

Editorial

Autor(en): **Berlis, Angela / Avis, Paul**

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Editorial

By 2011, the communion between Anglicans and Old Catholics had existed for 80 years. The Bonn Agreement, signed in 1931, which established communion between the Anglican Communion and the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht, proved to be significant for the twentieth-century ecumenical movement as it was the first such agreement in recent times. Since then, the relationship between our two Church Communion has developed and deepened.

This double issue of the *Internationale Kirchliche Zeitschrift* contains the proceedings of the International Old Catholic / Anglican Theologians' Conference, held 29 August – 2 September 2011 in Neustadt/Weinstrasse (Germany). The conference theme was 'Ecclesiology and Mission in Today's Europe'. The papers looked at the situation of Christianity in Europe from different angles and perspectives. They critically evaluated the Bonn Agreement and put it in its wider ecumenical context, and explored the significance of the witness of the church in contemporary Europe. The conference papers appear here in a reworked form, following a peer-review process.¹ Unfortunately, two of the conference papers² could not be included and one was due to be published elsewhere in a similar form.³

The idea for this conference reached back to a meeting in London, where both of us felt that after the Theologians' Conference in Leeds, held in 2005,⁴ it was time for a new joint conference to promote the deepening of our communion. The Anglican Old Catholic International Coordinating Council (AOCICC) took up the idea and proposed that the conference

¹ A short impression of the Conference by Andreas Krebs was published in *Christkatholisch. Zeitschrift der Christkatholischen Kirche der Schweiz* 134 (2011), No. 20, p. 3.

² Bishop Dr MATTHIAS RING (Bonn/Germany), 'Belonging together in a Secularized Society'; Privatdozent Dr habil. DANIEL MUNTEANU (Bamberg/Germany), 'Ecclesiology and Mission in our contemporary world from an Orthodox Perspective'.

³ PAUL AVIS, 'Towards a Missiological Ecclesiology', is due to be published in the proceedings of the 7th Theological Conference between the Church of England and the *Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland* under the Meissen Agreement, Sarum College, Salisbury, England, January 2011.

⁴ See *Towards further Convergence: Anglican and Old Catholic Ecclesiologies. The Papers of the Anglican – Old Catholic Theologians' Conference*, ed. by URS VON ARX, PAUL AVIS and MATTIJUS PLOEGER, Beiheft zu IKZ 96 (2006), 184 pages.

should consider the draft working paper on which it was working at that time. The International Old Catholic Theologians' Conference of 2009 supported the idea in principle and the preparation committee started to develop the programme. The members of the committee were the two coordinators of the conference (Dr Andreas Krebs and the Revd Robert Frede), representatives from Old Catholic Theological Education (the Revd Professor Dr Angela Berlis, Canon Wietse van der Velde) and, from the Anglican side, Canon Professor Dr Paul Avis and the Revd Dr Jeremy Morris. At the main preparatory meeting in Haarlem in July 2009, also the Bishop of Haarlem, the Right Revd Dr Dick Schoon, a member of the AOCICC, participated.

This issue begins with the two opening addresses by the Archbishop of Utrecht and by the Bishop of the Diocese in Europe (Church of England). It also contains the report of the Conference in English⁵ and a list of participants.

The Conference considered a draft working paper written by the AOCICC on 'Belonging Together in Europe. A common statement on Ecclesiology and Mission'. This paper was introduced at a panel in the midst of the Conference, led by the Revd Dr Mattijs Ploeger, rector of the Old Catholic Seminary in Utrecht. After the Conference, the AOCICC met in York in November 2011 and finalised the statement. The statement, which is sent to the parent bodies – the Archbishop of Canterbury (on behalf of the Anglican Consultative Council) and the Archbishop of Utrecht (on behalf of the International Bishops' Conference) – is published here in its final form.

When the AOCICC met in York, the members of the council participated at the Annual Meeting of the St Willibrord Society. The paper by Bishop David Hamid, which he gave at this meeting, is also included in this issue.

We are grateful that these proceedings can be published here and we wish you an interesting reading process.

Angela Berlis and Paul Avis

⁵ The German version was published in *Christkatholisch* 134 (2011), no. 20, pp. 2–3.