



**Report to the Anglican Consultative Council
Meeting at Auckland, October-November 2012**

1. Introducing the IALC

The International Anglican Liturgical Consultations (IALCs) gather liturgists and liturgical theologians from the Provinces of the Communion for focussed study of particular liturgical issues and for the building up of Communion life through the sharing of resources and insights across the Provinces.

The IALCs began as an independent meeting of Anglican liturgists who found themselves in the same place. A more formal relationship with the instruments of the Communion, and especially with the ACC, has developed over the years. The Council has repeatedly commended the findings of the Consultations for study. In the meantime, the Consultations were developing a more organized structure for themselves. What had begun as a conversation among friends eventually required some organizational order. The York Consultation (1989) adopted Guidelines (revised in 1995) to define the task of the Consultations, to provide for a Steering Committee and for other procedures. The IALC currently operates under Guidelines adopted at Berkeley, 2001.

From the Berkeley Guidelines:

“The International Anglican Liturgical Consultations (IALCs) are the official network for liturgy of the Anglican Communion, recognized by the ACC and the Primates’ Meeting, and holding first responsibility in the Communion to resource and communicate about liturgy on a communion-wide basis. Historically, the Consultations developed as Anglicans met alongside the congress of the international and ecumenical society Societas Liturgica. The Consultations are held at least every four years, and each Consultation appoints a steering committee in accordance with the guidelines that follow to hold responsibility for arrangements between those meetings.

“Attendance at an IALC shall consist of:

- a. those whom Provinces and Regional Churches choose to nominate and send;*
- b. Anglican members of Societas Liturgica;*
- c. members of provincial liturgical commissions;*
- d. others whom the steering committee may invite.*

“The business of the IALCs shall be directed by the steering committee and should include (but not be limited to):

- a. items or themes determined by the steering committee;*
- b. matters referred by the ACC or the Primates' meeting;*
- c. matters referred by particular Provinces or Regional Churches.”*

The usual pattern is to hold meetings, or conferences, in between the every-four-year full Consultations. Only the full Consultations are authorized to issue statements in the name of the IALC. Meetings, or conferences, serve as occasions to prepare study towards the statement-creating Consultations.

2. Participation/Membership and Finances

The IALCs strive to maintain a wide set of categories for membership, with the view that a mixture of scholars and members of Provincial liturgical commissions, as well as official representatives of Provinces provide a healthy basis for conversations and the advancement of the Consultation's work. Invitations are sent to every Province of the Anglican Communion to encourage participation.

This combination of categories for participation ensures that Provinces have representation in the setting of agenda and creation of the outcomes of the IALCs, and that a potentially wide basis of scholarship, theological views, cultural and ecclesial experience can be brought to the table.

Over the past several Consultations, the number of participants from the category of Provincial representatives has increased dramatically. In 2011, nineteen Provinces of the Communion sent official representatives. In addition, the number of IALC participants who are members of official Provincial liturgical or doctrine and worship committees has also increased steadily. All Provinces of the Communion are invited to send representatives.

This change in the demographic of IALCs has meant that more intentionally the Provinces as Provinces are listening to one another, learning from one another, taking insights and resources back to the official channels of their own Churches.

Participation in the IALCs is funded by the sending Provinces or bodies within Provinces who wish to support individual members. It is not uncommon for participants to fund their own participation personally. In addition, the IALC Steering Committee has created a bursary fund to support participation from as wide a range of Provinces as possible, and communicate the availability of this fund particularly to the financially less independent Provinces. In 2011 the Steering Committee was able to support eleven bursary recipients out of a total of fifty-five participants.

English has been the working language of the IALCs. However, more and more there are present at the Consultations those whose first language is not English, and increasingly efforts have been made to accommodate translation and interpretation needs. During our

times of worship at Canterbury 2011, we heard French, Spanish, Portuguese, Maori, Japanese, Cantonese, Korean, Tagalog, and Swahili.

3. Brief Overview of IALC work

IALC Reports received by previous meetings of the Anglican Consultative Council have detailed the work of the Consultations on matters related to the sacraments of the church in their contexts – from Christian initiation to the shape and form of the Eucharist and ordination rites, to questions related to the inculturation of Christian worship across the many contexts of the Anglican Communion. The IALC statements on the **Eucharist** (Dublin, 1997), particularly in its explication of the shape and form of eucharistic worship, and on the **Ordinal**, (Berkeley 2001) have been widely recognized for their contribution in real and important ways to the liturgical development of Provinces in the Communion.

In more recent years, the Consultations have turned to examine matters related to pastoral rites and formation. Palermo 2007 issued *Rites Relating to Death and Funerals*, the publication of which is expected in November 2012. Auckland 2009 began work on *Rites Related to Marriage*, which was completed at Canterbury 2011 and appended to this Report.

