

## International Commission of the Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue

### September 2009 Communiqué Chania, Crete, Greece

The International Commission for Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue met in Chania, Crete, from Tuesday, 15th September to Sunday 20th September 2009, as guests of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, at the Metropolis of Kydonia and Apokoronos.

The Commission wishes to record its gratitude to His Eminence Metropolitan Damaskinos of Kydonia and Apokoronos (Chania) and his staff for the warmth of their hospitality and for their assistance with many aspects of the meeting. Greetings were received from Metropolitan Damaskinos and from the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the local civil authorities.

The Commission consists of representatives of the Orthodox Church and of the Anglican Communion. It began its work in Oxford in 1973. Agreements reached in its first two stages were set out in (1) the *Moscow Agreed Statement* of 1976, and the *Dublin Agreed Statement* of 1984, and (2) in the *Cyprus Agreed Statement* of 2006.

The meeting in Crete was the first plenary meeting of the third stage of the Dialogue. The Commission discussed the theological convergences identified in the Moscow, Dublin and Cyprus Statements, and it noted the ways in which these statements were being distributed and discussed on both sides. The main topic for this third stage of the dialogue is theological anthropology, that is, the Christian understanding of the human person as being in the image and likeness of God, and the implications of this for church life and contemporary ethical issues. In the light of the Cyprus Statement *The Church of the Triune God* papers were written by the Bishop William Gregg, on hopes and possibilities for the Anglican-Orthodox dialogue in the future, and by the Revd Dr Timothy Bradshaw on an Anglican view of Christian anthropology. Two further papers were discussed examining Christian anthropology; an Anglican viewpoint by the Revd Professor John Riches, and an Orthodox perspective by Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia.

The Commission will meet again from 31st August to 6th September 2010 in Oxford, England, and will address in greater depth certain aspects of Christian anthropology: 'what is a human being?'; 'the freedom and growth of the human being with particular reference to the understanding of image and likeness'; and 'human responsibility for the creation; a critical overview of recent statements by our churches'.

Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia  
Orthodox Co-Chairman

Archbishop Roger Herft  
Anglican Co-Chairman

Chania, Saturday, 19th September 2009  
Feast of St Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury

**Commission Members present in Chania were:**

<b>Representatives of the Orthodox Church</b>	<b>Representatives of the Anglican Communion</b>
Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia (Ecumenical Patriarchate) (Co-chairman)	Archbishop Roger Herft (The Anglican Church of Australia) (Co-Chairman)
Metropolitan Petros of Aksum (Patriarchate of Alexandria)	The Revd Dr Timothy Bradshaw (The Church of England) (Co-Secretary)
The Revd Fr Alexander Haig (Patriarchate of Antioch)	The Revd Dr Thomas Ferguson (The Episcopal Church) [USA]
The Revd Dr George Dion Dragas (Patriarchate of Jerusalem)	The Revd Canon Jonathan Goodall (Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative)
The Revd Dr Kirill Hovorun (Patriarchate of Moscow)	Bishop William Gregg (The Episcopal Church) [USA]
Dr Bogdan Lubardic (Patriarchate of Serbia)	The Revd Deacon Dr Christine Hall (The Church of England)
Metropolitan Nifon of Târgoviște (Patriarchate of Romania)	The Revd Canon Philip Hobson OGS (The Anglican Church of Canada)
Bishop Melkhisedek of Herety (Patriarchate of Georgia)	Ms Natasha Klukach (The Anglican Church of Canada)
The Revd Dr Giorgi Zviadadze (Patriarchate of Georgia)	Bishop Michael Lewis (The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East)
Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Kition (Church of Cyprus)	The Revd Dr Duncan Reid (The Anglican Church of Australia)
Bishop Ilia of Philomelion (Church of Albania)	The Revd Canon Professor John Riches (Scottish Episcopal Church)
The Revd Dr Christos B Christakis (Co-Secretary)	Bishop John Stroyan (The Church of England)
Members unable to attend:	The Revd Joseph Wandera (The Anglican Church of Kenya)
Professor Constantine Scouteris (Church of Greece)	Neil Vigers (Staff - Anglican Communion Office)
The Revd Fr Andrzej Minko (Church of Poland)	Members unable to attend:
The Revd Dr Vaclav Jezek (Church of Czech Lands and Slovakia)	Dr Paula Gooder (The Church of England)