

# The Window

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Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

September 2000

## Anglicans and Lutherans at Virginia Conference in July explore the meaning of "living into full communion"

Some 50 Anglicans and Lutherans from the United States and Europe discussed the significance of "full communion" between their churches at a lively conference at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, USA, from July 21-24.

Several Roman Catholics, plus Europeans, added another ecumenical and international dimension to the gathering. The wonderful hospitality of the staff and the splendid facilities at this Episcopal seminary added to everyone's enjoyment.

The decision of the 2.3 million member Episcopal Church in the USA to adopt "Called to Common Mission" (CCM) at its general convention held a few weeks earlier gave added relevance to the sessions. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted CCM last year, bringing the two churches into "full communion." This is not a merger, as some have mistakenly supposed, but a new partnership in ministry which includes the exchange of clergy.

Speakers from the United States and Europe discussed the implication of CCM

and compared it with two Anglican-Lutheran agreements in Europe: the 1991 Meissen Agreement between the Church of England and the Evangelical (Lutheran, Reformed and United) Churches in Germany; and the 1996 Porvoo Agreement between the British and Irish Anglican churches and the Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches.

The Rev Dr. William Petersen, provost of Bexley Hall at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and professor of ecclesiastical and ecumenical history at this seminary of the Episcopal Church whose main campus is in Rochester, New York, spoke on an Anglican view of CCM. He noted that Lutherans and Episcopalians have found a convergence in worship and liturgy.

He urged that Episcopal and Lutheran congregations "be intentional about worshipping together four or five times a year." Because of difficulties in joint worship on Sunday mornings, he suggests major festivals such as Epiphany, the festival of the Wise Men on January 6; Ash Wednesday,

the beginning of Lent; and Reformation Day, October 31; and All Saints' Day, November 1. He reminded the participants that liturgy has a service aspect and must lead to practical ways of serving people in the community. This may be done more effectively by joint efforts of the churches.

### Unity is no "pious dream"

Dr Petersen also noted that Christian education, especially among adults, offers possibilities for joint courses with the opportunity for members of each church to share in the tradition and gifts of the other church. He said that ecumenical conversations need to be frank and honest. "Unity in Christ must not be a pious dream but a practical reality," he added.

Dr Michael Root, professor of theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, spoke of the background of CCM and difficulties some Lutherans have in accepting the new relationship with the Episcopal Church. While Lutherans and Episcopalians agree on the doctrine of apostolic succession, an ongoing "faithful proclamation of Christ," the Episcopal Church brings to the new relationship the "historic episcopate," a succession of bishops as a

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Speakers at the Anglican-Lutheran Society's Virginia Conference were (from left), The Rev Dr William H. Petersen of Columbus, Ohio; The Rev Margarethe Isberg of Västerås, Sweden; The Rt Rev David Tustin of Wrawby, Brigg, North Lincolnshire, England; and Dr Michael Root of Columbus, Ohio.

## Ratzeburg Conference set for September 14-17, 2001

Ratzeburg, Germany, will be the location of the next Anglican-Lutheran Society International Conference from September 14-17, 2001. The ALS Committee will develop plans for Ratzeburg when it meets in London on September 18. Watch for more news in the next issue of *The Window*, due to be published in November.

The ALS holds international conferences every other year. The 1999 conference was held in Cambridge, England.

Note that the Virginia Conference, held in July of this year, was an event sponsored by the Society's North American Region. Some members have thought the Virginia event was an ALS international conference held a year early.

## Porvoo hymnal may appear by the end of this year

Exciting news has come from Sweden! The Porvoo hymnal may be published before the end of this year. *Together in Song* is the title of this collection of ten hymns from each of the Porvoo Communion churches. Editors were Per Harling of Sweden and Ronald Englund of the United States.

Watch for further news. We will rejoice when this hymnal appears.

## Membership renewals

This is the time of year when we hope that all members of the Anglican-Lutheran Society will renew their memberships. Your membership for the year 2000 is due now and we will try to remind you about this. Special notices about renewals are going out to members in various countries.

With members paying in various currencies, we may make mistakes on occasion. Please bear with us if you received a notice by mistake when you have renewed your membership already.

