

MEETINGS OF THE ANGLICAN-ROMAN CATHOLIC
JOINT PREPARATORY COMMISSION (A/RCJPC)

First Meeting: GAZZADA, Jan. 9th - 13th, 1967.

Papers were presented on 'Why is Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue possible today?' and 'Where should dialogue begin?'

Second " : HUNTERCOMBE, Aug. 30th - Sept. 4th, 1967.

Papers were presented on the Word, how the Word is received by man, the minimum structure of the local church, diversity in a united church, etc.

Third " : MALTA, Dec. 30th, 1967, - Jan. 3rd 1968.

Two papers were presented - one Anglican, one Roman Catholic - on 'Unity: an approach by stages?', and the 'Malta Report', containing recommendations about the next stage in the dialogue, etc., was offered to the two churches.

MEETINGS OF THE ANGLICAN-ROMAN CATHOLIC
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION (A/RCIC)

(Please note that until the first meeting, the Commission was known as the Anglican-Roman Catholic Permanent Joint Commission (A/RCPJC) and the first six papers of the numbered series are known under these letters)

First Meeting: WINDSOR, 9-15th Jan., 1970.

According to the recommendations of the Malta Report, Eucharist, Ministry and Authority in the Church were discussed in relation to the concept of koinonia. Anglican and Roman Catholic position papers were prepared beforehand.

Second " : VENICE, 21 - 28 Sept., 1970.

Material prepared:

1. preparatory papers on authority by members in Oxford.
2. a Roman Catholic position paper on ministry (USA).
3. a working paper on Eucharist (S. African A/RC).

Working papers on Eucharist, Ministry and Authority in the Church were published from the meeting in Theology (Feb '71) One in Christ (2-3, '71) and the Clergy Review (Feb '71) - but these only carried the authority of the respective sub-commissions which produced them.

Also at the first meeting there was some consideration of moral theology and three consultants presented papers, but pressure of work meant there was not enough time to pursue them, so it was decided to concentrate only on one subject at a time.

Third Meeting: WINDSOR, 1 - 8 Sept., 1971.

Material prepared:

1. a collection of short papers on eucharistic sacrifice, (Oxford).
2. Anglican and Roman Catholic position papers on the real presence (Canada).
3. a draft statement on Eucharist (Poringland, 12-16/4/71).

At Windsor the Commission worked in three on the Poringland draft, concentrating on problems of presence and sacrifice. After redrafting, the commission completed their 'AGREED STATEMENT ON EUCHARISTIC DOCTRINE', published 31st Dec., '71, with the permission of the authorities of both churches.

Social and cultural factors were also considered at this meeting, and the Commission received a paper presented by a sociological consultant.

Fourth " : GAZZADA, 30th Aug. - 7 Sept., 1972.

Material prepared:

1. short preparatory papers on ministry in the New Testament (Oxford).
2. a Roman Catholic paper on Sacerdotium (Canada).
3. several A/RC USA papers on bishops and priests.
4. a paper from S. Africa on the problem of orders.
5. a sub-commission met at Woodstock College (NY) to consider all this preparatory material (22-26 May, 1972.)

At Gazzada the Commission produced two draft texts on ministry in the New Testament, and on apostolicity.

Fifth " : CANTERBURY, 28th Aug. - 6th Sept., 1973.

Papers prepared:

1. joint work on Apostolic Succession (Oxford).
2. " " " priesthood (Montreal).
3. " " " ordination (S. Africa).
4. a sub-commission met at Poringland (Nov. 11-15 June, '73, to review all this preparatory material, and offered a draft statement on ministry and ordination to the full Commission.

At Canterbury, the Poringland draft was revised and elaborated, and the major themes accepted: ministries in the life of the church (including ministry in the New Testament and in the early church), ordained ministry (including priestly language), ordination (including apostolic succession). The 'AGREED STATEMENT ON MINISTRY AND ORDINATION' was then accepted and published on 13th Dec., 1973, with the permission of the respective authorities, and including a historical appendix by the then Anglican co-secretary, Colin Davey.

Sixth Meeting: GROTTAFERRATA, 27th Aug. - 5th Sept., 1974.

Material prepared:

1. on the authority of the Bible (S. Africa).
2. on koinonia and ecclesiology (USA).
3. on the ecclesiology of Vatican II (Oxford).
4. on indefectibility and infallibility (Eng. A-RC).
5. Also individual position papers by members of ARCIC on:
 - i) schism.
 - ii) magisterium in the early church.
 - iii) Vatican I.
 - iv) sensus fidelium.

The main work of the full A/RCIC this year centered on the authority of scripture and the role of the sensus fidelium.

On 3rd Sept. 1974, the Commission was received by Paul VI at Castogandolfo.

Seventh " : OXFORD, 29th Aug. - 5th Sept., 1975.

