

INTERNATIONAL BILATERAL DIALOGUES

On behalf of the ad hoc meeting of General Secretaries of Christian World Communions, the Faith and Order Secretariat organizes regularly a Bilateral Forum. The aim of the Forum is to provide a space and a time whereby the Christian World Communions engaged in bilateral dialogues may exchange information, consult together on emerging issues and trends and reflect on the coherence and integrity of the dialogues. The eighth such Forum was held in Annecy, France, from 14 to 19 May 2001 and took as its theme "The Implications of Regional Bilateral Agreements for the International Dialogues of Christian World Communions". The ninth Forum is being planned for 2005.

Opportunity was taken with the publication of the Report of the Bilateral Forum, to compile a list of the topics and meetings in the current series of dialogues between different partners, as a service to the Christian World Communions.

The Reports of the International Bilateral Dialogues have been published:

Harding Meyer and Lukas Vischer (ed), *Growth in Agreement: Report and Agreed Statements of Ecumenical Conversations at World Level*, (Faith and Order Paper No 108), Geneva, WCC and New York, Paulist Press, 1984

And

Jeffrey Gros, Harding Meyer and William Rush (ed), *Growth in Agreement Vol II: Report and Agreed Statements of Ecumenical Conversations at World Level 1982-1998*, (Faith and Order Paper No 187), Geneva, WCC and Grand Rapids, Eardmans, 2000

The list which follows gives information about the International Bilateral Dialogues which have been and are taking place, since July 1998. The information is based on material obtained from the General Secretaries of Christian World Communions. The chart itself notes the current dialogues, their topics and meetings, lists those dialogues which have reported in the past but are not engaged currently in conversations, and identifies those instruments which have emerged as a result of international bilateral dialogues to foster the development of church fellowship. (While there are many regional bilateral agreements between churches which have led to new expressions of church fellowship, since these have been sponsored by churches rather than Christian World Communions themselves at international level, they are not listed here).

It should be noted that a comprehensive bibliography on interchurch and interconfessional dialogues compiled by the Centro Pro Unione in Rome is available on their website.

This chart will be updated as information becomes available.

Dialogue	Present Topic	Sessions	Reports
Adventist-Reformed Dialogue	Religious liberty; ecclesiology, apocalypse, environment; forgiveness and justice.	Jongny-sur-vevey, Switzerland 2001.	
African Instituted Churches-Reformed Dialogue	Historical, cultural and ecclesial challenges in Africa; prophetic role of Church; Holy Spirit.	Nigeria 2001	Kigali Statement 1999.
Anglican- Methodist		Probably 2004	
Anglican Orthodox (Oriental)	Agreed Statement on Christology; Holy Spirit	Etchmiadzin, Armenia in 2002 2003 meeting postponed	
Anglican-Baptist International	Ecclesial self-understanding, oversight, initiation, mission.	Myanmar 2001 Santiago, Chile for	Expected 2004

Dialogue	Present Topic	Sessions	Reports
Conversations (ABIC)		LA;Nassau Bahamas for Caribbean; 2003-04-03 Nova Scotia 2003	
Anglican-Orthodox (Eastern)	Trinitarian, Christological, pneumatological and anthropological bases to ecclesiology, ministry, conciliarity, primacy, schism, heresy, reception and development of doctrine.	Volos, Greece 2001 Abergavenny, Wales 2002;Addis Ababa in2003;Canterbury in 2004.	
Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC)	Authority, Mary.	Paris, France, 2000 Vienna 2002, Florida 2003, Morg 2005	The Gift of Authority: Authority in the Church III, Toronto, Anglican Book Centre 1999. Mary 2005
Baptist Mennonites		Philadelphia 2002	Report of Dialogue 1989-1992 World Mennonite Conference1992
Disciples of Christ and the Roman Catholic Church	The Individual and the Church; canon and authority of scriptures; the Church and conscience; evangelization. The presence of Christ in the Church	Rome, Italy 2001. Due to begin in 2005	
Lutheran-Orthodox	Salvation, Grace, Justification and Synergy; The Mystery of the Church.	Syria 2002	
Lutheran-Reformed	Promote reception of international agreements, and further communion.	Brazil 2000	
Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue	Apostolicity of the Church.	Italy 2000 Wurzburg 2002	Report available 2005
Lutheran-Seventh Day Adventist Dialogue	Justification by faith, ecclesiology, authority, hermeneutics, eschatology.	Switzerland 1998	Lutherans and Adventists in Conversation: Report and Papers 1994-1998. Geneva, LWF, and Silver Spring, Seventh Day Adventist General Conference 2000.
Mennonite Reformed	Baptism, Peace, Church and State	Calgary 1989	R. Bender and A. Sell (ed): Baptism, Peace and the State in the Reformed and Mennonite Traditions, Waterloo, Ontario, Wilfred Laurier, Univ. Press, 1991
Mennonite-Roman Catholic Dialogue	Self-identity of each communion, understanding of the Church; concept of peace church; Mennonite-Catholic reactions to each other in 16th century; common roots of spirituality.	Germany 2000ff	Church and Peacemaking 2004

