you will be able to share in the Consultation. You will be aware of the urgency of the matter to be discussed and of the importance of the positive way the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity has agreed to examine the question.

I look forward to hearing from you, very much hoping you will be able to accept.

*Bishop Howe's additions (above)*

\* The Consultation in its report would offer ~~to~~ advice to its members ~~and~~ to the ACC and Sec. Prom. C. U.