

Anglican-Lutheran International Co-ordinating Committee
Helsinki, Finland
19–25 September 2013

Communiqué

The Anglican-Lutheran International Co-ordinating Committee (ALICC) held its first meeting in the Cultural Centre Sofia, Helsinki, Finland from 19 to 25 September 2013, under the leadership of the Most Reverend Maurício Andrade, Primate of Brazil, and of Bishop Michael Pryse of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

The meeting was hosted by the Lutheran World Federation with the generous assistance of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland.

The Co-ordinating Committee studied the mandate given by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Anglican Communion. The focus of this work is to monitor and encourage existing Anglican-Lutheran relations, as well as to advance co-operation between the two Churches in areas where there are not yet any formal agreements. To enable the Committee to function as an encourager as well as a catalyst, the Committee has begun a process of mapping agreements, initiatives and projects in different regions. This mapping project is an ongoing task for the Committee and we urge Churches, in both communions, to provide information to further this task.

The Committee has also initiated a process promoting Anglican-Lutheran collaboration in the observance of the 2017 Reformation anniversary. As part of this the Committee intends to provide study material based around the official LWF theme *Liberated by God's Grace*. This material would be designed to be used in joint Anglican-Lutheran study groups where both denominations are present as well as by separated groups. It is hoped that this material will relate to different ages and contexts. The purpose is to highlight that reformation is ongoing and that 16th century Reformation thoughts are relevant for Christians today. The Committee is locating this and all its work within the theological theme of *communion in the mission of God*.

The Diocese of Tampere and Bishop Matti Repo invited the Co-ordinating Committee to the Diocese on Sunday 22 September for worship and for sharing local Lutheran-Anglican initiatives. The Bishop and some of his clerical colleagues shared experiences of working together with their Anglican partner Diocese of Manchester (Church of England). The two dioceses have developed close co-operation in preparing youngsters for confirmation and in exploring urban theology. The Diocese of Tampere hosts an English-speaking international congregation in one of their churches and provides clergy to assist the Anglican Chaplaincy in Helsinki which oversees this ministry. The Committee is appreciative of the hospitality shown by Bishop Matti Repo and his wife, the Revd Päivi Repo, who provided fellowship and an excellent lunch.

Metropolitan Ambrosius, Orthodox Bishop of Helsinki, invited the Committee to his home on Monday 23 September, offering hospitality describing the current situation for the Orthodox Church in Finland and the work of the Sofia Centre.

Present at the first meeting of ALICC were:

Anglicans:

The Most Revd Maurício Andrade, Brazil (Co-Chair)

The Revd Dalcy Dlamini, Swaziland, Southern Africa

The Rt Revd Dr Tim Harris, Australia

The Revd Augusta Leung, Hong Kong

The Revd Canon John Lindsay, Scotland

The Revd Canon Dr Alyson Barnett-Cowan, Anglican Communion Office (Co-Secretary)

Lutherans:

Bishop Michael Pryse, Canada (Co-Chair)

Rev. Ángel Furlan, Argentina

Rev. Joyceline Fred Njama, Tanzania

Rev. Canon Helene Tärneberg Steed, Sweden and Ireland

Rev. Anne Burghardt, Lutheran World Federation (Co-Secretary)

Apology

Bishop Philip Lok, Malaysia