

## International Anglican Liturgical Consultation: Report to ACC17

The International Anglican Liturgical Consultation is the official network for liturgy of the Anglican Communion. The following description is drawn mostly from the 2015 Montreal Guidelines, outlining the responsibilities and make-up of IALC:

- to promote the deepening of communion between the Churches of the Anglican Communion by renewing its life of liturgy and prayer as integral to the mission of the Church;
- to advise the provinces and the Instruments of Communion on questions of liturgy and common prayer and to encourage and support conversation between the Provinces on questions touching on Anglican liturgical theology and practice;
- to support the work of Provinces in their liturgical revision, development, and practice;
- to review developments in liturgical formation and practice in the Anglican Communion, and to give advice upon them to the Provinces and the Instruments of Communion, with the intention to promote common understanding, consistency and coherence, both within the Anglican Communion and in ecumenical engagement;
- to be the depository (through ACO) for the wide range of liturgical publications sponsored or co-sponsored by IALC (often in conjunction with Alcuin/Grove and Joint Liturgical Study)
- to report the scope and results of its work to the Anglican Consultative Council;

### Membership:

- members of Provincial Liturgical Commissions
- those nominated by the Provinces
- Anglican members of Societas Liturgica

The Standing Committee has confirmed that IALC is a Network of the Communion, within the sphere of Unity, Faith & Order. This recognises the importance of liturgy in informing the Communion's ecclesiology, its relationships, and our common Anglican identity.

### IALC since ACC-16

Neil Vigers was appointed as ACO staff Liaison, to give some of his time from Unity, Faith & Order to supporting IALC, and to draw the network more closely into the work of the Instruments of Communion.

Central records are now being kept at the ACO. The Steering Committee meets on a regular basis electronically, and in person at consultations and other meetings.

There was a regional gathering of IALC members in August 2017 in the Belgian city of Leuven, in conjunction with the meeting of international ecumenical liturgical scholars at Societas Liturgica. The IALC chair, Lizette Larson-Miller, the Steering Committee, and Neil Vigers gave careful thought to the priorities for three years, taking in ACC-17 and Lambeth 2020.

IASCUFO started to invite one consultant member from IALC. Joseph (Nak-Hyon) Joo from the Cathedral of St Mary & St. Nicholas in Seoul came to IASCUFO in December 2017 and 2018 and made a strong contribution.

The Secretary General wrote to all provinces in 2018, asking them to ensure they were represented among the members of IALC. This has raised the membership to 81, and brought new people into the network, and involved Churches which had had little if any involvement in the work of IALC.

### **Consultation in Hong Kong 2019**

IALC held a full Consultation in Hong Kong, 21-25 January. The previous one was at Montreal in 2015. Members were present from 21 Churches of the Communion.

The provincial reports indicated a significant move in a number of provinces towards the revision of prayer books, hymnals and liturgical texts, which emphasised the importance of IALC for the sharing of knowledge, resources and process. A number of provinces were, in the context of calendrical revision, considering ways to incorporate local and indigenous saints and martyrs.

A number of Churches reported on work they were undertaking with questions of gendered references for God, particularly in translations within Romance languages. From these reports of very different contexts, it was recognised that questions raised by inclusive language and gendered languages required careful and contextually appropriate responses on which further work will be needed.

The Consultation also received a report from the Anglican Liturgical Network of East Asia which had been agreed to in 2017 in Korea and met for its first conference in 2018 in Japan.

### **Work on Prayers for the Anglican Communion**

At the request of the Primates' Task Group, the meeting undertook a major piece of work to prepare resources and liturgical material for the unity of the Anglican Communion.

The Primates' Task Group asked the IALC for material that could be included both in eucharistic worship and services of the word. IALC has not provided full services of either type. Past IALC statements, especially those from Prague and Dublin, offer guidelines for liturgical structure and for typical elements that may be included in eucharistic and other liturgies. Instead, the meeting has developed a range of prayer texts in different genres, and some suggested Bible readings and sentences of scripture for use in liturgies where unity, and the unity of the Communion in particular, is the theme. These are being edited, and when ready will be given to the Primates' Task Group.

### **Liturgical Formation and Theological Education**

At the Consultation in Montreal in 2015 reports from the provinces expressed concern about inadequate training and liturgical formation of clergy and lay leaders and that liturgical education was no longer seen as a priority in many seminaries and ministerial training schemes. Taking up these concerns, a significant piece of work was undertaken in Hong Kong to consider the core elements and context of liturgical formation for ministry.

The Consultation began its work in listening to the different contexts within which liturgical formation is taking place. From these different contexts the meeting identified core theological and practical competencies which are essential across all the Churches of the Anglican Communion.

Part of this work is being reported to Theological Education for the Anglican Communion (TEAC) as they give further consideration to their Ministry Grids for various forms of ministry and Christian discipleship in the Churches of the Anglican Communion.

The meeting elected four new members to the Steering Committee. The full members of the Steering Committee appointed to serve IALC from this meeting are:

Christine Benoit (*new*)  
Luiz Coelho (*new*)

Dane Courtney  
Keith Griffiths  
Simon Jones (*new*)  
Chun Wai Lam (*new*)  
Lizette Larson-Millar  
Cynthia Botha  
Richard Clarke  
Neil Vigers

**The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean**  
**Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil**

**The Anglican Church of Australia**  
**The Anglican Church of Southern Africa**  
**The Church of England**  
**Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui**  
**The Anglican Church of Canada (ex-officio)**  
**The Anglican Church of Southern Africa (Secretary)**  
**The Church of Ireland (ACC-elected member)**  
**Anglican Communion Office Liaison**

Revd Keith Griffiths  
Chair