



Communiqué

The Anglican–Old Catholic International Coordinating Council (AOCICC)

Vienna. 16 July 2026



The Anglican–Old Catholic International Coordinating Council (AOCICC) met in Vienna, Austria, from 14 to 16 July 2026. The meeting was hosted by the Union of Utrecht and convened at the Old Catholic Parish of Vienna-East (Christuskapelle).

The Coordinating Council heard reports from the 19th Anglican Consultative Council, which had met in Belfast from 28 June to 4 July 2026, and from the meeting of the Old Catholic International Bishops' Conference which had met in Konstancin-Jeziorna, Poland, from 15 to 19 June 2026. It was noted that the report "Gewachsene Gemeinschaft" ["The Communion that has grown up between us"], between the Old Catholic Church in Germany and the Vereinigte Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche Deutschlands (United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany – VELKD), had been received for discussion by the International Bishops' Conference with the expectation that there would be a report to the meeting of the International Bishops' Conference in 2028. It was also noted that the ACC had welcomed the work being done to institute the Feast of Creation in Christ into the calendar of many churches and commended this to the member churches of the Anglican Communion.



The Council discussed the findings of a survey exploring how local congregations are responding to two urgent challenges of our time: caring for refugees and caring for creation. Fifty-seven responses were received from Old Catholic and Anglican churches (congregations and dioceses) in nine countries: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. These responses provide a snapshot of the support and resources offered to refugees by these churches. 63 percent of respondents are actively working with refugees, of which 80 percent currently receive no funding for this work. The majority of these initiatives involves working collaboratively with other churches and civic agencies. 68 percent of respondents observe Creationtide and 57 percent have made at least some green commitments, but 75 percent do not participate in any formal eco-church programme. There is thus a gap between informal engagement and formal programme participation in matters of Creation. This may reflect the fact that not all responding congregations own their own building.

The Council also continued its consideration of the ecumenical agreements into which Anglicans and Old Catholics have entered with other partners, with a focus on those in Europe. It received and discussed a report on those agreements. The revised report will be included in the Council's final report. Recognising that the Anglican Communion and the Union of Utrecht are both in communion with the Mar Thoma Church, the Iglesia Filipina Independiente and the Church of Sweden, it was asked whether there might be advantages in involving these three churches in the future work of the Council.

The Council had further discussion of the different safeguarding requirements in the different churches and dioceses. In addition, it considered the expectations and requirements when clergy move between Anglican and Old Catholic churches, focusing on questions of incardination (ecclesiastical residency), licensing and educational expectations. The Council noted that there is often a lack of clarity about expectations. The Council would recommend that all churches publish official guidelines.

The Council received information about the anniversary period of Jesus's public ministry, to be marked from 2030 to 2033. There will be a particular focus in 2030 on "blessed are the peacemakers." 2033 will commemorate 2000 years since the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The centenary of the Bonn Agreement, signed in 1931, will fall during this period. The Council considered various options for marking this anniversary which it will commend to the Union of Utrecht and the Anglican Communion.

The Council said morning and evening prayer together at the Christuskapelle and celebrated the Eucharist at the church of Sankt Salvator with Bishop Bernhard Heitz, Bishop Emeritus of the Old Catholic Church in Austria. The Council received a greeting from Bishop Mag.a Maria Kubin, Bishop of the Old Catholic Church in Austria, who expressed her regret that she was unable to meet the members of the Council personally.

The members of the Council are very grateful to the Revd Dorothee Hahn and her parishioners for their warm welcome, their organisation, their generous hospitality, and their support of this meeting.

For further information, please contact the Revd Neil Vigers (neil.vigers@anglicancommunion.org) or the Revd Dr Ruth Tuschling (ruth.tuschling@alt-katholisch.de).

Websites: www.anglicancommunion.org and www.utrechter-union.org.



Members of the Council:

Anglicans

The Rt Revd Peter Eagles **(Co-Chair)**

Mrs Jenny Knudsen

The Revd Canon Dr Tess Kuin Lawton

The Revd Canon Prof. Charlotte Methuen

The Revd Neil Vigers **(Co-Secretary)**

Canon Dr Christopher Wells [not present at this meeting]

Old Catholic

Bischof Emeritus Dr Harald Rein **(Co-Chair)**

Vikarin Revd Dorothee Hahn

Prof. Dr Andreas Krebs

Pfarrer Dr Ruth Tuschling **(Co-Secretary)**

Priester ThDr Petr Jan Vinš [present for part of the meeting]