

Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity Faith and Order
(IASCUFO)

Communiqué, 6 December 2022



After meeting only online during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith and Order (IASCUFO) was delighted to gather again in person in Limuru, Kenya, from 1 to 7 December 2022. The Commission was warmly welcomed by the Diocese of Mount Kenya South, and enjoyed the hospitality of the St Julian's Centre, where we celebrated the Eucharist and the Morning and Evening office each day. We are grateful to the Rt Revd Charles Muturi, Bishop of the Diocese, as well as the Rt Revd Dr Paul Korir, Bishop of Kapsabet and member of the Commission, for their kind friendship and collegiality. Members of the Commission were blessed enormously by participating in Sunday worship at various churches in the diocese, namely, St Philip Kihara, All Saints Limuru, St Peter and St Veronica Ndumberi, All Saints Gachie, St James Ribarori and Emmanuel Karuri. We are grateful to the clergy, lay leaders, and parishioners of these churches for their friendly reception and inspiring faithfulness.

IASCUFO's mandate encompasses a wide range of responsibilities:

- to promote the deepening of communion between the Churches of the Anglican Communion, and between those Churches and the other Churches and traditions of the Christian world;
- to advise the Provinces and the Instruments of Communion on all questions of ecumenical engagement, proposals for national, regional, or international ecumenical agreement or schemes of co-operation and unity, as well as on questions touching Anglican Faith and Order;
- to review developments in the areas of faith, order or unity in the Anglican Communion and among ecumenical partners, and to give advice to the Churches of the Anglican Communion or to the Instruments of Communion upon them, with the intention to promote common understanding, consistency and convergence both in Anglican Communion affairs, and in ecumenical engagement;
- to assist any Province with the assessment of new proposals in the areas of Unity, Faith and Order as requested.

Commencing a new 5-year term of work, and with refreshed membership, the Commission approached its task by rereading IASCUFO's 2015 text *Towards a Symphony of Instruments* in the light of the meeting of the Lambeth Conference in 2022. We benefitted enormously from the presence of the new Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, the Rt Revd Anthony Poggio, who joined us for an afternoon and shared his vision for IASCUFO in its advisory capacity to the Member Churches and Instruments of Communion. Bishop Anthony urged us to engage Phase 3 of the Lambeth Conference creatively and collaboratively, and to reflect on the ecclesiological and ecumenical aspects of the Lambeth Calls on Anglican Identity, Reconciliation, and Human Dignity. Bishop Anthony also asked the Commission to encourage the Anglican family to reach agreement wherever possible, and to propose respectful ways of protecting one another's conscience when a fullness of shared faith and life remains elusive. Much work remains to be done to promote careful listening and good

disagreement, and in considering how we can discern a common mind within the Communion. He asked the Commission to work on how the proposed covenantal structure of the Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches might relate to wider structures of the Communion. A careful study of the relationship between autonomy and interdependence in Anglican ecclesiology will be needed, in the service of a restored fullness of unity, faith, and order among Anglicans, as we wait on the Lord.

In this light, the continuing ecumenical work of the Anglican Communion seems particularly urgent, promoting inter-ecclesial reconciliation and Christian love. Turning to this task, the Commission took up, in turn, the latest Agreed texts of the Anglican–Orthodox, Anglican–Reformed, and Anglican–Oriental Orthodox dialogues, as well as several teaching documents produced by IASCUFO over its previous term, all of which are filled with riches. In response to a request from the previous Secretary General, the Commission continued its work of developing resources to support the creation and flourishing of new Member Churches of the Communion.

We also considered a proposal for a shared Anglican Communion Calendar of saints; a proposal for reinvigorating the Anglican Communion Legal Advisers' Network; and a report from the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation (IALC) on the liturgical formation of all the baptised. We are pleased to commend all of these for study to the next meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC-18) in February 2023 in Ghana. The Commission also affirmed a paper from IALC commissioned by the Primates' Meeting on the practice of 'virtual communion'. We gratefully continue a partnership with what is now the Commission for Theological Education in the Anglican Communion (CTEAC).

Looking ahead, the Commission rejoices in these important tasks given to IASCUFO, in service of the Anglican Communion, and as an offering to the wider body of Christ. The Lord continually sends each one of us in the Anglican family 'to reap that for which [we] did not labour. Others have laboured, and [we] have entered into their labour' (John 4.38). May the Lord of the harvest make us faithful in this holy work, and may He give the growth — thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold — in His good time (Mark 4.20; cf. 1 Cor 3.6)!

The next meeting of IASCUFO will take place in December 2023.

Present at the Limuru meeting:

The Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin (Chair)
The Most Revd Samy Shehata
The Rt Revd Dr Paul Korir
The Rt Revd Prof Joseph Galgalo
The Revd Dr Margret Kalaiselvi
The Revd Dr Katherine Sonderegger
The Revd Dr John Rogers
The Very Revd Dr Sarah Rowland Jones
The Rt Revd Joseph Royal
The Revd Nak-Hyon Joseph Joo (IALC member; consultant)
Professor Paulo Ueti (consultant)

Anglican Communion Office Staff
Dr Christopher Wells (Secretary)
The Revd Dr Stephen Spencer
The Revd Neil Vigers

Apologies from
The Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung
The Rt Revd Dr Steven Abbarow