



# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ANGLICAN-ROMAN CATHOLIC LEADERS HOLD BROAD BASED CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON - For the first time since official dialogue between them began, broadly representative leaders of the Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches in the United States have met to consider the practical implications of emerging doctrinal agreements.

In contrast with the more theologically oriented group representing the two churches which has met over the past 15 years for theological discussion, this group represented national lay leadership, diocesan bishops, religious communities of both churches, and top officials of church ecumenical organizations.

The meeting, which was addressed by leaders of both churches, was held at the College of Preachers of the National Cathedral of the Episcopal diocese of Washington. Thirteen Roman Catholics and thirteen Episcopalians met there four days ending June 12. They arrived at nine specific recommendations for future joint action by two churches.

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NATIONAL CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR INFORMATION

1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

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Recommendations addressed to various groups and individuals in both churches concerned the strengthening of mixed marriages, improving communications between the churches, and support to the ministries of laity and clergy, among other topics.

Of particular interest was the consideration by the churches in this country of documents being prepared by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission. After reviewing agreed statements on the Eucharist and Ministry prepared by that body, the conference suggested that competent Episcopalians and Roman Catholics confer at all levels of church life on such future documents which affect relations between the two churches in the United States.

The Most Reverend John Allin, presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, addressed the gathering as did Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul and Minneapolis, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB). Co-chairmen of the meeting were Bishop Ernest L. Unterkoefler of Charleston, S.C., Chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, and Episcopal Bishop David Reed of Kentucky, who is chairman of the Episcopal Church's national ecumenical commission.

Roman Catholic participants included Bishop James W. Malone of Youngstown, Vice President of the NCCB; Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis; Bishop Unterkoefler; Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany; Bishop John S. Cummins of Oakland; Bishop Raymond W. Lessard of Savannah, Co-Chairman of the Anglican-Roman Catholic

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Consultation in the U.S.A. (ARC); Sister Clare Fitzgerald, S.S.N.D., President of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Father Alan McCoy, O.F.M., President of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men; Mrs. Delores Leckey, Executive Director of the NCCB Committee for the Laity; Father Alex J. Brunett, President of the National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Officers; Father Herbert J. Ryan, S.J., Jesuit community; and Father John F. Hotchkin, Executive Director of the secretariat of the NCCB Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Episcopalian participants were The Rt. Rev. Edward W. Jones, Bishop of Indianapolis; Bishop Reed; The Rt. Rev. Arthur A. Vogel, Bishop of West Missouri, and Co-Chairman of ARC; The Rt. Rev. John E. Walker, Bishop of Washington (D.C.); The Rt. Rev. Arthur E. Walmsley, Bishop Coadjutor of Connecticut; the Rev. William B. Lawson, President, Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical Officers; the Rev. Canon Kermit L. Lloyd, Director of Chaplaincies, Pennsylvania Council of Churches; Mother Mary Grace, Mother Superior General, Community of St. Mary, Peekskill, N.Y.; Dr. Charles Lawrence, President, House of Deputies, General Convention of the Episcopal Church; Mrs. Betty T. Baker, Presiding Officer, 1982 Episcopal Churchwomen Triennial Meeting; the Rev. William A. Norgren, Ecumenical Officer; and Dr. Clement Welsh, Warden, College of Preachers.

Attached is a list of the recommendations emerging from the conference:

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Final Recommendations

from the Anglican Roman Catholic Leaders Conference

June 12, 1981

UNITED AS SISTER CHURCHES IN THE ONE AUTHENTIC COMMUNION OF THE FAMILY OF CHRIST, WE REJOICE IN THE GIFTS BESTOWED ON US DURING OUR DAYS OF PRAYER, REFLECTION AND STUDY TOGETHER. FROM THIS EXPERIENCE WE RENEW OUR FULL COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING THE EXISTING BONDS OF CHRISTIAN UNITY. IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE WE PRESENT THE FRUITS OF OUR WORKING TOGETHER TO THE DIVINE SHEPHERD OF UNITY AND TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN OUR TWO CHURCHES.

1. We recommend that a Joint Commission be established to develop a standard pattern for pastoral ministry to ecumenical marriages between Anglicans and Roman Catholics to include:
  - a. Premarital preparation
  - b. Further developments in the canonical and liturgical provisions for such marriages
  - c. Provision for ongoing ministry to the couples and their families. Once this pattern is approved, it is to be presented in joint clergy workshops.
2. In the event of the referral of the Final Report of ARCIC to US Church bodies we recommend to the Presiding Bishop and the President of the NCCB that groups designated to consider this Report share in meetings with cognate groups of the other Church.
3. Since both churches have a major concern for strengthening family life, and since the Roman Catholic Community has designated the 1980's as the Decade of the Family, we recommend that our churches explore ways in which family resources and programs can be shared, with a special focus on couples in ARC marriages.
4. In the light of the successful completion of the Shared Reflection on the Episcopate by certain bishops of our two churches, we recommend further meetings between bishops of our churches for the purpose of:
  - a. Spiritual sharing
  - b. Fraternal growth in the exercise of the episcopal ministry in the Church today.
5. We recommend that the two national organizations of diocesan ecumenical officers be asked to use their respective networks to gather information concerning communicating at the Holy Eucharist by members of one church in the other church to determine the occasions, circumstances and motivation for this practice. The report would be submitted to both the BCEIA and the SCER.

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6. We recommend a national conference for shared responsibility in the Church between the Committee for the Laity of the NCCB and the Education for Ministry unit of the Episcopal Church, to share experiences of lay life and participation in decision making in the Church today.
7. We recommend improved communication between our sister churches at all levels, specifically through:
  - a. Requesting a formal liaison between the Presiding Bishop, or his designate, and the President of NCCB/USCC, or his designate
  - b. Sharing specified minutes and reports of national and diocesan organizations with corresponding bodies in the other church where common concerns are dealt with.
  - c. Preparing from the other church official observers for the General Convention (and interim meetings of the House of Bishops) and the NCCB at meetings of both our churches wherever possible, particularly at diocesan levels.
  - d. Developing a jointly sponsored popular pamphlet for parish distribution dealing with the emerging agreements between our churches and helping readers to understand better the other church as we grow in unity.
8. So that we may give witness as sister churches to our common mission in social justice, we recommend that a joint task force be established to study the ways by which together we can make a significant contribution in some specific area of social need, such as reform of the criminal justice system.
9. We recommend that opportunities systematically be sought to share the resources developed in our churches to support those in ministry in our local parishes. Examples are:
  - Studies of the conditions affecting the exercise of ministry today.
  - Programs for the continuing education of the clergy.
  - Laity training programs.
  - Joint lectionary study groups.

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