Recent Work by the International Anglican Liturgical Consultations:

2011 Canterbury, England

Rites Relating to Marriage Canterbury

2007 Palermo, Sicily, Italy

Rites related to Death and Funerals

2005 Prague, Czech Republic

Anglican Identity and Worship

2003 Cuddesdon, England

Liturgical Formation of the People of God

For an overview of the origins and work of the IALCs through the 1980s and 1990s, see: *International Anglican Liturgical Consultations: A Review*, by the Rev'd Paul Gibson, on the Liturgy section of the Anglican Communion Website

4. Canterbury 2011

Fully 56 Anglicans from six continents and from 19 provinces of the Anglican Communion met in Canterbury England in August of 2011.

The IALC focused on completing their work begun two years ago in Auckland and set forth in *Rites Relating to Marriage: A Working Interim Document*. The Auckland interim draft statement had been circulated in 2009 to all Provinces of the Communion for comment and feedback, which was brought to the Canterbury Consultation. Members heard and reflected upon presentations made by the Right Reverend Mdimi Mhogolo (Central Tanganyika,

Tanzania) and the Reverend Dr. Simon Jones (Church of England). Further work was then done by three groups examining (1) the theology of marriage, (2) cultural contexts of marriage, and (3) the shape and elements of the ritual. The final Statement was entrusted to an editorial group for final preparation at the end of the Consultation and is appended to this Report.

The IALC membership honoured the memory of the Right Reverend Dr. Kenneth Stevenson – who had been scheduled initially as one of the plenary speakers, and whose recent death all mourned.

The IALC's topics for study are determined through processes of canvassing members from one meeting to another. From time to time, Provinces, the Anglican Consultative Council, the Meeting of Primates, or Commissions of the Communion have requested that IALC provide counsel on a particular topic. The topic of 'rites relating to marriage' follows upon previous work in the area of pastoral liturgy, as begun at Palermo in 2007 on rites relating to death.

At this meeting, one session was set aside from the regular work of the IALC in response to a formal request from the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of The Episcopal Church (USA) – TEC – so that representatives from that Standing Commission could hear from IALC members in response to that Province's exploratory theological rationale and liturgical principles for the development of rites for the blessing of committed same gender relationships. This time was set up as a 'consultation within the Consultation.' The afternoon of that day was given to visiting local and nearby sites of historical interest or served as a welcome break after several long working days.

Participants in the 2011 International Anglican Liturgical Consultation:

Solomon Amusan (Nigeria), Barrington Bates (USA), Monty Black (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia), Juan Quevedo Bosch (USA), Cynthia Botha (Southern Africa), Robert Brooks (USA), Colin Buchanan (England), Tricia Carter (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia), Thomas Cooper (Wales), Dane Courtney (Australia), Ian Darby (Southern Africa), Anne Dawtry (England), Ron Dowling (Australia), Thomas Ely (USA), Richard Fabian (USA), Gerald Field, (Ireland), Sarah Finch (England), Godfrey Fryar (Australia), Alec George (England), Keith Griffiths (Southern Africa), Alan Harper (Ireland), John Hill (Canada), David HOLETON (Czech Republic), Harvey Howlett (England), Chris Irvine (England), Jared Isaac (South India), Shintaro Ichihara (Japan), Simon Jones (Scotland), Nak-Hyun Joseph Joo (Korea), Walter Knowles (USA), Chung-Wai Lam (Hong Kong), Ian Lam (Hong Kong), Lizette Larson-Miller (USA), Richard Leggett (Canada), Sam Dessorti Leite (Brazil), Trevor Lloyd (England), Frank Lyons (Bolivia), Iain Luke (Canada), Tomas Madella (Philippines), Darren McFarland (England), Ruth Meyers (USA), Mdimi Mhogolo (Tanzania), William Petersen (USA), Kito Pikaahu (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia), Stephen Platten (England), Alan Rufli (Ireland), Eileen Scully (Canada), Elizabeth Smith (Australia), Susan Smith (USA), Bryan Spinks (England), Miguel Tamayo (Uruguay), Philip Tovey (England), Gillian Varcoe (Australia), Peter Wall, (Canada), Louis Weil (USA), Christopher Woods (England).

5. Action Requested of the Anglican Consultative Council

The Steering Committee, having no formal authority to make a request to ACC-15, expresses its desire that the Anglican Consultative Council receive and commend for study the IALC Canterbury Statement *Rites Relating to Marriage*, appended to this Report. It further expresses its hope that a new Primate be named to serve as liaison between the IALC Steering Committee and the Meeting of Primates, to fill the space recently vacated by the retired Archbishop of Armagh.

Respectfully Submitted by Eileen Scully (Canada) IALC Chair 2011-2015
October, 2012

On behalf of the IALC Steering Committee
Cynthia Botha (Southern Africa, Secretary)
Nak-Hyun Joseph Joo (South Korea)
Te-Kito Pikaahu (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)
Alan Rufli (Ireland)