

## **A Brief History of Anglican-Lutheran Ecumenical Dialogues**

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### Anglican-Lutheran Ecumenical Dialogue, Phase I, 1909-1939:

- 1st official Anglican-Lutheran dialog: 1909, Church of Sweden & Anglican Comm.
  - Discussion focused on the 4<sup>th</sup> article of the Lambeth Quadrilateral (ministry)
  - Outcome, 1922: Anglicans declared that Swedish church had a true succession of bishops & an orthodox doctrine of ministry
    - eucharistic hospitality approved; clergy can preach in the other church
    - both agreed to participate mutually in consecrating bishops
    - agreed to tolerate diversity of practice on the diaconate & confirmation
- Church of England & Church of Finland & churches of Latvia and Estonia
  - Interim sharing was approved by Convocations of Canterbury & York in 1935 with Finland; proposal was received with Latvia & Estonia but no vote taken
- First official dialogue in the US: 1935 (one year only)
  - 1935, Episcopal Ch & Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church
  - terminated over historic episcopate & inter-Lutheran unity

### Anglican-Lutheran Ecumenical Dialogue, Phase II, 1947-1968:

- 1947, dialogue between C of E. & Luth churches of Denmark, Iceland & Norway, report published in 1952; led to mutual eucharistic hospitality by the 1954
- 1968: LWF and Lambeth agreed to launch a worldwide dialogue. Met 4 times 1970 – 1972, resulted in the *Pullach Report* (1973):
  - agreement on authority, church, word & sacraments, worship
  - identified historic episcopate as ongoing difference → *Niagara Report*, 1987

### Anglican-Lutheran Ecumenical Dialogue, Phase III, 1969-present:

*Cold Ash Report* of 1983: defined full communion & the stages for reaching it.

*Niagara Report* of 1987: historic episcopal succession addressed in light of the church's mission and the ministry of the whole people of God. Defined apostolic succession as consisting not primarily in an unbroken chain of ordinations but in maintaining the presiding ministry of a church standing in continuity of apostolic faith.

### U.S. Lutheran-Episcopal Dialogue leading to CCM--3 rounds of dialogue, 1969-1991:

- LED I, 1969-1972
  - addressed Scripture, worship, baptism-confirmation, apostolicity
  - achieved a degree of ecclesial recognition regarding word & sacrament

- LED II, 1976-1982, agreement of 1982:
  - Mutual recognition as churches where the Gospel is preached & taught;
  - justification, eucharistic presence, authority of Scripture;
  - set goal of “full communion”
  - adopted Interim Sharing of the Eucharist agreement
- LED III, 1983-1991
  - issues of consensus in the gospel & order of ministry within apostolicity
  - ELCA came into being in 1988, in midst of LED III
- Full Communion proposal: 1991: *Concordat of Agreement*: recommended full communion & interchangeability of clergy
  - adopted by Episcopal Church July 1997;
  - did not pass the ELCA in Aug 1997 – 6 votes (out of 1,035 cast) shy of 2/3 majority needed to adopt [684 votes for (66.1%), 351 against]
- Full communion agreement of 2000: *Called to Common Mission*
  - proposed 1999; adopted by ELCA 1999, Episcopal Church 2000
  - formal binding ecclesiastical agreement; became effective January 1, 2001
- Full communion inaugurated at a service at the Washington National Cathedral on the Festival of the Epiphany, January 6, 2001

Other International Anglican-Lutheran agreements:

- *Meissen Agreement*, 1991: C of E & Evangelical Church in Germany: “On the Way to Visible Unity” -- interim sharing agreement; did not achieve interchangeability between episcopally and non-episcopally ordained clergy
- *Porvoo Agreement*, 1993: between Anglican churches of England, Ireland, Scotland & Wales) & Lutheran churches of Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden; Estonia & Lithuania. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark is joining in 2010. The Lutheran Church of Latvia has not yet signed it.
  - Interchangeability of baptized members & episcopally ordained ministers
  - Full communion among 40 million Christians in 10 countries of N. Europe
- *Reuilly Common Statement*, “Called to Witness and Service,” 1999: British and Irish Anglican Churches and French Lutheran and Reformed Churches
- *Waterloo Agreement*, 2000: Canada – full communion agreement
- All Africa Anglican Lutheran Commission: inaugural meeting: Kenya in April 2001
- Australia 2001: *Common Ground: Covenanting for Mutual Recognition and Reconciliation* -- Interim sharing; Goal: full communion at a later stage