

The Response to the Ministry Statement:
a tentative draft outline

1. Summary of principal criticisms:

- (a) The place and part of the laity was underplayed, with a consequent over-emphasis on the hierarchical nature and structure of the Church.
- (b) A lack of clarity in relating ministerial priesthood and the general priesthood.
- (c) The implications of the Statement for Anglican orders not clearly drawn.

The underlying theological questions?

2. The Priesthood of the whole People of God. See ARCIC 173/Canterbury/7. 4 "The Priesthood of Christ.....his priesthood".

The Ministry of Women.

N.B. The distinction between the two levels of the priesthood of Christ.

- (a) Its nature: the priesthood of all believers does not contradict the unicity of Christ's priesthood in which they participate in virtue of baptism.
- (b) His ministry: ordained ministers have a special sacramental relationship with Christ the High Priest in virtue of ordination. See ARCIC 173/Canterbury/7. 4.

3. The necessity, nature and role of the ordained ministry.

The sacramentality of order and the precise significance of "Nevertheless their ministry is not an extension of the common Christian priesthood but belongs to another realm of the gifts of the Spirit".

4. The continuity and form of the ordained ministry. See ARCIC 173/Canterbury/7. 2 "Early in the second century.... the apostles" and op cit. 3 "Our intention in drawing be carried further".

N.B. Episcopal ministry as distinct from the three-fold ministry.

5. The Reconciliation of ministries and Anglican orders. See ARCIC 173/Canterbury/7. 6

The ordination of women. See ARCIC/173/Canterbury/7. 5.