

# The Window

Newsletter of the Anglican-Lutheran Society

Number 51, November-December 1996

## Melanchthon anniversary service on February 16

A celebration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Philipp Melanchthon, the 16th century reformer, will be held at 7pm on Sunday, February 16, 1997, at the Lutheran Church of St Anne and St Agnes, Gresham St, London EC2 (St Paul's Underground).

Melanchthon, born in Germany on February 16, 1497, was a brilliant theologian who drafted the Augsburg Confession, one of the major confessional documents of the Lutheran Church and for all Christians.

The Anglican-Lutheran Society joins with St Anne's Lutheran Church in the service as part of the monthly Bach Vespers. Peter Lea-Cox, cantor at St Anne's, will lead the singers and instrumentalists of the Lecosaldi Ensemble in two short Bach cantatas: No.130, "Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir" (Lord God, we all praise thee), and No.192, "Nun danket alle Gott" (Now thank we all our God). Cantata No.130, actually composed for St Michael's Day, includes a hymn by Melanchthon. Cantata No.192 was written for the Festival of the Reformation.

The Rev Volkmar Latossek, pastor of St Mary's German Lutheran Church in London and a member of the Anglican-Lutheran Society Committee, will preach. The Rev Paul Schmiede, pastor of St Anne's, will lead the worship. All members and friends of the Society are invited. Please invite others.

## ALS membership soars

Membership in the Anglican-Lutheran Society has soared to 227, the highest in our history. Ten more Anglican bishops have become members in the past three months and there are a dozen new Lutheran members from Finland. More than 90 percent of previous members have renewed their memberships which is most encouraging. New members are welcome at any time. Please write to us for information.

## Christmas greetings

As we again celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, and look forward to another new year of God's grace, the committee and officers of the Anglican-Lutheran Society extend their warmest greetings during this Christmas season and in 1997. May the Lord lead us and bless us as we continue to serve in God's world.

## Westminster Abbey Eucharist completes signings of the Porvoo Agreement

In a Eucharist replete with pageantry and many languages at Westminster Abbey on November 28, Anglicans and Lutherans in northern Europe completed the signings of the Porvoo Agreement and celebrated their new unity. Besides the bishops, archbishops and many other leaders of the eight churches involved in the agreement, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip took part in the lengthy procession which marked the beginning and the end of the service.

The Most Rev Dr John Vikström, Archbishop of Turku and Finland, preached. The Most Rev Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, presided at the Eucharist. Clergy and lay people from the various churches assisted in the liturgy and distribution of the Sacrament.

The Porvoo Agreement brings Lutheran churches in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Estonia and Lithuania into full communion with Anglican churches in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

The London service was the third to celebrate the historic agreement with ceremonial signings. The first service was held in Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, Norway, September 1. The second service was held at the Toomkirik (St Mary's

Cathedral) in Tallinn, Estonia, September 8.

Two churches involved in the Porvoo discussions have not signed the agreement but sent representatives to the celebrations. They are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia.

Some have called Porvoo the most important ecumenical event in the past century and perhaps since the 16th century Reformation. The programme at the Abbey celebration said: "The Porvoo Agreement is the most significant ecumenical agreement into which the British and Anglican churches have ever entered. It is an important milestone on the way to the restoration of the visible unity of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church."

The main work now remains to be done, however, as Porvoo is implemented in the lives of people in the thousands of congregations in northern Europe. The Porvoo churches, the Anglican-Lutheran Society and other groups are committed to helping to make Porvoo a reality in the lives of people. Two such efforts are reported in this issue of *The Window*: "Together in Song", the Porvoo hymnal (page 3) and "An Invitation to Prayer" (page 5).



Representatives of the ten churches involved in the Porvoo Agreement signed the historic document during a Eucharist at Westminster Abbey, London, on November 28, 1996. This was the third and final signing of the Porvoo Agreement which brings Anglicans and Lutherans in northern Europe into communion with each other. The other signings took place during similar celebrations in Trondheim, Norway, on September 1, 1996, and in Tallinn, Estonia, on September 8, 1996.

