

The International Reformed–Anglican Dialogue

Durban, South Africa

Communiqué



The International Reformed–Anglican Dialogue (IRAD) between the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) and the Anglican Communion met for its third meeting, at the eBandla Hotel, Ballito, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, 31 August to 7 September 2017. The Co-Chairs are the Revd Elizabeth Welch (Reformed) and the Rt Revd David Chillingworth (Anglican).

The current series of bilateral discussions is the first that the Anglican and Reformed Communions have had globally since 1984, when the Dialogue released the report, *God's Reign and our Unity*. In 2011, this new Dialogue was mandated to study the nature of communion (*koinōnia*), and the pressing issues which emerge for both Communions out of such reflection. During this third meeting, the Commission has deepened its exploration of communion as an unbreakable gift and calling, within the context of our diverse world Communions.

Papers were prepared by members of the Commission over the last year as an initial contribution to the first draft of an Agreed Statement. They were presented in plenary during this meeting. The Commission is also grateful for

other papers from expert theologians in related fields. This work formed the basis of intense small group analysis, covering areas including the essence of *koinōnia*, scriptural and historic testimony to its character, how communion is lived and responded to, as well as identifying and critically engaging with diversity in the church and the wider world. A drafting group has been tasked for the next stage of the Commission's work.

The South African context offered a profoundly influential focus for the Commission's reflection, as it heard of the churches' roles during the apartheid and post-apartheid democratic eras. In particular, the group is extremely grateful to have heard the incisive analysis of Dr Jerry Pillay, immediate past President of the WCRC, and Professor of Church History and Church Polity at the University of Pretoria. Additionally, the group enjoyed the hospitality of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, at a seminar led by faculty members and students, reflecting contextually on the dynamic of *koinōnia* and social transformation. En route, the Commission was privileged to pause for poignant reflection at the site of Nelson Mandela's capture in August 1962.

The Dialogue opened with a celebration of Holy Communion in the Anglican tradition, and closed with a celebration of Holy Communion in the Reformed tradition. The members of the dialogue prayed together each morning and evening.

This third meeting of the Commission was generously hosted by the Anglican Communion. It was warmly welcomed by Bishop Dino Gabriel of Natal, and greatly encouraged by Bishop Nkosinathi Ndwandwe, Bishop-Suffragan of Natal. On Sunday morning, the Commission attended the Eucharist with the Anglican Parish of All Souls', Umhlali.

The Commission will reconvene at the end of August 2018.

Members of the Dialogue present at this meeting

Anglican

The Rt Revd David Chillingworth, The Scottish Episcopal Church

Dr Clint Le Bruyns, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

The Revd Dr James Hawkey, The Church of England

The Revd Prof Dr Renta Nishihara, The Anglican Church in Japan

The Revd Helene T. Steed, The Church of Ireland

Staff

The Revd Canon Dr John Gibaut (Co-Secretary), Anglican Communion Office

The Revd Neil Vigers, Anglican Communion Office

Reformed

The Revd Elizabeth Welch, United Reformed Church in the UK

The Revd Dr Peter Donald, Church of Scotland

The Revd Professor Priscille Djomhoué, Eglise Protestante Unie de Belgique/
Cameroon

The Revd Professor Roderick Hewitt, Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern
Africa

The Revd Professor R Gerald Hobbs, United Church of Canada

The Revd Aimee Moiso, Presbyterian Church (USA)

The Rt Revd Dr Royce M. Victor, Church of South India

Staff

The Revd Dr Hanns Lessing (Co-Secretary)

Observers

The Revd Dr Nadia Marais, Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa

The Revd Thulani Zikhali, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa