

The Vision Before Us

Compiled and edited by Sarah Rowland Jones

The Vision Before Us is a volume which harvests the work of the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission for Ecumenical Relations (IASCER) between the years 2000 and 2008. In this period, the Commission was charged by the Instruments of Communion in the Anglican Communion with keeping an overview of ecumenical engagement and advising on the ecumenical work of the Communion and the Provinces.

The book offers an introduction and analysis of the entire breadth of ecumenical engagement in the Anglican Communion, as well as reproducing key texts: the Resolutions of IASCER, and other materials which they produced in their work, such as “The Principles of Anglican Ecumenical Engagement” and “Guidelines on Ecumenical Participation in Ordinations.”

This volume is intended as an introduction and handbook for all those concerned with Anglican participation in the ecumenical movement, and constitutes the Report of IASCER to ACC-14.

The volume will be available at ACC-14. In particular, the attention of members of ACC-14 will be drawn to the following sections:

In Part One, Chapter 2, the Report sets out “The Principles of Ecumenical Engagement” developed by the current Director of Ecumenical Affairs, and adopted at the 2008 meeting of IASCER. They are commended to ACC-14 for adoption as principles that can undergird all Anglican ecumenical engagement, and to provide a short benchmark of Anglican ecumenical work in a parallel way to the “Five Marks of Mission”.

In Chapters 4 and 11, resolutions of IASCER concerning Anglican discipline relating to Baptism and Eucharist are recorded. They are commended to ACC-14 for ratification as the accepted standard upheld by the Churches of the Anglican Communion in their ecumenical engagement.

In Part Three of the volume, the range of Anglican ecumenical dialogues and ecumenical agreements are reviewed. ACC-14 is invited to affirm the bilateral dialogues of the Anglican Communion, and to adopt the resolutions of IASCER concerning their conduct, direction and the reception of the work of the bilateral Commissions and the recent reports which have been published.

In Chapter 4 (in the document “The Sacraments duly administered?”) and in Chapter 6 (Reception of Ecumenical Documents), IASCER raises questions about the conduct of ecumenical relations. ACC-14 is invited to consider how the Anglican Communion responds to the discernment of ecumenical convergence or agreement, and to consider whether further work ought to be referred to the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith and Order, established by the Joint Standing Committee in November 2008.

The Report will be introduced at the meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council by Canon Gregory K Cameron, Director of Ecumenical Affairs