Help us to get new members by inviting others to join. If you would like extra copies of *The Window* and membership forms from your country, please let us know.

## What's in a name?

We often use the letters "ALS" in speaking and writing about the Anglican-Lutheran Society. Everything seems clear to us when we say "ALS conference" or "ALS committee." Our assumptions may be wrong!

The Rev Donald E Blume of Manchester, New Hampshire, USA, a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, recently wrote to Ronald Englund, editor of *The Window*: "I knew I'd spent too many years in the healthcare arena when you were talking about ALS and I was wondering what "Advanced Life Support" had to do with our Dean's meeting. Finally, I got it. I enjoyed reading the newsletter."

Several have pointed out that "ALS" also refers to "amyotrophic lateral sclerosis", the dreaded "Lou Gehrig's disease."

Your editor should know better. Years ago he was surprised, as an American, to meet an African who thought "NBC" obviously meant "Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation" and not "National Broadcasting Company".

During his years in London, your editor would often say to British groups: "Before moving to England, I thought that LBW meant Lutheran Book of Worship." (LBW is also a familiar cricket term meaning "leg before wicket.")



The Rev. Canon Roy J. Enquist

## Lutheran serves as dean at Episcopal cathedral

The Rev Canon Roy J Enquist, a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serves as a dean of the Washington National Cathedral. Dr Enquist was installed in April as the first Lutheran to serve as a canon of this Episcopal cathedral.

Dr Enquist has special responsibilities as Special Assistant for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs. Programmes involving ecumenical and interfaith relationships are central to the cathedral's mission. The National Cathedral seeks to be a House of Prayer for all people; a great church for national purposes; and the chief mission church of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

Before assuming the exciting new post in Washington, Dr Enquist was professor of theology and ethics at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. He had earlier taught at Texas Lutheran University and at schools in Southern Africa: at Marang Lutheran Theological Seminary, the University of Namibia and Paulinum Seminary.

## Holy Hammers build

Presiding Bishop Frank T Griswold of the Episcopal Church in the United States blessed a Habitat for Humanity home in Denver, Colorado, this past summer which was built by volunteers from Lutheran and Episcopal congregations.

Enrique and Martin Pizarro, with their four children, have moved into the house which was built by Holy Hammers, an ecumenical group. Habitat for Humanity has now built nearly 100,000 homes in 60 countries for families who otherwise might not be able to afford them. The families pay for their homes with no-interest mortgages.

## Bergen - Southwark link to be signed in October

A historic link between the Lutheran cathedral in Bergen, Norway, and the Anglican Southwark Cathedral in London, England, will be signed in October. A special ceremony is planned at Southwark on October 15 and at Bergen on October 22.

The purpose of the agreement is "to proclaim Christ in our nations by the witness of our unity and the fruit of cooperation."

The "Act of Commitment" between The Cathedral & Collegiate Church of St Saviour & St Mary Overie, Southwark and The Cathedral Church of St Olav, Bergen has ten specific objectives:

- To learn from each other's traditions and so grow in commitment and understanding.
  - To share through prayer and worship, as we commit ourselves to pray for each other during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and also at other regular times.
  - To hold in each cathedral during 2000 a service which celebrates the Porvoo Declaration and which inaugurates our own Agreement of Commitment to each other.
  - To make at least one exchange visit each year alternately from Southwark to Bergen and from Bergen to Southwark, with its objectives and programme planned through mutual consultation.
  - To encourage exchanges between our congregations and to involve in this as many as possible including confirmation candidates and other young people, church musicians, teachers, parish and community, et cetera.
  - To invite and send representatives to each other's conferences of clergy and laity where appropriate.
  - To establish opportunities for sabbatical and other training extensions and to develop theological dialogue.
  - To link our internet sites as a means of making clear our link and enabling the exchanges of information.
  - To hold our link within the lives of our two cathedrals but to promote and encourage it in our dioceses.
  - To review this agreement and its working in 2005, and then at agreed intervals.
- The Rev Helge Pettersson, Lutheran Co-Moderator of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, has played a key role in planning the historic link between Southwark and Bergen. He is rector of the Norwegian Church and Seamen's Mission, St Olav's Church, in Rotherhithe, London.
- Early this year Pettersson was named a honorary priest vicar of Southwark Cathedral, the first time that a Lutheran has been named to this position.