## A Lutheran experience in Jamaica

*The Rev Dr David Kuck, a Lutheran, teaches at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. A member of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, he writes of his personal experiences in Anglican-Lutheran relationships:*

Anglican-Lutheran relations were once of mainly academic interest to me, an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Since my family and I moved to Jamaica five years ago, however, my relationship with Anglicans has taken on a deep personal dimension.

I am called to teach at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, an ecumenical seminary for the Caribbean region. In addition to teaching in the areas of New Testament and homiletics, I am also the warden for Lutheran students.

There are no established Lutheran churches in Jamaica. Our Lutheran students come from Guyana, where the Lutheran Church has strong commitment to the training of its clergy in an ecumenical Caribbean setting.

### Where to go for regular worship?

Where could my family and I go for regular worship and congregational life? Although we do have regular worship on campus within our small group of Lutheran students and my family, we in no sense could consider ourselves a congregation. Nor does the ecumenical worship and life at UTCWI provide a full substitute for regular participation in the liturgy within a recognized tradition. So, following the pattern set by some of my predecessors, I sought to form a relationship with the Anglican Church.

My family and I received a warm welcome at the St Andrew Parish Church in Half-Way Tree in the Kingston metropolitan area. I expected that we would become informal members of the congregation and sit together in the pew on most Sundays. But that was not to be. The Rev Robert Thompson, rector of the parish, gave me only a few weeks before he invited me to become a member of the staff, as honorary clergy. This arrangement was approved by the bishop, and the church has given me an active role ever since.

I participate in the weekly liturgy of the Eucharist, read the Gospel, help with the distribution of the elements and preach on a regular basis. I am invited to lead Bible studies and to participate in many of the rich fellowship activities of this large congregation. My wife Mary has also been active, both on the Altar Guild and in teaching Sunday school at St Thomas mission. In fact, our son Ben was instructed

and confirmed at St Andrew's, so that we have one legitimate Anglican in the family!

### A rich experience

It has been a rich experience for us over these past five years. St Andrew's has become our church home, where we feel welcome and where our contributions are appreciated. Father Thompson and his wife have become good friends, and he was the natural choice to be the preacher at the service at UTC celebrating the 20th anniversary of my ordination. One thing especially I have learned at St Andrew's: seriousness about the eucharistic liturgy does not have to conflict either with spontaneity and deep feeling nor with a desire for strong Biblical preaching.

Anglicans and Lutherans also participate deeply in the ecumenical life at UTC. Canon Ralston Smith is not only our next-door neighbour and a friend, but we often find ourselves together in holding up a particular understanding of theological tradition and practice.

Of course, my experience at St Andrew's also brings forcefully home to all of us that there is still a barrier between the Lutheran and Anglican understanding of orders and that my ordination cannot yet be fully recognized by the Anglican Church. With few Lutheran churches within its territories, the Anglican Church of the Province of the West Indies does not have relationships with Lutherans high on the agenda. Yet we can follow with interest the developments in northern Europe and in the USA and hope that our understandings will converge to the point of mutual recognition.

## Stavanger Conference plans

The Anglican-Lutheran Society will hold an international conference at the Sola Strand Hotel, Stavanger, Norway, from September 5-8, 1997. Details of the programme and speakers will be announced early in the new year. The conference theme will concern our common Christian witness as congregations as we look forward to the year 2000.

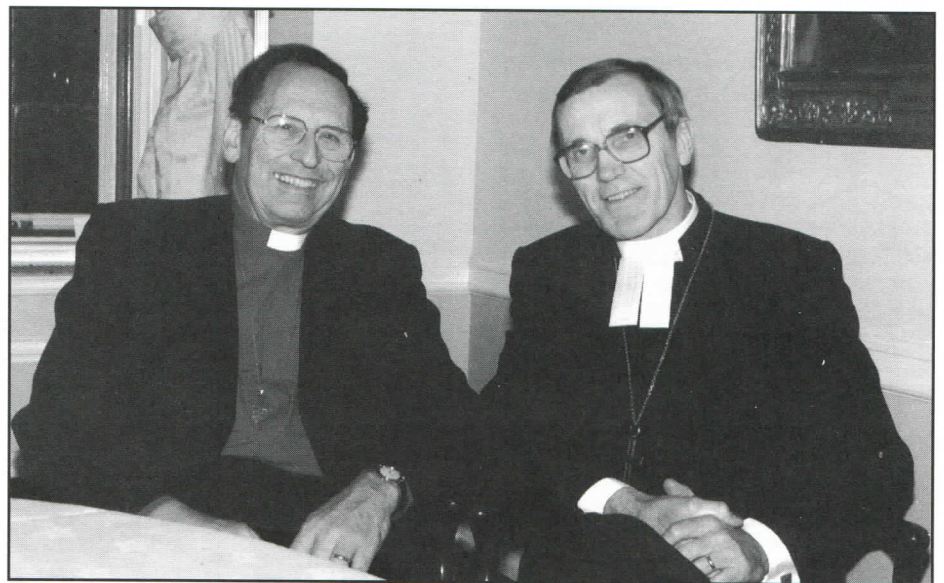
Members and friends are invited to indicate their interest in attending by returning the form included with the mailing of this issue of *The Window*.

