

Report of ARC/USA to ARCIC II
August 1984

Request of ARCIC II: "a) to explore the notion of partial communion, and
b) to study the reconciliation of churches & ministries".

ARC/USA meeting Jan. 23-26/84, Cincinnati:

- 1) ARC/USA is pleased to collaborate with ARCIC in the manner requested, but does not expect to have any substantial report until after its next meeting in December 1984.
- 2) For practical reasons, it did not seem feasible for ARC/USA to meet with Canadian ARC to pursue the ARCIC agenda item. It is understood that both ARCs will consider the subjects and present separate reports.
- 3) Fr. Herbert Ryan, S.J., prepared a paper for the Cincinnati meeting, entitled: "Reflections on Pastoral Cooperation to Foster Anglican-Roman Catholic Organic Unity".

After noting the several programs of pastoral cooperating developed in recent years, R. questions whether a "will to achieve organic union" is pervasive in either communion. Infracommunal issues are generally given priority over intracommunal issues, and the latter are, out of a sense of "even-handed justice", usually placed in too broad a context of wider ecumenical concerns.

Denominational loyalty is strong in both communions. Consequently, efforts towards organic unity must "proceed from and contribute to a deepening or renewal of each church's infracommunal life."

R. then proceeds to discuss four contemporary theological models that should guide ecumenical programs: (a) the Spirit-filled people; (b) the prophetic community; (c) the enabling community; (d) servants of justice.

- 4) Fr. William A. Norgren shared his paper, "Ways to Full Communion", prepared for the Anglican-Lutheran Joint Working Group meeting in England in Nov.-Dec. 1983. Following is an outline of this paper:

1. Meaning of Full Communion.
2. Stages of Unity.
3. Ways to Full Communion.
 - a. Proposal to the Churches: To Stage of Interim Sharing of the Eucharist.
 - b. Full Agreement in the Faith & Recognition of Ministries: To Stage of Full Communion.
 - (1) Agreed Statements.
 - (2) Full Recognition of Ministries.
 - (3) Common Life.
 - (4) Communication and Consultation.

- 5) Discussion surfaced these points, among others:

- prioritizing of bilateral relations done by higher authorities, but not perceived or understood by 'grass roots';
- reciprocal eucharistic sharing inevitably connected to recognition of ministries;
- crucial question of ordination of women, not only for Rome but also within Anglican communion;

- what is difference between 'organic unity' and 'full communion';
- urgent need to re-examine question of validity of Anglican Orders (cfr. recent instances of 'absolute ordination' of episcopal priests received into Roman communion);
- change in the context of 'ministry question': revised ordinals; agreed statement on ministry;

Agenda for next ARC/USA meeting, Dec. 1984:

- 1) A comparative study of the revised eucharistic rites and ordinals of the two churches, discerning changed ecclesiology, sacramental theologies since the 19th century, which provide a new context in which mutual recognition of orders might take place.
- 2) Recent scholarship on Apostolicae Curae and the new context: an historical review, with bibliography, including responses of the Archbishops of York and Canterbury to the Roman document.
- 3) The concept of communicatio in sacris in Vatican II.
- 4) Review of material from all bilaterals and multilaterals on the theology of ministry and apostolicity.
- 5) Report from Diocesan Ecumenical Officers on pastoral programs and activities that are possible within limitations of current teaching and discipline.