

Communiqué



The Anglican-Oriental Orthodox International Commission has held its third meeting, from 13–17 October 2014, at St Mark's Center, Cairo, Egypt.

The Commission greatly appreciates the hospitality offered by the Coptic Orthodox Church, and is grateful to His Holiness Pope Tawadros II for receiving the Commission in the Cathedral of St Mark and in his residence after its members had attended Vespers and His Holiness' weekly pastoral Bible study and sermon. The Commission is indebted to The Most Revd Dr Mouneer Anis, President Bishop of the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, for his welcome to the Cathedral of All Saints and to his diocese and for his hospitality.

The Commission completed its work revising the text of the 2002 Holy Etchmiadzin Agreed Statement on Christology in the light of comments received from member Churches. The revised text was signed at the Cairo meeting by His Eminence Metropolitan Bishop of Damietta on behalf of the Oriental Orthodox Churches, and by The Rt Revd Dr Geoffrey Rowell on behalf of the Anglican Communion. This significant, revised statement will be sent to the responsible authorities of the Oriental Orthodox Churches and the Anglican Communion for their consideration and action.

During the course of its meeting the Commission shared in daily prayer from the various traditions represented, and considered and discussed the themes of authority and primacy in the two families of Churches.

The Commission shared the urgent concerns of members from the Middle East, especially in the critical situations in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and other regions, and heard of the experience of the Church in Egypt from Pope Tawadros and Bishop Mouneer. Messages of solidarity were also sent to the Christians of those regions through the delegates present. Church leaders and members of the Commission reiterated their ongoing prayers and concern for the two kidnapped bishops of Aleppo, Metropolitan Mor Gregorios Youhanna Ibrahim of the Syrian Orthodox Church, and Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch.

The fourth meeting of the Commission will take place in Wales from 5–10 October 2015, hosted by the Anglican Communion, addressing among other issues the theme of the Holy Spirit, on which important preliminary work was done.

At the conclusion of the dialogue the Commission thanked God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the unity that they experienced and shared, and look forward to continuing its work.

The Commission also marks this as the last of its meetings co-chaired by Bishop Geoffrey, and thanks him for his faithful service to its work since its inception; and recognises that this will be the last meeting as Co-Secretary for Archbishop Nareg Alemezian (who is succeeded in the role by Fr Housig Mardirossian), and for Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan on her retirement, thanking them both for their contribution to the Dialogue.

The new Anglican Co-Chair will be Bishop Gregory Cameron, Bishop of St Asaph in the Church in Wales.

Members of the Commission

Anglican

The Rt Revd Dr Geoffrey Rowell (<i>Co-Chair</i>)	The Church of England
The Rt Revd Dr Gregory Cameron	The Church in Wales (Unable to attend the meeting)
The Revd Christopher Edgar	The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East
The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson	The Church of Ireland
The Revd Canon Dr William Taylor	The Church of England
The Very Revd Dr Samy Shehata	The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East
The Ven Edward Simonton OGS	The Church of Canada
The Revd Stephen Stavrou	The Church of England (Unable to attend the meeting)
The Revd Dr Patrick Thomas	The Church in Wales

The Revd Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan Anglican Communion Office

(*Co-Secretary*)

The Revd Neil Vigers
(*Administrator*)

Anglican Communion Office

Oriental Orthodox

Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria

His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy (<i>Co-Chair</i>)	Egypt
His Grace Bishop Angaelos	England

Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church - Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia

His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian	USA	(Unable to attend the meeting)
The Very Revd Archimandrite Shahe Ananyan (Unable to attend the meeting), represented by The Very Revd Fr Gabriel Sargsyan		

Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church - Holy See of Cilicia, Antelias - Lebanon

His Eminence Archbishop Nareg Alemezian	Cyprus
The Very Revd Fr Housig Mardirossian Lebanon (<i>Co-Secretary</i>)	

Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church

His Grace Archbishop Abba Gabriel	Ethiopia	(Unable to attend the meeting)
His Grace Archbishop Abba Yacob	South Africa	(Unable to attend the meeting)

Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

Metropolitan Geevarghese Mor Coorilos	India
The Revd Fr Dr KM George	India

Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch

His Eminence Mor Eustatheus Matta Roham	Syria	(Unable to attend the meeting)
The Very Revd Fr Roger Akhrass	Syria	