The cost of attending will be about UK£225 (US\$360) per person for room and board for the three days, from dinner on Friday through lunch on Monday. Travel costs are additional. Air fares from the United Kingdom will be about UK£190 for return tickets. The more who attend the lower the costs. Watch for further details. We hope that many will take part.

## New Episcopal-Lutheran link

The Rev Carole Johannsen, a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, USA, is serving Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Brookfield, Connecticut, as an interim pastor for one year. This is a "first" for both Lutherans and Episcopalians in New England.

Bishop Robert L. Isaksen of the New England Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, contacted the Rt Rev Clarence N. Coleridge, Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, to seek permission for the appointment. Bishop Coleridge agreed, adding that it was fine as long as the Lutherans didn't "keep her".



The presidents of the Anglican-Lutheran Society met during a reception following the final signing of the Porvoo Agreement during an historic Eucharist at Westminster Abbey on November 28. The Rt Rev David Tustin (left), Bishop of Grimsby, England, is the Anglican president. The Rt Rev Erik Vikström, Bishop of Porvoo (Borgå), Finland, is the Lutheran president. The Porvoo Agreement is known by its Swedish name, Borgå Agreement, in Swedish-speaking countries.



Three delegates from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in France came to London for the Porvoo celebration at Westminster Abbey on November 28. They were visiting the Lutheran Church in Great Britain (LCIGB). During their visit they met with Anglican-Lutheran Society leaders for discussions on the significance of Porvoo for the churches of Europe. Pictured at the Lutheran Church of St Anne and St Agnes in the City of London are (from left) Eve Lanchantin, Pastor Alain Joly and Alan Hornstein, the delegation from Paris; the Rev Dr Jaakko Rusama of Helsinki, ALS representative in Finland; and Marja-Liisa Morgan and David Whyte of the LCIGB. Dr Rusama and the Rev Ronald T England, Lutheran co-moderator of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, led the discussions.

## Work progressing well on hymn collection, in English, from the Porvoo churches

Work is progressing well on the proposed collection of hymns from the Porvoo Agreement churches intended to give local congregations and groups opportunity to sing together hymns from the Anglican and Lutheran traditions in northern Europe. The editors have decided to name it "Together in Song", building on the theme of the publication of the Porvoo Agreement, "Together in Mission and Ministry".

The book is being edited by the Rev Per Harling, a musician and composer from the Church of Sweden; the Rev Dr Johan Dalman, Secretary for Theology at the Church of Sweden Central Board; and the Rev Ronald T England, Lutheran co-moderator of the Anglican-Lutheran Society.

The editors will meet in London during the first week of January and hope to complete plans for the collection which will include some 100 hymns. Each hymn will be in English and its original language. Melody lines will be included for each hymn.

The committee is in a "no-win" situation as it will be impossible to include all the hymns recommended by representatives of the four Anglican and the six Lutheran churches which signed the Porvoo Agreement. "Together in Song" will be a first-step in what is hoped will be a growing awareness and appreciation of the rich tradition of hymnody in the Porvoo churches.

Nordic and Baltic hymnody is almost unknown in the Anglican churches of Great Britain and Ireland. English translations of the classic hymns from Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland are mostly available in

Lutheran hymnals from the United States. Immigrants from these countries took their hymns to America and gradually they were translated into English. The committee is seeking translations for some of the newer hymns as well as hymns from countries like Iceland, Estonia and Latvia.

