

CATHOLIC-REFORMED DIALOGUE TAKES UP QUESTION OF AUTHORITY AND EPISCOPACY IN LATEST MEETING OF ROUND VIII

Washington —Participants of the Catholic-Reformed Dialogue convened on March 8-10, 2015 for the fifth meeting of the eighth round at the national headquarters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) in Chicago, IL. The general topic for the current round is ecclesiology. The specific topics for this meeting were continued discussion of the history and theology of the relationship between authority (episcopé) and the episcopacy, the relationship between the episcopacy and sacrament, which entailed analysis of the document on Eucharist from the Seventh Round of the dialogue, deliberation on the discernment of current points of convergence on the topic of episcopé, and opening remarks on the fourth and final theme of this round, namely Ministry and Ordination. The dialogue is chaired by Bishop Tod Brown, retired bishop of Orange, California, and the Rev. Cynthia Campbell, Ph.D., senior pastor of Highland Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, and former president of McCormick Theological Seminary.

There were no papers presented during this meeting as time was given to continuing conversation, with the intention of identifying convergences, on authority and episcopé, as well as revisiting the advance in mutual understanding on this topic from the previous round and from the wider ecumenical conversation in recent decades, most especially from salient statements published by the WCC and the International Catholic-Reformed Dialogue. The meeting concluded with a consideration of the status of this round in terms of the original proposal.

The next scheduled meeting is scheduled to take place at New Brunswick Seminary in New Brunswick, NJ in October of 2015.

Other Catholic dialogue participants included Dr. Kristin Colberg, Rev. Dr. Dennis Tamburello, Dr. Christopher Ruddy, Rev. Dr. John Radano, and Dr. Anthony Cirelli (SEIA staff).

Other Reformed Church in America participants included Rev. Dr. Allan Janssen and Monica Schaap Pierce. Christian Reformed Church participants included Rev. Dr. Peter Choi, Rev. Dr. Sue Rozeboom, and Rev. Dr. Ronald Feenstra. The Presbyterian Church-USA participants included Rev. David Gambrell and Rev. Robina Winbush (by phone). United Church of Christ participants included Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson and Rev. Dr. Randi Walker.