Material prepared:

1. a small sub-commission at Poringland (11-15 Dec., 1974) revised drafts from the previous meeting.
2. a small sub-commission at the Royal Foundation of St. Katherine (22-26 June, 1975) continued the work of the Poringland meeting, and offered the full Commission a draft text on:
 - i) the lordship of Christ.
 - ii) the authority of Scripture,
 - iii) the sensus fidelium.
 - iv) the authority conferred by holiness and by special gifts of the spirit.
3. in addition there were four important position papers:
 - i) and ii) - two Anglican papers on the exercise of authority in the church, and on the relation between truth and authenticity.
 - ii) two Roman Catholic papers on the primacy of the bishop of Rome and on jurisdiction.

The full Commission scrutinized the St. Katherine's draft, but did not amend it. Instead, it continued the logic of the draft and divided into two sub-commissions, to deal with primacy in relation to unity, and infallibility and truth in relation to councils.

On 3rd Sept., the Commission was joined by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Donald Coggan.

Eighth " : VENICE, 24th Aug. - 2nd Sept., 1976.

Material prepared:

1. draft material on unity and truth from the two sub-commissions at the Oxford meeting (put together by a small sub-commission at Poringland, 9-12 Feb., 1976).
2. a larger sub-commission at Hengrave Hall (21-25 June, 1976) revised the Poringland draft and added new material on primacy, collegiality and conciliarity.

Thus the full commission had before it an extended draft statement on authority.

Sub-commissions at Venice then revised the new material from Poringland and Hengrave, with attention also to the

development of doctrine and decisions in matters of faith. The whole draft was revised, an important conclusion added, and the commission finally accepted their 'AGREED STATEMENT ON AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH', which was then published, with the permission of both authorities, on 20th Jan., 1977.

Ninth Meeting: CHICHESTER, 30th Aug. - 8th Sept., 1977.

It had already been decided that this meeting would be devoted to responding to criticisms of the Agreed Statements, and papers were prepared cataloguing both Anglican and Roman Catholic criticisms. At Chichester it was decided to elucidate the Statements rather than simply engage in debate, and three sub-commissions began this.

Tenth " : SALISBURY, 12-20th Jan., 1979. (This meeting was postponed from 1978 because of the death of Paul VI).

Material prepared:

1. a revision of the Chichester material on Eucharist (a small sub-commission at Mill Hill, 9-10 June, 1978)
2. a completed draft text on ministry and ordination (large sub-commission at London Colney, 4-7 Sept., 1978)

At Salisbury the commission revised the two texts and agreed its response to criticisms of the first two statements. 'ELUCIDATIONS' was published on 7th June, 1979.

Eleventh " : VENICE, 28th Aug. - 6th Sept., 1979.

Material prepared:

1. work on the four serious problems left unresolved by 'Authority in the Church I' (St. Albans, 5-9 June, 1978)
2. position papers prepared for that sub-commission:
 - i) a joint Anglican-Roman Catholic paper on Petrine texts (USA)
 - ii) an Anglican paper on the Spirit's abiding in the Church, with a Roman Catholic response.
 - iii) joint notes on the problem of ius divinum.
 - iv) a big Roman Catholic paper on the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Rome.
3. Two drafters had also prepared material to continue the earlier statement.

The commission itself divided into four sub-commissions at Venice and produced four tentative drafts on the above subjects.

Twelfth " : VENICE, 26th Aug. - 4th Sept., 1980.

Drafts from the previous meeting were criticised and refined. Material on Petrine texts, ius divinum and jurisdiction were all but completed, but the draft on infallibility remained unfinished.

On the 4th Sept., the commission was received by John Paul II at Castelgandolfo.

Thirteenth Meeting: (Final Meeting) WINDSOR, 25th Aug. - 3rd Sept., 1981.

Material prepared:

1. a draft introduction, expounding the commission's ecclesiology (Wychcroft, 7-11 Jan., 1980).
2. at Burnham (22-26 June, 1980) a sub-commission began work on a response to criticisms of the first Statement on Authority.
3. a large sub-commission in Liverpool (St. Katherinès) 15-19 Dec., 1980, completed draft material on infallibility left unfinished at the previous full meeting in Venice. They also began revising the response to criticisms of 'Authority' drafted at Burnham.
3. the final sub-commission (Bristol, 9-13 June, 1981) revised the Wychcroft draft introduction on the Church, stressing the commission's use of koinonia, and completed the revision of the draft response to criticisms of 'Authority'.

Thus the final meeting at Windsor had before it a full set of draft texts for scrutiny, criticism and revision. For the first part the commission worked in five sub-commissions on:

- i) Petrine texts
- ii) ius divinum
- iii) jurisdiction
- iv) infallibility
- v) an authority elucidation

For the second part, the commission worked as a whole, except for the sub-commission on infallibility, putting together all the drafts, revising the Introduction, and accepting the preface. Towards the end of the final meeting, all texts were unanimously agreed.

On the 1st Sept., the commission was received at Lambeth Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie. The permission of both authorities was given for the publication of the 'FINAL REPORT' in June, 1982.