Even though the Lutheran churches in Denmark and Latvia have not signed the Porvoo Agreement, some hymns from these traditions may also be included in the new collection. Because of the history of the Nordic countries, it is difficult to determine whether certain hymns are from one or another. Historically Sweden and Finland have been linked. This is true of Denmark and Norway and Iceland. In the Porvoo churches, there are much-loved hymns which have a text from one country and a tune from another country.

Hymns from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland will be included, although several countries can claim certain hymns. For example, the fine hymn, "Praise my soul the King of heaven" is by Henry Francis Lyte who was born in Scotland, ordained by the Church of Ireland and served in England.

The editors also plan to include some hymns which have come from other countries but which are much-loved in the Porvoo churches.

Through the generosity of the Anders Frostensson Foundation in Sweden, support will be given to "Together in Song" so that it can be sold to all for a reasonable price.

We hope to report further progress on this project in the next issue of *The Window*.

## Diaconate discussion set for AGM on March 8

The Rt Rev David Tustin, Anglican Bishop of Grimsby, and a president of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, will speak on "The Diaconate as Ecumenical Opportunity" at the Society's Annual General Meeting to be held at the Swedish Church, 6 Harcourt Street, London W1, on Saturday, March 8, 1997, from 11am to 4pm.

The topic is timely as the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission has just published its Hanover Report on the diaconate (see page 4).

The next issue of *The Window*, to appear in February, will carry the agenda and full details about the meeting. All friends and members of the Society are invited to attend.

## Finnish Lutheran pastors serve as Anglican priests

As a direct result of the Porvoo Agreement, three pastors of the Lutheran Church of Finland have received permission to officiate as priests of the Church of England. They are assisting in the Anglican St Nicholas Chaplaincy in Helsinki. This chaplaincy covers the whole of Finland.

The Lutheran pastors are the Rev Dr Heikki Kotila, an editorial chief in the Christian Publishing House; the Rev Dr Jaakko Rusama, senior researcher at the Finnish Lutheran Church Research Institute, and Finnish representative for the Anglican-Lutheran Society; and the Rev Dr Henrik Smedjebacka, former director of the Finnish Lutheran Mission. The three pastors are serving on a non-stipendiary basis and will assist the Rev Francis Chadwick, Anglican chaplain in Finland.

## Sweden honours Anglicans

The Rt Rev David Tustin, Anglican Bishop of Grimsby and chairman of the Council for Christian Unity, and Dr Mary Tanner, the Council's secretary, have been given the St Eriksplaketten (Plaque of St Erik) for their outstanding service in the cause of ecumenism. The Archbishop of the Church of Sweden, Dr Gunnar Weman, made the presentation at a dinner at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, England, on November 23.

## Window-dialog exchange

*The Window* has begun an exchange with *dialog*, a Lutheran theological quarterly published in St Paul, Minnesota, USA. Dr Ted F Peters, of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, is editor. The Anglican-Lutheran Society welcomes opportunities for publication exchanges. Please contact us with ideas for exchanges.

## Anglican-Lutheran report on diaconate offers new ecumenical opportunity

New opportunities for renewal in Lutheran and Anglican churches may result from a significant new publication by the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission (ALIC).

*The Diaconate as Ecumenical Opportunity* is being called "The Hanover Report" because it was formulated in Hannover, Germany. As the Niagara Report of 1987 dealt with the question of episcopé, or pastoral oversight, this new study "seeks to place the diaconate in the context of a more comprehensive vision of the mission of God in the world". The Niagara Report produced a breakthrough in Anglican-Lutheran understanding and helped lead to the Concordat of Agreement (1991) and the Porvoo Common Statement (1992). Episcopalians and Lutherans in the USA will vote on the Concordat next year while northern European Lutherans and Anglicans are celebrating the signing of the Porvoo Agreement this year. It may be that the Hanover Report will move Lutheran-Anglican relationships even further.

