



INTERNATIONAL ANGLICAN LITURGICAL CONSULTATION

Report to ACC18

The International Anglican Liturgical Consultation (IALC) is the official network for liturgy of the Anglican Communion. It exists:

- 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 review developments in liturgical formation and practice in the Anglican Communion and among ecumenical partners, 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 assist any Province with new proposals in the areas of liturgical formation, development and practice; and
- 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*

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee, elected by members of IALC, has regular online meetings, convened by the Revd Neil Vigers (ACO), to oversee the work of the network and plan future Consultations:

The Revd Christine Benoit (India Ocean)

The Revd Canon Cynthia Botha – Secretary (Southern Africa)

The Ven Dane Courtney (Australia)

The Revd Canon Keith Griffiths – Chair (resigned August 2022) (Southern Africa)

The Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones – Chair (from August 2022) (England)

The Revd Chun-wai Lam (Hong Kong)

The Revd Dr Luiz Teixiera Coelho (Brazil)

The Revd Neil Vigers (ACO)

Since ACC17

IALC held an online Consultation from 4-6 May 2021. Sixty-three members from across the Communion registered, a significant increase on pre-pandemic gatherings. On each of the three days there were two contact hours. Through individual presentations, group work and plenary sessions, the following topics were considered:

1. Reflections on Anglican Liturgy during the Covid-19 pandemic;
2. The Liturgical Formation of Bishops – One element of IALC’s work on The Liturgical Formation of All the Baptized begun at the last in-person Consultation (Hong Kong, 2020);
3. An Anglican Communion Calendar – at the request of the Secretary General.

At the end of the Consultation three groups were formed to continue each strand of work. The first focussed particularly on the liturgical and theological issues raised by online eucharists. Draft documents from all three groups were discussed by IASCUFO in December 2022 and are to be considered by ACC18.

The work of the second group fed into an IALC seminar on liturgical formation at last year’s Lambeth Conference at which bishops were invited to comment on the content. Bishop Bismarck Avokaya (South Sudan) chaired the seminar, Neil Vigers (ACO) outlined the work of IALC, and Simon Jones (England) presented the material and led the subsequent conversation. The Eucharistic Prayer drafted by IALC in Hong Kong (2020) was used at the Opening and Closing Eucharists in Canterbury Cathedral.

Future Plans

Almost thirty years on from the publication of the IALC statement on the Eucharist¹, whose recommendations greatly influenced the revision of the eucharistic rites of many Provinces, the Steering Committee plans to hold two Consultations to revisit this work in the light of developments in liturgical scholarship, the Covid-19 pandemic, cultural shifts and diversity, and the increasing variety of contexts in which the Eucharist is celebrated, with a view to making a new statement to inform future revisions and practice across the Communion. The first meeting will take place online on 3 and 4 May 2023, leading into a full, in-person Consultation in February 2024 in Seoul, South Korea. The Steering Committee is seeking to raise money for IALC's Bursary Fund to enable the widest possible representation of Provinces.

Highlight

The online Consultation in 2021 that attracted the largest number of participants in IALC's history from the largest number of Provinces, and for the enthusiasm and commitment to the three pieces of work it generated.

Question for ACC18

In the last 30 years, what is the most significant way in which the celebration of the Eucharist has changed in your context, and what factors have led to it?

Simon Jones

Chair, International Anglican Liturgical Consultation

January 2023