## Report on "living into full communion"

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sign of unity going back to the early days of the Christian Church.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will receive the "historical episcopate" in the new agreement. Even though many Lutheran churches around the world already have the "historical episcopate," a minority of ELCA members have opposed this aspect of CCM, claiming that it violates Lutheran teaching that agreement on the gospel and sacraments is all that is necessary for church unity.

### Lutheran opposition to CCM

Dr Root said that reasons for Lutheran opposition to CCM include questions of Lutheran identity and a general mistrust of central authority. He also noted that some Lutherans see their church as a denomination on its own, while other Lutherans see their church as a movement within the church catholic.

Dr Root also pointed out that, until the 1970s, the ecumenical goal was the structural merger of the churches. Now the ecumenical goal is "unity in reconciled diversity" where churches keep their identities but share in ministry, sacraments, witness and service. However he cautioned against saying, "Now we've done it," seeing the present agreement as the final goal.

The Rt Rev David Tustin, an international ecumenical leader who retired this spring as Anglican Bishop of Grimsby, England, discussed the two major Anglican-Lutheran agreements in Europe. While the Meissen Agreement does not involve full communion, it has led to many important contacts between the churches on a parish and regional level. More than half of the dioceses of the Church of England have partnerships with churches in Germany. Bishop Tustin also told of Anglican-Lutheran dialogues and agreements in Canada, Brazil and countries in Africa.

### Porvoo and CCM

The Porvoo Agreement is a relationship of full communion similar to Called to Common Mission. The Very Rev Margarethe Isberg, dean of Västerås Cathedral, Church of Sweden, told of the growing number of contacts between the Anglican and Lutheran churches in Britain, Ireland, the Nordic and Baltic countries on several levels but added that "the life of Porvoo is most visible in parishes." Contacts and exchange visits are taking place among youth, teachers and other lay members as well as among clergy.

Bishop Theodore F. Schneider of the ELCA Metropolitan Washington, DC,

Synod, summed up the difference that Called to Common Mission makes by saying: "I always realized that when I walked into an Episcopal Church I would be welcomed. Now I know that I belong. And that's a wonderful difference."

The Rev Paul Lee, ecumenical officer for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Washington, DC, spoke on the final day about Lutheran-Roman Catholic and Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogues. He said that "the fact that we've been able to get together for serious dialogue in the past 30 years, after our centuries of separation and often hostility, is truly remarkable." He spoke of the importance of the "reconciliation and purification of memories" of the long hurt that has been experienced because of hatred and prejudice. "We need to go beyond stereotypes of each other," he added.

This was the first Anglican-Lutheran Society conference ever held in North America. The Rev Dr Scott Ickert of Arlington, Virginia, the ALS North American representative, and the Rev Ronald T Englund of Falmouth, Massachusetts, editor of *the Window*, headed the committee which planned the event.

We are grateful to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and the Metropolitan Washington Synod of the ELCA who joined with the ALS in sponsoring this excellent conference. Their support was invaluable.

The ALS hopes to offer edited copies of the lectures to readers for a modest price. See the next issue of *The Window*.

## Episcopal-Lutheran pact begins January 1, 2001

The Episcopal Church adopted "Called to Common Mission" (CCM), an agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), by an overwhelming margin on July 7 and 8 at its general convention in Denver, Colorado. Because the ELCA had adopted CCM at its churchwide assembly in 1999, the new agreement will go into effect on January 1, 2001.

The historic agreement, which has come after some 30 years of discussions, will be celebrated at a festive service at the Washington National Cathedral on Epiphany, January 6, 2001.

CCM means that the 2.3 million member Episcopal Church and the 5.2 million member ELCA will be in full communion. This means a full interchange of clergy, and the sharing of ministry and sacraments.

The Very Rev Donald Brown, who chairs the Episcopal Church's Committee on Ecumenical Relations, said "It is not a marriage or a merger of our two churches. Each church will retain its own liturgical, theological, and organizational uniqueness and integrity." Media in the USA have often erroneously spoken of CCM as a merger.