The Rt Rev David Tustin, Anglican Bishop of Grimsby, England, and the Rev Prof Ambrose Moyo of the University of Harare, Zimbabwe, are co-chairmen of ALIC. They write in the foreword to the Hanover Report: "ALIC believed that its next logical step would be to undertake a fresh joint study of the *diaconate*, especially since the threefold ordering of the ordained ministry had long been a central issue in Anglican-Lutheran dialogue. The atmosphere of openness and growing trust between us has given us the confidence to work together on this question,

where perplexities and real differences are evident, yet without their being church-dividing. Our desire has been to learn from each whatever could be useful for the common mission we share, and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort."

Following an introduction, the study deals with three topics: theological foundations for the diaconate and diaconal ministry; diversity and commonality of present forms of diaconal ministry; and an ordained diaconate.

In conclusion the Hanover Report calls for exploration of a common diaconal ministry of the churches: "Precisely because diaconal ministry is not burdened with the problems of validity and canonical recognition which hinder our visible unity in the exercise of presbyterial and episcopal ministry, we are called all the more to take up the possibilities before us for common diaconal ministry."

Calling on our churches to be imaginative in shaping diaconal ministries ecumenically, the report asks: "Could forms of joint, common, or united diaconal ministry precede and clear the way for a joint, common, or united presbyterate or episcopacy?" This important document is for study and action.

The Hanover Report is dedicated to the memory of Tom Dorris, who worked with the World Council of Churches and later with the Life and Peace Institute in Sweden.

*The Diaconate as Ecumenical Opportunity - The Hanover Report*. Published in 1996. Paper, 30 pages. Price UK£2.50 from the Anglican Consultative Council, Partnership House, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UT, England.



The Rev Canon Anthony Harvey of Westminster Abbey (right) greets Bishop Emeritus Harold C Skillrud of the Southeastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and his wife, Lois Skillrud, during a September visit to London by 28 Lutheran pastors and spouses. The pastors were graduates of the Class of 1954 of the former Augustana Theological Seminary which is now part of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Illinois. The Anglican-Lutheran Society helped arrange the London reunion for the 56 people who also visited St Paul's Cathedral, Lambeth Palace and the Lutheran Church of St Anne and St Agnes. Bishop Skillrud is much involved in ecumenical affairs and co-chairs the USA Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue.

## Lutherans and Anglicans facing similar issues

"Anglicans and Lutherans face similar issues in Europe", the Rt Rev Michael Bourke, Anglican Bishop of Wolverhampton, England, said at an Anglican-Lutheran Reformation Eucharist held at the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban on October 27. The Anglican-Lutheran Society and the German Lutheran Church of St Albans-Luton helped sponsor the service.

Calling on the churches to move beyond the arguments of the Meissen and Porvoo agreements, Bishop Bourke said "we find we are facing very similar issues including the global market, asylum seekers, family life, sexuality and the stewardship of creation."

### Not merely theological arguments

"The best thing about Porvoo, Meissen and the Anglican-Lutheran Society is that they are not merely theological agreements. They're about getting to know each other in all sorts of ways - through exchanges, worshipping together, prayer letters and working together on practical issues."

He noted five cultural worlds in the Anglican-Lutheran partnership: the Church of England, which is the established folk church; the British and Irish Anglican churches which are not; the Scandinavian Lutheran churches involved in the Porvoo Agreement; the German Evangelical Church, which is a federation of Lutheran, Reformed and United churches; world Lutheranism and world Anglicanism. "The natural thing is to champion the superiority of the culture with which we identify ourselves. A culture is a very subtle thing, a web of shared values, and ways of looking at the world which we assume to be 'normal'. A foreign culture can appear very alien, even when we understand the language. They say you begin to understand a culture when you share in the jokes!"

Bishop Bourke preached on I Corinthians 1:20-24 where Paul says: "We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

He said: "The Gospel makes all people and all cultures equal, because no-one has any superiority to boast about at the foot of the cross." He added that the fulfillment of all we have most deeply and truly sought is unexpected and "comes only when we have been challenged, when we have stopped boasting and trying to prove we're right. In our church culture it has come in the unexpected form of the ecumenical movement, which we must see as an event on the scale of the Reformation itself, a wonderful grace enabling us to disarm from our entrenched positions and look again through one another's eyes at our past and present."

