



ANGLICAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

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30th June, 1978.

To: The Primates of the
Anglican Communion

I have pleasure in sending the Joint Report of the Anglican/Roman Catholic Consultation concerning the Ordination of Women. This is the Consultation referred to in "Preparatory Information" for the Lambeth Conference 1978, page 57(d). I apologise that it has not been possible to send it to you earlier.

The Anglican circulation of the Joint Report of the Consultation held last February/March is made with the knowledge of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, with whom we have been in close association throughout.

In our discussions subsequent to the completion of the Report the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity has stressed that the Report must be read as a whole, and in particular that paragraph 6 should not be separated from paragraphs 2 and 3. The Anglican understanding also is that the document be read as a single whole, in the light of the Terms of Reference given to the Consultation: "To what extent and in what ways churches with women priests and churches without women priests can be reconciled in sacramental fellowship." It will be seen that the subject of the Report is not an investigation of the grounds for or against the ordination of women to the priesthood, or of the possibility of changes of mind or practice on either side.

Each Primate is free to distribute the Report in his Province as he may wish. Several copies are enclosed; more will be available at the Lambeth Conference.

At the Lambeth Conference the Observers from the Roman Catholic Church will be able to comment on the Report. They include members from the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, one of whom was also a participant in the Consultation.

Following the Resolution concerning Pan-Anglican Conversations with other Churches (ACC-2 Dublin, Report page 8) the Anglican Consultative Council at its next meeting will consider any response to the Report which you may wish to send to it.

The Report is not a restricted document, and Primates may communicate its contents as they wish.

Yours very sincerely,

Secretary General
Anglican Consultative Council

JH/DH