



Communiqué

The Anglican-Oriental Orthodox International Commission

13 -17 October 2025



The Anglican-Oriental Orthodox International Commission held its twelfth residential meeting from 13th to 17th of October 2025 at The Anglican Communion Office, in London, United Kingdom. The Commission was grateful for the warm welcome and practical support extended by the Anglican Communion Office, and for the prayerful fellowship that sustained its work. In continuity with previous meetings, the Commission combined substantive theological dialogue with common prayer, pilgrimage, and encounter.

Following its agreed agenda for the official dialogue, the Commission received short reports from members on the life of their churches. These included political developments affecting the Church in Armenia, and steps toward a Palestinian and Israeli peace agreement. A brief tour d'horizon noted family life, communion life, and ecumenical relations across our churches. The Commission also discussed recent changes in leadership within the Anglican Communion that raise new

questions and affect ecumenical relationships, which do not have easy answers. The Commission discussed the Lambeth Conference's doctrinal position on marriage, while acknowledging continuing pastoral debates in some provinces. The Commission members expressed joy in the maturing of relationships that enable them to navigate difficult conversations with trust. The Commission also considered the rise of Christian nationalism and the pressures created by migration, encouraging responses that uphold human dignity and the common good. These matters and their related challenges were discussed with candour and charity, and the Commission agreed on practical next steps for its continuing work.

In its plenary sessions, the Commission discussed papers on pilgrims, strangers, migration, and martyrdom, with particular attention to the uses and misuses of the Christian martyr tradition by churches in positions of power. The Commission acknowledged the fact that its members come from different backgrounds with a range of migration contexts. We experienced a deepening of the Christological understanding of Jesus' experience as a refugee in Egypt, his stable homelife in Nazareth, and his itinerant ministry where "He has nowhere to lay His head." The discussion also included a sharing of the Canadian Coptic Orthodox experience through the Newcomers Office Services, illustrating parish-based pathways for welcoming and supporting recent migrants. The Commission recognized the integrated Scriptural, theological, pastoral, and practical framework, which we acknowledge as a gift to the broader Christian community. A video session on migration with the Joel Nafuma Refugee Centre in Rome described their work with forced migrants and how that ministry has evolved and grown since the 1970s. These conversations extended and deepened the Commission's ongoing work on migration, displacement, witness, and martyrdom.

The Commission joined in evening prayer at St John's Notting Hill, received an introduction to the Filipino Chaplaincy, and shared a meal generously prepared by members of the community. The Commission also visited St Paul's Cathedral and met with the Dean. They then visited the Sanctuary, the diocesan hub for the Coptic Orthodox Church in the city of London, and attended an ecumenical reception held in honour of the Commission. These encounters echoed the Commission's pattern of uniting theological reflection with prayer and pilgrimage.

The Commission expressed gratitude to all who offered hospitality and support, and it gave thanks to God for the fellowship, clarity, and trust that deepened throughout the meeting. It looks forward to continuing its programme of work in the coming year in the service of the unity and witness of the Church.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Commission gave thanks to the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the mutual understanding, fellowship and friendship that had been experienced and deepened, and looks forward to the future in hope.

Present at the meeting:

Anglicans

The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Church of Ireland (Co-Chair)

Dr Liza Anderson, Episcopal Church (USA)

The Most Revd Dr Samy Shehata, Province of Alexandria

The Ven. Dr Edward Simonton OGS, Anglican Church of Canada

The Revd Dr Casey Strine (UK)

The Rt Revd Anthony Ball (Consultant)

The Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin (Theological Consultant)

The Revd Neil Vigers, Anglican Communion Office (Co-Secretary)

Oriental Orthodox

Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria

His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos of London, United Kingdom (Co-Chair)

The Revd Fr Dr Pishoy Wasfy, Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada

Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church – Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin – Armenia

His Grace Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland

Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

His Eminence Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos, United Kingdom (Co-Secretary)

Not present at the meeting

His Eminence Archbishop Severios Roger Akhrass, Lebanon

His Eminence Archbishop Polycarpus Augin Aydin, The Netherlands

The Very Rev Fr Hrant Tahanian

The Revd Canon Dr William Taylor, Church of England

The Revd Fr Dr K. M. George, India

Fr Garegin Hambardzumyan, Director of the Ecumenical Department at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia

Canon Dr Christopher Wells, Anglican Communion Office

The next meeting of the Commission will take place from 12th to 16th October 2026, hosted by the Oriental Orthodox Family.