## Ecumenical Milestones: LARC conference on Covenant, Concordat and Communion

*The Rev Dr Scott Ickert, former Lutheran Fellow at Mansfield College, Oxford, and now pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Arlington, Virginia, USA, reports on the annual LARC (Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic) conference held November 22-23, 1996 in Lynchburg, Virginia:*

The annual LARC conference met to discuss two of the three ecumenical proposals now before the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The first is the Concordat of Agreement, proposing "full communion" between the ELCA and the Episcopal Church, USA. The second is the affirmation that the 16th century condemnations on justification by faith no longer apply to Lutherans and Roman Catholics. A third proposal to be considered by the ELCA, the Formula of Agreement, was also touched upon. If agreed, this would pave the way for "full communion" between the ELCA and three Reformed Churches - the Presbyterian Church USA, the Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ.

The speakers were: Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC, Associate Director of Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs for the US Catholic Conference; The Rev Dr Walter R Bouman, Professor of Systematic Theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio; and the Rt Rev Edward W Jones, Bishop of Indianapolis, Indiana (Episcopal Church USA).

### Preparation for voting in 1997

A special workshop was held prior to the conference for clergy and delegates to the respective Lutheran and Episcopal assemblies in order to prepare them for the vote that will be taken in Philadelphia by both Lutherans and Episcopalians (who will be meeting in the same hotel roughly one month apart) in the summer of 1997.

Bishop Jones discussed the implications of the Concordat for the nine churches involved in the Consultation on Christian Unity (COCU). Citing the admonition of Lord Runcie that in the ecumenical world there must be no room for partisanship, Bishop Jones warned against playing off COCU against the Concordat. Each church, he said, must be valued for its own particular gifts.

Brother Jeffrey Gros focussed his remarks on justification by faith and the non-applicability of the 16th century condemnations made at that time by both Lutherans and Catholics against each other. He demonstrated not only the growing convergence on justification, but that agreement finally seems to be in process of becoming a reality. Once an agreement is

signed, he said, not only will these churches have taken a "giant step" on the road toward full communion, but both Roman Catholics and Lutherans will have to teach theology and history from a completely different perspective.

Walter Bouman reviewed all three of the ecumenical proposals now before the ELCA, including the Lutheran-Reformed proposal. Roman Catholics, he said, are the Lutherans' primary ecumenical partners. The healing of the breach of the 16th century, he added, has to be placed at the top of the agenda.

### Significant theological breakthroughs

With respect to the Reformed, Bouman reported that a significant theological breakthrough has been made on the related issues of real presence and Christology, a breakthrough made possible by the current recovery of the essentially eschatological nature of Christian faith. With respect to the Concordat, Bouman stressed what each partner will have to gain. Confession, he said (the Lutheran contribution), can keep us faithful to the tradition of the church; bishops (the Anglican contribution) are necessary for communion. Here he encouraged the Lutherans to recognize that there is a certain incompleteness where the historic episcopate is not present.

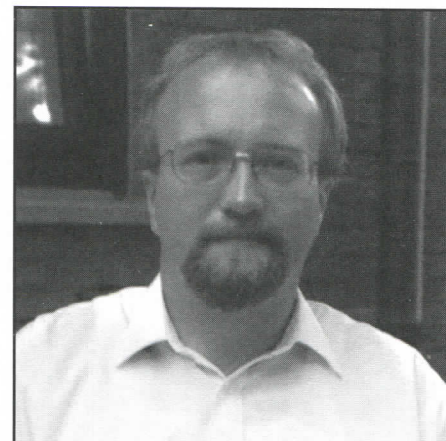
An important additional feature of the conference was the re-signing of "A Call Into Covenant" by the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran Bishops in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as a reaffirmation of the original covenant that was signed in 1990.

### Invitation to prayer

An excellent guide for prayer, which lists all of the dioceses of the Lutheran and Anglican churches involved in the Porvoo Agreement, was published in November. Set up for congregations to use at Sunday worship and for individuals to use in private or family prayers, dates are suggested throughout 1997 for remembering dioceses and bishops of the Porvoo churches. The bishops are named and there are helpful maps showing the location of dioceses in the various countries.

