



New Stories to Tell: Living Ecumenism Today

A project of the
Anglican-Roman Catholic
Dialogue of Canada

Preface

All over Canada and around the world, Roman Catholics and Anglicans live in relationship with one another. We are churches together in society, neighbours in community, and in many cases members of one household. For nearly fifty years, we have had opportunities to talk about that relationship in formal dialogue. Our official conversations have produced many agreed statements and joint documents, and have also led us to deeper understanding, opening up new opportunities to live and work together.

As members of the Canadian Anglican–Roman Catholic dialogue (ARC Canada), we experience this conversation as much more than a verbal exercise; indeed, ecumenical dialogue has the potential to transform our churches. In encountering one another as people of faith and followers of Jesus, we learn to love one another, to appreciate the gifts each of us offers to God’s mission, and to discover new invitations to act together in living and sharing the Good News.

From across our country, we hear stories which show others in our churches sharing a similar experience. Yet we also see that our growth in relationship

remains partial and fragmentary. Called by our churches into dialogue, we choose, and we invite others to choose, to continue to deepen our connection with each other, in order to fulfill Jesus' command to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34).

This volume of stories communicates that invitation. The stories illustrate the growth in mutual understanding which is reflected in the documents of our official dialogues. But they also demonstrate the growing together which is happening in the life our churches share. In moments of success and failure, good communication and misunderstanding, the stories speak to the way God's grace is at work, inviting us into right relationship with one another, with our society and environment, and most deeply of all, with God.

The stories told here highlight themes from the documents of what is commonly known as ARCIC II, that is, the second phase of the Anglican–Roman Catholic International Commission. Meeting over a period from 1983 to 2005, the Commission produced five agreed statements: *Salvation and the Church* (1986), *The Church as Communion* (1991), *Life in Christ: Morals, Communion and the Church* (1995) *The Gift of Authority* (1999), and *Mary: Grace and Hope in Christ* (2005). A third iteration of the Commission began in 2011, with one of its first tasks to publish these documents with introductory and study material, as a single volume, *Looking Towards a Church Fully Reconciled* (2016). The Commission's hope, and ours, is that the documents can come alive in the shared prayer, work, and fellowship of our churches.

These are the stories of people and places where that is already happening. We hope you will enjoy reading

them, and we hope that what you read will inspire you to ask where you can grow together, act together, and follow Christ together, as Anglicans and Roman Catholics in the places where you live and work.