Dialogue	Present Topic	Sessions	Reports
Methodist-Roman Catholic	Churches' Communion in Love and Truth; God's Prophetic Community; Means of Grace; Teaching Authority	Georgia, USA 2000.	Speaking the Truth in Love: Teaching Authority among Catholics and Methodists. Lake Junaluska, World Methodist Council 2001
Methodist-Salvation Army	Introductions on teaching polity and mission	London 2003 Lake Junaluska 2005	
Oriental Orthodox-Reformed Dialogue Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic	Christology, Scripture and Tradition; nature and mission of the Church; Sacrament and sacraments.		H. Wilson (ed.) Oriental Orthodox-Reformed Dialogue, Geneva, WARC 1998. January 2004.
Orthodox-Reformed	Mystery, Nature, Unity and Membership of the Church; Baptism Chrismation and Apostolicity re initiation into the Body of Christ, the Church.		In The Greek Orthodox Theological Review 43 (-14), 1998.
Orthodox-Roman Catholic	Ecclesiological and Canonical Implications of Uniatism	Baltimore, USA 2000.	
Pentecostal-Reformed Dialogue	Spirituality; Holy Spirit and the Church; Mission and Eschatology.	Brazil 2000	Word and Spirit, Church and World in Reformed World 50 (3) 2000.
Pentecostal-Roman Catholic	Biblical and Patristic Perspectives on aspects of Christian life; Christian initiation and baptism in the Holy Spirit; faith, conversion, experience and Christian Initiation.	Slovenia 2001	Report Evangelization, Proselytism and Common Witness, 1997.
Reformed-Roman Catholic	The kingdom of God as Context for the Churches' Common Witness	Castel Gandalfi/Italy 2000.	
Roman Catholic Church and the Assyrian Church of the East	Sacramental Life, Nicene Creed, procession of the Holy Spirit, Mary.	Italy 2000	
Roman Catholic Church and the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church	Primacy and Collegiality; Synod of Diamper of 1599, mixed marriages, common witness, unity of the Church	Kottayam 2000	Statement on the Synod of Diamper (AD 1999).
Roman Catholic Church and the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church	Assessment of agreements 1990 – 1994; episcopacy and the Petrine ministry.	India 2001	
Roman Catholic-Evangelical Dialogue (World Evangelical Fellowship)	Evangelization, religious freedom, proselytism, common witness; koinonia.	USA 2001	Church and Evangelization in the light of Koinonia 2004.
Salvation Army-Seventh Day Adventist	Introduction to the doctrine and polity of each tradition	USA 2004 London 2005	

International Bilateral Dialogues which have reported but are not currently meeting

Dialogue	Present Topic	Sessions	Reports
Anglican - Reformed			
Baptist - Lutheran			
Baptist - Reformed			
Baptist - Roman Catholic			
Disciples - Reformed			
Lutheran - Methodist			
Methodist - Reformed			
Old Catholic - Orthodox			
Orthodox - Methodist			
Orthodox - Oriental Orthodox			

International Bilateral instruments - to foster church fellowship in the light of the International Bilateral Dialogues

Dialogue	Present Topic	Sessions	Reports
Anglican-Lutheran International Working Group (ALIWG)	apostolicity, episcopal ministry, issues of transitivity of agreements	Skálholt, Iceland 2001. New round –begins 2004	Growth in Communion (2002), English and German
Anglican-Roman Catholic International Working Group (ARCWG) Renamed -International Anglican- Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM)	Shared goals of visible unity; promotion and monitoring of reception of ARCIC agreements; strategies for strengthening the fellowship.	Missisauga, Canada 2001. Malta 2002 Northern Ireland 2003	

International Dialogues with a single topic and session

Dialogue	Present Topic	Sessions	Reports
Lutheran-Reformed-Roman Catholic	Indulgences	Rome, Italy 2001.	
Lutheran-Roman Catholic-Reformed-Methodist	Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification.	Columbus, Ohio 2001	