In the introduction, the Lutheran Bishop of Oslo, Andreas Aarflot, and the Anglican Bishop of Grimsby, David Tustin, note that the Porvoo Declaration commits the churches "to share a common life" and "to pray for and with one another"

*An Invitation to Prayer for the Bishops of the Porvoo Churches and the clergy and people of their dioceses - 1997* is available from the Council for Christian Unity, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ for UK£1.50 and from the offices of the Nordic and Baltic churches.



The Rev Arndt-Bernhard Müller is the new representative of the Anglican-Lutheran Society in Germany, succeeding Gudrun Kaper, who has served the Society for many years. Since 1995 he has been pastor of a Lutheran Church in Lingen, a town in the northwestern part of Germany, near the Dutch border. He was pastor of St Mary's German Lutheran Church in London from 1989-1995. His address: Schützenstraße 9, 49809 Lingen (Ems), Germany.

### David Hamid named to ecumenical post

The Rev Canon David Hamid of Canada became director of ecumenical affairs for the Anglican Communion office, based in London, on December 1. He succeeds the Rev Dr Donald Anderson, also a Canadian Anglican, who is now general secretary of the Conference on the Religious Life in the Anglican Communion in the Americas.

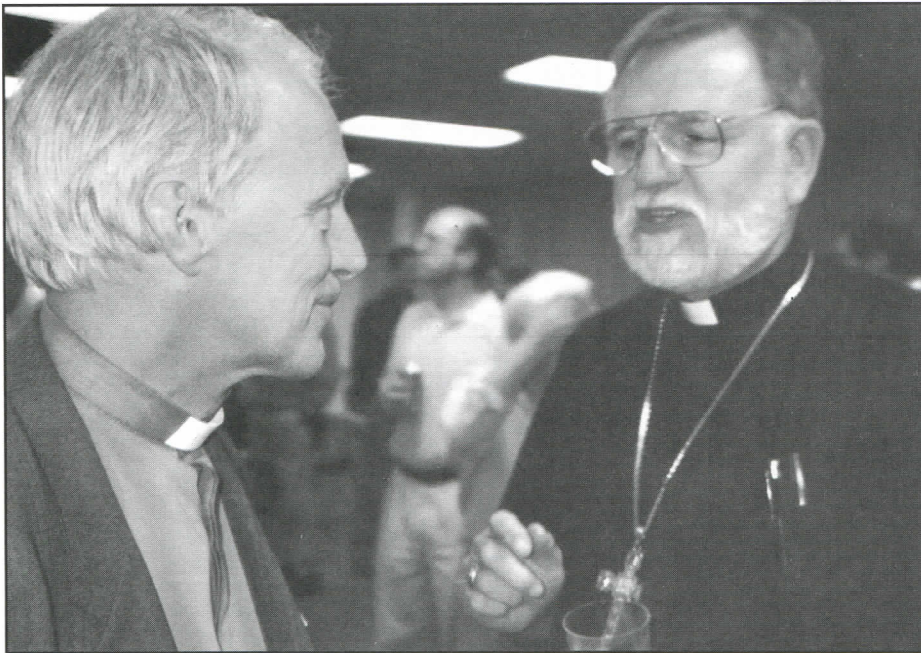
Canon Hamid had been regional mission co-ordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean for the General Synod of the Anglican Church in Canada. He has dual Canadian and British nationality. He was born in Glasgow and studied in Canada where he was ordained in 1981. His father is a Burmese Sunni Muslim and his mother is Scottish.

During the meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council, held in Panama City, Panama in October, Dr Anderson outlined the ecumenical work of the Anglican communion. He said that, within five years, it could be that the Anglicans would be in communion with the Lutherans in northern Europe, Canada, the United States, and possibly in Brazil and several parts of Africa.

Besides the Anglican Consultative Council, the Anglican Communion office includes the Primates Meeting and the Lambeth Conference.

### Thanks to Ohio congregation

Belated thanks to Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Canfield, Ohio, USA, for a gift of US\$80 (UK£50) to the Anglican-Lutheran Society. The gift was received when the Rt Rev Cyril Wismar, the Society's US correspondent, preached there last May.



