

The 'Moss' motion in July 1975 requested the Presidents to invite the authorities of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches to 'share in an urgent re-examination of the theological grounds for including women in the Order of Priesthood, with particular attention to the doctrine of Man and the doctrine of creation.' (See GS Misc. 88, page 6).

But the theological dialogue with the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches is at a pan-Anglican level. It was not clear how this request was to relate to the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission and the Anglican/Orthodox Joint Doctrinal Discussions. The ARCIC Agreed Statement on Ministry and Ordination did not make specific mention of the Ordination of Women, but it is understood that ARCIC is likely to refer to it in a response to criticisms of the Agreed Statements it is presently preparing. Because of the agreement to ordain women in Canada in June '75 Anglican discussion under Bishop Howe with the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome in November 1975 concentrated on the relationship between churches which ordain women and those which do not. This was the mandate for the pan-Anglican/Roman Catholic discussion which took place at Versailles early this year: Anglican-Roman Catholic Consultation on the ~~XXXXX~~ Ordination of Women to the Priesthood.

Anglican/Orthodox discussion on the question has been delayed by the reluctance of the Orthodox to examine the question at all, but a real start was made at Pendeli near Athens in July this year: A Report of a Special Meeting of the Anglican/Orthodox Joint Doctrinal Discussions.

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