

Communiqué

2024 Meeting in Seoul, South Korea

The International Anglican Liturgical Consultation met in Seoul, from the 19th to 23rd February 2024. The Consultation was warmly welcomed by the Anglican Church of Korea and appreciated the facilities placed at its disposal by The Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin and St Nicholas, Seoul and the Dean, the Very Revd Sung-soon James Park.

42 Members were present from 17 Churches of the Communion. This was the first in-person meeting of the IALC since 2019, having met online during the pandemic. It was therefore a great joy to be able once again to gather in-person and a delight that amidst a gathering of some old friends there were also many joining the Consultation for the first time.

IALC was able to support the attendance of some members through the bursary fund. We are grateful to Hymns Ancient and Modern for a grant towards the costs of IALC – www.hymnsam.co.uk. It was noted with much sadness that no church from continental Africa had been able to attend on this occasion.

The daily office was led by teams from the various regions of the Communion. The Consultation was honoured to be welcomed by the Most Revd Kyong-Ho Peter Lee, Bishop of Seoul and Primate of Korea, and to join with him in a celebration of the Eucharist at which he presided.

Reports were made from the churches, and these indicated a continued move in a number of churches 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 churches are, in the context of calendrical revision, considering ways to incorporate local and indigenous saints and martyrs.

All the churches reported on the impact of the global Covid pandemic and the significant impact on the worshipping life of the churches. A real concern was the impact this was having on the resources available for liturgical work, as the churches continued slowly to

recover. One interesting development arising in part from this was the growth of material now being provided only through web-based access.

Some countries with multiple languages are developing resources and rites as original texts within that language and context, rather than seeking to translate material which had begun in English.

An East Asian Common Eucharistic Prayer

We received a presentation on the work of the Anglican Liturgical Network in East Asia (ALNEA) in writing a eucharistic prayer that reflects a common East Asian understanding, and was drafted from the start of the process in Asian languages and idioms. The text was presented in English to enable cross-language working. The originals of the prayer are those in each language in which the prayer is written. None of the multiple Asian texts is a translation from another language. This might suggest a model of working in other multi-lingual contexts.

The text included a strong emphasis on the saving work of Christ in and through creation. The Consultation warmly welcomed this innovative work by ALNEA.

Creation and the Liturgical Calendar

The Consultation received a brief report from Elizabeth Smith regarding an upcoming ecumenical consultation considering the addition of a feast to the calendar celebrating the divine action of creation through God's creative Word and the creator Spirit. The suggestion flows from 'the whole mystery of Christ' and the fact that 'all things were created through Him', and the increasing importance of the ecological, environmental and eco-justice theologies which are being developed by many denominations independently and in various ecumenical coalitions. For Anglicans, these theologies respond to the fifth Mark of Mission, 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'.

Renewing The Anglican Eucharist 30 years on

The document produced by the 5th IALC in 1995, *Renewing the Anglican Eucharist*, was met with a positive response across the Communion. However the world is now very different, and the principal work of our Consultation has been to reconsider that text, paying attention to the significant cultural, social and technological changes which have happened over the past 30 years. The 1995 document itself noted that 'in the future Anglican unity will find its liturgical expression not so much in uniform texts as in a common approach to eucharistic celebration and a structure which will ensure a balance of word, prayer, and sacrament'. That future is now here.

We reconsidered the connections between the eucharist and ministry, order and ecclesiology; structure of the rite; ritual, language and symbolism; and liturgical and eucharistic renewal. All were considered in theological, cultural and missional contexts.

It became quickly clear that throughout the Communion there have been significant changes in the way we gather and understand worship, and worship leaders and churches need support in managing the diverse challenges that all face. We hope that the work of the Consultation will reach as wide an audience as possible, and will help those who lead and plan acts of worship, as well as the more formal liturgical commissions.

Taking the Work Forward

The work of the meeting has now been passed to the Steering Committee who will be gathering the work together with an editorial committee and considering how best to promote the work across the Communion.

Business

At the start of our meeting we gave thanks for the work of the Revd Canon Keith Griffiths, who had to step down as Chair of the Steering Committee; and also for the longstanding contribution of the Revd Canon Cynthia Botha who had stepped down as secretary. The Steering Committee appointed Neil Vigers as its new secretary.

At the request of the ACC the Consultation received and adopted the ACC code of conduct for the gathering. This important text also reminded us of the wider context of safeguarding which now impacted all parts of the Communion.

Two members of the Steering Committee elected at the 2019 Consultation continue their terms: Simon Jones (Church of England) and Luiz Coelho (Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil). The meeting elected four additional members to the Steering Committee:

Chun Wai Lam (Hong Kong)

Christine Benoit (Indian Ocean)

Hilary Bogert-Winkler (The Episcopal Church)

John Davies (Scottish Episcopal Church)