

## Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith and Order

### Communiqué 2019



The Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith and Order (IASCUFO) held its annual residential meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in the Province of South-East Asia from 6 to 11 December 2019. This was the last meeting of IASCUFO under its current mandate.

The Commission was hosted by the Diocese of West Malaysia and is grateful to the Most Revd Datuk Ng Moon Hing, Bishop of the Diocese of West Malaysia and Archbishop and Primate of the Province of South East Asia, and to The Revd Canon Dr Steven Abbarow, Acting Principal of Seminari Theoloji Malaysia and member of the Commission, Mrs Anne Abbarow and Mrs Maria Thomas for their generous hospitality. Members of the Commission were pleased to join in Sunday worship at the Cathedral of St Mary; All Souls' Church, Sri Hartamas; Holy Trinity, Bukit Bintang; and St Paul's Church, Petaling Jaya. The Commission's work was sustained by daily prayer and celebration of the Eucharist.

IASCUFO's mandate defines and directs its work. The Commission has responsibility:

- to promote the deepening of Communion between the Churches of the Anglican Communion, and between those Churches and the other churches and traditions of the Christian *oikumene*;
- to advise the Provinces and the Instruments of Communion on all questions of ecumenical engagement, proposals for national, regional or international ecumenical agreement or schemes of co-operation and unity, as well as on questions touching Anglican Faith and Order;
- to review developments in the areas of faith, order or unity in the Anglican Communion and among ecumenical partners, and to give advice to the Churches of the Anglican Communion or to the Instruments of Communion upon them, with the intention to promote common understanding, consistency, and convergence both in Anglican Communion affairs, and in ecumenical engagement;
- to assist any Province with the assessment of new proposals in the areas of Unity, Faith and Order as requested.

The Commission received a report on Theological Education in the Anglican Communion (TEAC) from its Director, The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Spencer, and Professor Paulo Ueti, strongly commending this work and its planned trajectory over the next eight years. The Very Revd Nak-Hyon Joo (International Anglican Liturgical Consultation IALC) shared the IALC's reflections on the liturgical formation of all the baptized and presented 'Prayers for Repentance and Reconciliation' and 'Praying with One Voice: Common Liturgical Resources for the Anglican Communion', both prepared by the IALC for the Primates' Task Group. IASCUFO welcomed this work. Some of the proposed liturgical resources were incorporated into the Commission's worship.

The Commission's report on theological anthropology was completed under the title *Created in the Image of God*. The report explores the nature and dignity of the human person as created in the image of God and called by Christ to share in the life of God, drawing out the implications of the Christian understanding of humankind with respect to economic and environmental justice. This report will be presented to the ACC for commendation to the Churches of the Anglican Communion for study and reflection.

In accordance with the resolution of the Anglican Consultative Council, at its meeting in Hong Kong in April 2019, which put in place a new procedure for the reception of ecumenical texts, IASCUFO reviewed developments in the various international bilateral dialogues in which the Anglican Communion is a partner. It received the Agreed Statement *Stewards of Creation: A Hope-Filled Ecology*, recently finalised by the International Commission for Anglican–Orthodox Theological Dialogue (ICAOTD). IASCUFO commended this Statement and expressed its thanks to the members of ICAOTD. Under the new procedure for reception of ecumenical texts, this agreed statement will be discussed at a meeting of IASCUFO in 2021 with an enhanced participation, drawn from the ACC and Anglican Co-Chairs of international bilateral dialogues, with a view to its being commended to the 18th meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in 2022. IASCUFO also commented on the initial draft of the agreed statement produced by the International Reformed—Anglican Dialogue (IRAD), *Koinonia: God's Gift and Calling*.

2019 saw the twentieth anniversary of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ), originally signed by the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church, with which the World Methodist Council, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, and the Anglican Communion are now aligned. IASCUFO received a report from the consultation of these five world communions on the JDDJ held in Notre Dame, USA, in March 2019. The Commission welcomed the principle, expressed in the statement arising from the meeting, that "all our activities should be guided by the first imperative of *From Conflict to Communion* (Lund 2016): We 'should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division in order to strengthen what is held in common even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced'."

In discussion with Mr David White (Chief Operating Officer of the Anglican Communion Office), IASCUFO received a report on and contributed to the preparatory work for the Primates' Meeting, which will take place in January 2020, and for the Lambeth Conference, in July 2020. The Commission welcomed the opportunity to feed into the agenda of both meetings in accordance with its mandate to offer advice to the Instruments of Communion.

Members of IASCUFO were delighted to welcome The Revd Dr William Adam in his new role as Director for Unity, Faith and Order for the Anglican Communion, which he holds alongside his role as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Ecumenical Adviser. The Commission expressed its deep thanks to the former Director, The Revd Canon Dr John Gibaut, for his leadership in the work of Unity, Faith and Order on behalf of the Anglican Communion and wished him every success and rich blessings in his

new ministry as President, Provost and Vice-Chancellor of Thorneloe University, Sudbury, Canada. The Commission's members thanked Dr Adam and The Revd Neil Vigers of the Department for Unity, Faith and Order for their unstinting support of the Commission's work and their commitment to resourcing the ecumenical work of the Anglican Communion.

**Present:**

The Rt Revd Professor Stephen Pickard (Anglican Church of Australia) – Chair

The Revd Canon Dr Steven Abbarow (Church of the Province of South East Asia)

The Revd Professor Paul Avis (Church of England)

The Most Revd Dr Howard Gregory (Church in the Province of the West Indies)

The Rt Revd Kumara Illangasinghe (Church of Ceylon)

The Very Revd Nak-Hyon Joo (International Anglican Liturgical Consultation)

The Most Revd Michael Lewis (Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East)

The Rt Revd Victoria Matthews (Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)

The Revd Canon Professor Charlotte Methuen (Church of England)

The Revd Canon Professor Simon Oliver (Church of England)

Professor Andrew Pierce (Church of Ireland)

The Very Revd Dr Sarah Rowland Jones (Church in Wales)

Professor Paulo Ueti (Anglican Alliance and Theological Education in the Anglican Communion)

The Revd Professor Jeremiah Yang (Anglican Church of Korea)

Anglican Communion Office Staff:

The Revd Dr William Adam (Director for Unity, Faith and Order)

The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Spencer (Director of Theological Education in the Anglican Communion)

The Revd Neil Vigers (Programme Executive, Department for Unity, Faith and Order)

Mr David White (Chief Operating Officer of the Anglican Communion Office)

Apologies were received from:

The Rt Revd Dr Victor Atta-Baffoe (Church of the Province of West Africa)

The Rt Revd William Mchombo (Church of the Province of Central Africa)

Photo credit: ACO/ Neil Vigers. Note to editors: In accordance with Resolution B17:04 of ACC 17, it is anticipated that a new Commission will be appointed following the 2020 Lambeth Conference.