

CATHOLIC-REFORMED DIALOGUE TAKES UP QUESTION OF MINISTRY AND ORDINATION

Washington —Participants of the Catholic-Reformed Dialogue convened on October 4-6, 2015 for the sixth meeting of the eighth round at the New Brunswick Seminary in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The general topic for the current round is ecclesiology. The specific topic for this meeting was 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.

In the first session, presentations on the rites of ordination in the Catholic and Reformed traditions were provided by Bishop Tod Brown (Catholic) and Rev. Dr. David Gambrell (PCUSA). The second session was devoted to explicating convergences and divergences in our respective rites and was led by Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell (PCUSA) and Rev. Dr. Dennis Tamburello (Catholic). Following these presentations, extended conversation ensued on the general question of the anthropological and ontological effects of ordination and the particular questions of the hierarchical priesthood and its relation to the laity, the congregational exercise of ministry in the Reformed traditions, the meaning of apostolicity in our traditions, the role of the Petrine ministry in the modern world for non-Catholic Christians, and the meaning of the diaconate in the post-Vatican II era of the Catholic Church. These two sessions thus concluded the sequence of group presentations in all four study areas in the original proposal for the current round: i.e., mission and identity, unity and diversity, authority and episcopate, and ministry and ordination. In the third session, the four study groups met in caucus to determine the shape and planning for final group reports projected for 2017.

The next scheduled meeting is scheduled to take place at the headquarters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in Chicago, IL in March of 2016.

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. Wes Granberg-Michaelson, Rev. Dr. Allan Janssen and Rev. 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. United Church of Christ participants included Rev. Dr. Sid Fowler and Rev. Dr. Randi Walker.