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TO ALL MEMBERS OF ARCIC-II

Following on our letter from Rome of 11th November with which we enclosed a clean copy of the Graymoor draft, we are now sending you copies of the comments and reactions we received to that draft. If you now have either points to make about those comments and reactions, or wish to feed in your own ideas about the Graymoor draft, please send them to either of the Secretaries. It is important, though, that we receive your communications no later than 31st April. Your Secretaries will be meeting in May to work on the text in the light of submissions received. Quite how we shall work on the text will depend on what emerges from your submissions, but our concern is to get things to the point at which we can finish work on the text at Llandaff without unnecessary delay.

The Co-Chairmen and Co-Secretaries met again at Storrington on 13th and 14th January and were joined by Jean Tillard and Mary Tanner. In this working group we considered the various topics that lie before us as future agenda: the ordination of women, reconciliation of ministries, moral matters, and 'steps towards unity'. What became clear in our discussions was the need for some kind of framework which would enable us to see these different questions in relation to one another and give some structure and direction to our approach to them. The idea of koinonia seemed to offer the most promise as such a framework and we have therefore commissioned a paper from Jean Tillard which we hope will both furnish us with a perspective in which to view the questions that lie ahead and perhaps suggest the shape and character of a final report of ARCIC-II. As we envisaged the paper at Storrington, it would include three sections:

1. An examination of the New Testament meaning of koinonia, as unity through sharing in gifts.
2. A consideration of the structures which sustain koinonia, namely a shared sacramental life, shared faith, and shared church government. This section would give us an ecclesiology in which both unity and pluriformity may be seen together in a positive theological perspective.

3. A review of our four substantive topics from the vantage point of the framework set up in 1 and 2; namely the ordination of women, the reconciliation of ministries, moral issues and 'steps towards unity'.

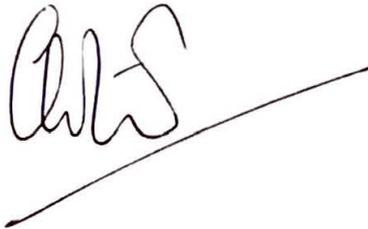
At the Storrington meeting we became very aware of the problems we would be making for ourselves if we tackled these four specific topics too directly and independently of a shared theological vision. What we would hope is that at the Llandaff meeting the Commission will be able to appropriate and deepen a theology of koinonia so that together we can address the difficult problems positively and creatively.

At the Storrington meeting the Co-Chairmen finalized the text of their reply to Cardinal Willebrands' letter about the reconciliation of ministries. We enclose copies of this correspondence and we envisage publication on 6th March in Rome and London. Members would be free to arrange local publication through appropriate church offices (jointly if possible) on the same date.

The correspondence between Pope John Paul II and the Archbishop of Canterbury remains confidential for the moment. The Archbishop of Canterbury has replied to the Pope and set out more fully to Cardinal Willebrands the serious reasons some Anglican Provinces have ordained women to the priesthood. Cardinal Willebrands is in process of replying. When this correspondence is complete it too will be published and we shall be sending it to you in advance.

We also enclose two background documents on purgatory and indulgences: one by a Roman Catholic (John Bossy), the other by an Anglican (Dr. Gillian Evans).

After Easter Christopher Hill will be sending information about the Llandaff meeting.



Kevin