CCM is a revision of the 1997 Concordat which narrowly missed the two-thirds affirmative vote needed for adoption by the ELCA.

The historic episcopate, which the ELCA will receive in CCM agreement, has been opposed by a minority of America's Lutherans. Many Lutheran churches around the world are already in the historic episcopate.



Informal opportunities for conversation were a highlight of the ASL Virginia Conference.. From left, Marianne Haig of London, England; Laura Lincoln of Cedar Park, Texas, USA; Renate Mayes of Arlington, Virginia, USA; and Janet Lewis of Watford, Hertfordshire, England.



An Anglican parish in England and a Lutheran congregation in Germany have marked the millennium by planting a Norwegian maple tree in each of their churchyards. Pictured are Valerie Phillips, secretary of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, planting the tree at the Kimpton Church in Hertfordshire, England while The Rev Christopher Wharton (right), vicar of Kimpton, and tree expert, Patrick Dyer, look on. Pastor Horst Fichtmüller of the Lutheran church in Schönermark, Brandenburg, Germany, had blessed the two tree saplings at a service. They have been planted in the churchyards of the twinned parishes as a symbol of their growing

## Finnish pastor reports on London's East End

The Rev Jussi Rytkönen, a Lutheran pastor in Kerava, Finland, has written an interesting ten-page report on his experiences in serving in an inner-city Church of England parish in London's East End during the last four months of 1999.

It is too long to publish in our newsletter, but if you would like a copy, send US\$2.00 or UK£1.50 (cheques to "Anglican Lutheran Society") to *The Window*. Note the editorial addresses in the box at the lower right.

## Visit to Norway in 1897

Christopher Stacey, an ALS member in Eastbourne, East Sussex, England, has sent us an amusing report of an early contact between two Porvoo countries which he discovered in the April 4, 1897 issue of a weekly newspaper, *The Eastbourne Chronicle Fashionable Visitors' Record and Guide*.

A Dr MacQueen, from Eastbourne, lectured to a community group on his visit to Norway where he met with a Dr Nansen. The newspaper reports:

"The lecturer said the church in Norway was a State one and, with the exception of a few Salvationists, there were practically no Dissenters.

"The women sat on one side of the church and the men on the other, but there

was a continual walking and spitting about during the whole service at which he was present, so that he left before the sermon (laughter).

"The priest, who received a good portion of the stipends in potatoes and meal, had usually the charge of four or five churches each. Consequently some of the churches were closed on Sunday, as might well be expected. Dotted over the country were several ancient timber churches, one of them, of which a view was shown, dating back as far as 1842.

"In the formation of the national character, the Norwegians owed much to their country. They were an adventurous and brave race, of which Dr Nansen was a typical specimen. They had heard that Dr. Nansen did without soap for 15 months, but he believed there were some in Eastbourne who did without it much longer than that. The Norwegians were of a kindly disposition and very democratic. There was no such thing as an aristocracy in Norway. Every man was judged by his merits and not by his land.

"In conclusion, the lecturer paid a high tribute to the scrupulous honesty of the hotel keepers and mentioned that the only time he had ever been 'done' in Norway was by a German of a bad type (laughter)."

The newspaper reported that Dr MacQueen had illustrated his lecture with "numerous limelight views of Norwegian scenery."

## Porvoo conferences at St John's, Durham

"Diversity in Communion" is the theme of a Porvoo Theological Conference which is being held at St John's College, Durham, England, from September 8-13, about the time that this issue of *The Window* reaches our readers. Senior theologians from the four British and Irish Anglican and the six Nordic and Baltic Lutheran Churches in the Porvoo Communion will take part.

The annual meeting of the Porvoo Contact Group, which includes representatives from the member churches, will be held in Durham from September 5-8.

## WordAlone plans new group

The WordAlone Network, which is made up of Lutherans who oppose Called to Common Mission (CCM), the agreement between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church, are planning to create an association of Lutheran congregations who object to the historic episcopate.

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### The Anglican-Lutheran Society

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