Bishop Robert L. Isaksen (right) of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, chats with the Rev. Brian Coleman, an Anglican visitor from England, at a convocation of Lutheran pastors which was held at Mont Marie Conference Center in Holyoke, Massachusetts, USA, September 22-24.

## Brian Coleman reports on New England visit

*The Rev. Brian Coleman, treasurer of the Anglican-Lutheran Society and vicar of All Saints' Church (Anglican), Guildford, England, travelled through Massachusetts and Connecticut, USA, from September 18-27, 1996. He writes about his visits with Anglicans and Lutherans in New England:*

I have been a member of the Anglican-Lutheran Society since it began in 1984, and I have been very fortunate during this time. I have been able to visit a number of places in all parts of Germany and all of the Nordic countries except Finland. But never in my sixty years have I visited the United States. When the opportunity arose this September to see New England at the beginning of autumn, you can imagine that I was delighted.

I should make it clear that, although I went on behalf of the Anglican-Lutheran Society, I was very lucky to receive funding from other sources. In fact it cost the Society very little, and in America I received the most tremendous hospitality and kindness wherever I went. I should like to express my deep gratitude to my American friends, and especially to Bishop Cyril Wismar, our American correspondent. I have known Cyril and Sylvia for some years and it was very good to stay with them.

I went to Massachusetts and Connecticut to learn more about the Concordat of Agreement to be presented for adoption by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Episcopal Church in the United States in 1997. I also spoke about the Society and Anglican-Lutheran relationships

in Europe to the Convocation of the New England Synod, ELCA, meeting in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and to the Bishop's Conference, Episcopal Church, meeting in Wethersfield, Connecticut.

On Sunday, September 22, I had the privilege of preaching in the magnificent Trinity Lutheran Church of Worcester, Massachusetts, where Ronald Englund and his family are well-remembered.

What impressions did I get of the Lutheran and Episcopal churches? First, I think, what similar problems we face. Both the Lutherans and the Episcopalians have lost money through over-trustfulness, a bitter lesson we have sadly had to learn here. There is deep concern about the high incidence of marital breakdown among the clergy, and both traditions are divided over the issue of homosexual clergy. I learned something too of the deep and seemingly unbridgeable rift between the ELCA and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The churches seemed to put an emphasis on fund-raising that I think would jar in the Church of England but at least they face the issue squarely.

Thankfully problems and divisions are not the whole story. I have always enjoyed worshipping with the Lutherans, who have such a strong liturgical and eucharistic tradition. Personally, if I may stick my neck out, I wish the Anglican Church had taken rather more from Luther and rather less from Calvin! There is no doubt that these churches are alive and well, and they are alive in the world too in their social and community work and outreach.

Thank you again, friends in America. It really was great to be with you!

## Swedish, Norwegian hymns in recordings in English

Classic hymn favourites from Norway and Sweden, in English-language translations, are available on CDs and audio-cassettes through the Anglican-Lutheran Society.

The hymns, some with instrumental accompaniment, are sung by the Gustavus Adolphus College Choir of St Peter, Minnesota, USA, conducted by Karle Erickson. This college, founded by Swedish immigrants, continues to celebrate its Scandinavian tradition. There are two recordings: "Favorite Swedish Hymns" and "Favorite Norwegian Hymns."

These recordings may be the only available source of classic hymns of Norway and Sweden in English. Those wanting to get acquainted with these wonderful hymns will find these recordings helpful.

One caution should be noted. These hymns reflect the history of Swedish and Norwegian immigrants who came to the USA in the 19th century. A few of the hymns are largely forgotten in Scandinavia now and some are from other sources, but were favourites of the immigrant congregations.

*Together in Song*, the proposed hymnal of Porvoo church hymns (see page 3), will include many of these fine hymns. The Anglican-Lutheran Society office can now provide words and music of hymns from all the Porvoo churches for any who wish to use them in services.

*Favorite Swedish Hymns* and *Favorite Norwegian Hymns*, sung by the Gustavus Choir conducted by Karl Erickson. Each CD costs - £12 and each audiocassette - £8. Add 50pence for each item sent to UK address and £1 for mailing outside UK. Make payment to Anglican-Lutheran Society, 27 Prentis Road, London SW16 1QB, England.

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