

Anglican–Oriental Orthodox International Commission (AOOIC)

Communiqué 2017



The Anglican–Oriental Orthodox International Commission held its sixth meeting from the 23 to the 28 October 2017 at the Deanery of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, Republic of Ireland.

The Commission greatly appreciated the welcome to the Church of Ireland by the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin, who is a member of the Commission. The Commission is deeply grateful for the kindness and hospitality offered by the Very Revd William Morton, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, together with his staff, the staff of the Church House Dublin and the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough.

The Commission drew its previous agreed statements on the Procession of the Holy Spirit (2015) and on the Sending of the Holy Spirit in Time (2016) into its final form, and into a single document. The final text, *The Procession and Work of the Holy Spirit*, is released with this Communiqué and will be launched as a publication at the next meeting of the Commission.

The Commission began its new work on Authority in the Church, with reflections on papers prepared by both Anglican and Oriental Orthodox members on topics that included the Number of Ecumenical Councils, the Interpretation of the Council of Chalcedon, the Meaning of the Anathemas of Ecumenical Councils, and the Authority of Scripture and Tradition.

The Commission discussed the present situation of Christians in the Middle East, and heard reports of the difficulties facing Christians, particularly in Iraq, Syria and Egypt, and the challenges between the churches in South India.

Members of the Commission continue to pray for the Middle East, for the victims of war, for refugees, and for all hostages. We also continue to pray for our fellow Christians, and especially the two bishops of Aleppo abducted in April 2013: Metropolitan Mor Gregorios Youhanna Ibrahim of the Syriac Orthodox Church, and Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch.

The Commission mourned the death of its former Anglican Co-Chair, the Rt Revd Dr Geoffrey Rowell, and gave thanks for his contribution to Anglican–Oriental Orthodox relations, and in particular for his leadership of this Commission.

The Commission began its meeting by attending Choral Mattins at St Patrick's Cathedral.

The Commission was welcomed to Dublin in a civic reception at the Mansion House, the official residence of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, attended by diplomats and representative leaders of different faith communities in Dublin, as well as ecumenical leaders and members of the Church of Ireland.

The Commission visited the Chester Beatty Library, where a special exhibit of historic manuscripts representative of the Oriental Orthodox family of churches was prepared.

The Commission attended Vespers in the Coptic tradition at the recently consecrated parish church of

St Maximus and St Domatius, Drumcondra, where it was welcomed by Coptic clergy and faithful from different parts of Ireland.

The Commission attended Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral on 26 October. Before the service the members united in prayer at the memorial to the martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. In the course of the service the Agreed Statement on *The Procession and Work of the Holy Spirit* was formally signed by the two Co-Chairs, His Eminence Metropolitan Bishop and Bishop Gregory Cameron.

At the conclusion of its meeting, the work of the Commission was honoured at a celebration at the University Club, Dublin.

The seventh meeting of the Commission will take place in Lebanon, 23–27 October 2018, hosted by the Syrian Orthodox Church.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Commission thanks the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the mutual understanding and friendship that was experienced and shared, and looks forward to continuing its work.

Present at the meeting in Dublin 2017

Anglicans

The Rt Revd Gregory K Cameron	Church in Wales (Co-Chair)
The Revd Canon Dr John Gibaut	Anglican Communion Office (Co-Secretary)
The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson	Church of Ireland
The Rt Revd Dr Samy Shehata	Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East
The Ven Dr Edward Simonton OGS	Anglican Church of Canada
The Revd Stephen Stavrou	Church of England
The Revd Canon Dr William Taylor	Church of England
The Revd Canon Dr Patrick Thomas	Church in Wales
The Revd Neil Vigers	Anglican Communion Office (Staff)

Oriental Orthodox

Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria

His Eminence Metropolitan Bishop	Egypt (Co-Chair)
His Grace Bishop Angaelos	England

Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch

His Eminence Metropolitan Polycarpus Augin Aydin	The Netherlands
The Very Revd Fr Dr Roger Akhrass	Syria (Acting Co-Secretary)

Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church –Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin

His Grace, Bishop Hovakim Manukyan	United Kingdom and Ireland
------------------------------------	----------------------------

Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church

The Revd Fr Kaletsadike M. Argaw	Ethiopia
----------------------------------	----------

Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

The Revd Fr Dr KM George	India
--------------------------	-------