

ECUMENICAL DIALOGUES, DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

OFFICIAL DIALOGUES

The North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation

Date established: 1965

Frequency of meetings: twice each year.

Catholic Chairman: Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati

Sponsored jointly on the Catholic side by the USCCB and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Orthodox side is sponsored by the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of America (SCOBA). SCOBA Chairman: Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh

SEIA Staff: Rev. Ronald G. Roberson, CSP

The Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops

Date established: 1981

Frequency of meetings: once each year

Orthodox Co-Chairman: Bishop Seraphim of Ottawa and Canada

Catholic Co-Chairman: Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile

SEIA staff: Rev. Ronald G. Roberson, CSP

The Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Consultation

Date established: 1978

Frequency of meetings: once each year.

Oriental Orthodox Chairman: Rev. Chor-Episcopos John Meno.

The Oriental Orthodox side is sponsored by the Standing Committee of Oriental Orthodox Churches of America, and includes representatives from the Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopian, and Syrian Orthodox Churches

Roman Catholic Chairman: Bishop Howard Hubbard of Albany

SEIA staff: Rev. Ronald G. Roberson, CSP

The Polish National Catholic-Roman Catholic Dialogue

Date established: 1984

Frequency of meetings: twice each year

Polish National Catholic Chairman: The Most Rev. John. F. Swantek, Prime Bishop Emeritus

Roman Catholic Chairman: Bishop Joseph F. Martino of Scranton

SEIA staff: Rev. Ronald G. Roberson, CSP

The Anglican-Roman Catholic Consultation USA

Date established: 1965

Frequency of meetings: twice a year

Catholic Chairman: Archbishop William J. Levada

Episcopalian Chairman: Bishop Edwin F. Gulick, Jr.

SEIA staff: Reverend Arthur Kennedy, Ph.D.

The Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue

Date established: 1965.

Frequency of meetings: twice each year

Catholic Chairman: Bishop Richard Sklba

Lutheran Chairman: Bishop Charles Maahs

SEIA staff: Brother Jeffrey Gros

Roman Catholic-Reformed Consultation

Date Established: July 27, 1965
Frequency of Meetings: Twice each year
Reformed Co-Chair: Rev. Richard Mouw, President of Fuller Theological Seminary
Catholic Co-Chair: Bishop Patrick Cooney of Gaylord, MI
SEIA Staff: Dr. Eugene J. Fisher

The United Methodist-Catholic Dialogue

Date established: 1966
Frequency of meetings: twice each year
United Methodist Chairman: Bishop Walter Klaiber
Catholic Chairman: Auxiliary Bishop Frederick F. Campbell of St. Paul and Minneapolis
SEIA staff: Brother Jeffrey Gros

Southern Baptist Convention-Catholic Dialogue

Date established: 1971
Suspended in 2001
SEIA staff: Brother Jeffrey Gros

Faith and Order Commission, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA

Since 1968 the NCCB has been a full member of this Commission, providing five theologians who represent the Conference at the meetings twice a year. The purpose of the Commission is "To call the churches to the goal of visible unity in one faith and in one eucharistic fellowship expressed in worship and common life in Christ, and to advance toward that unity that the world may believe." During the 1996-1999 quadrennium the Commission peruses studies on Ecclesiology, Formation of Christian Identity, and Mission in this Pluralistic World. It is also sponsoring a conference on Full Communion. Brother Jeffrey Gros is the staff liaison.

Consultation with the National Council of Synagogues

Date established: October 1987
Frequency of meetings: twice yearly
NCS Co-Chairman: Rabbi Joel Zaiman, Baltimore
Catholic Co-Chairman: William Cardinal Keeler,
Episcopal Moderator for Catholic-Jewish Relations, BCEIA
SEIA staff: Dr. Eugene J. Fisher

Anglican-Orthodox Dialogue

The history of contacts, cooperation and dialogue between Anglicans and Orthodox is vast and well documented (see *Orthodoxy and Anglicanism*, V.T. Istavridis, Joint doctrinal discussions began between the Anglican Communion and the Orthodox Church as a whole in 1931. In the United States, the Anglican-Orthodox Theological Consultation met regularly from 1962 to 1991, discussing a wide variety of theological and pastoral topics. The Consultation produced "Guidelines on Anglican-Orthodox Relations" (*Journal of General Convention*, 1967, p. 936). It issued a "Statement on the Ordination of Women" in 1976 (*Bulletin* 16). More recent work was an "Agreed Statement on Christian Initiation" in 1986 (*Bulletin* 77) and an "Agreed Statement on the Eucharist" in 1990 (*Bulletin* 90). Work on ecclesiology was planned when the dialogue was suspended by the Orthodox over issues of homosexuality and the Church. In 2000 both the Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops (SCOBA) and the Episcopal Church decided to renew these discussions. A Steering Committee consisting of the Ecumenical Officers of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese, and the Orthodox Church in America met 2001 to set the timetable and agenda for the renewed dialogue.

Episcopal - Russian Orthodox Church Joint Coordinating Committee

During the 1997-2000 triennium the joint coordinating committee met twice and continued to develop partnerships in ministry projects as well as to create opportunities for theological reflection and discussion. During the July 1999 visit of Presiding Bishop Griswold and Alexy II, Patriarch of Moscow and

All Russia, the mandate for the joint coordinating committee was renewed and received the blessing of both primates. In June of 2002 the Coordinating Committee met for the first time since Bishop Griswold's visit to update each church on the goals outlined during Bishop Griswold's visit. The co-operation of the Rt. Rev. Charles Keyser, Suffragan Bishop for the Armed Forces and Bishop Saava, appointed Bishop to the Armed Forces of Russia continued with energy and activity. Bishop Saava was present for the consecration of Bishop Keyser's successor, the Rt. Rev. George Packard.

OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

The African American Churches

The primary relationships with the African American Baptist, Methodist and Pentecostal churches in through the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches. (Paulist: *Growing Consensus*)

The Pentecostal, Holiness and Evangelical churches

The primary conversations with theologians from these churches occurs in the Faith and Order Commission. There are also relationships with the Society for Pentecostal Studies and the National Association of Evangelicals. Some dioceses have developed these dialogues which have not yet been able to emerge on a national level with the NCCB.

The Mennonite, Brethren Churches and the Society of Friends

The primary relationships with the historic peace churches takes place in the context of the Faith and Order Commission.

The Christian Church/Disciples of Christ

There is an international dialogue with this American born church, cosponsored by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The primary relationship of the NCCB to the Disciples is through the Faith and Order Commission, and other less formal relationships.

The National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA

A variety of relationships are in place, in bible translation, education, social justice and common witness through a variety of offices in the NCCB and other Catholic entities. The BCEIA relates directly to Faith and Order and indirectly to Ecumenical Networks Commission, which serves the local ecumenical relations around the country.

INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUES

Midwest Dialogue of Catholics and Muslims

Mid-Atlantic Islamic-Catholic Dialogue

West Coast Dialogue of Muslims and Catholics

Northern California Chan/Zen -Catholic Dialogue