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WITH APPENDICES

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1964

The House of Bishops received House of Deputies Message No. 30 expressing thanks to three seminaries and to His Eminence Cardinal Ritter for their participation on the occasion of Ecumenical Day, October 14, 1964.

The House concurred.

[Communicated to the House of Deputies by Message No. 52.]

Ecumenical Relations—Joint Commission on

In the House of Bishops, on the Fifth Day, the Bishop Coadjutor of North Carolina, for the Committee on Ecumenical Relations, offered for adoption the following Resolutions (subject to the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Expenses in respect of Resolution 6), as follows:

Whereas, The Protestant Episcopal Church has, since 1886, been engaged in serious efforts to achieve unity with the Orthodox Church, in the midst of great historical, doctrinal, and canonical, complexities; and

Whereas, The Joint Doctrinal Conferences arranged by the Church of England and the Orthodox, with American Episcopal theologians as invited assessors, and the Orthodox-Anglican consultations in the United States during this triennium, have resulted in notable progress in these efforts; and

Whereas, The experience gained by the Joint Commission on Co-operation with the Eastern and Old Catholic Churches in these efforts needs to be preserved and developed, in order to provide patristic grounding and genuine ecumenicity in unity discussions; and

Whereas, Preservation and development depend upon a corresponding charge being given to a well-defined group of Bishops, Priests, and Lay Persons, with experience and competence in these matters; and

Whereas, The interests and true unity of all Christians require that the work of this group be co-ordinated with those working toward unity with the Roman Catholic Church, and other Churches; therefore, be it

1. *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That there be appointed a Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations consisting of ten Bishops, ten Presbyters, and ten Lay Persons; which Joint Commission shall continue the work of the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations, the Joint Commission on Approaches to Unity, and the Joint Commission on Co-operation with the Eastern and Old Catholic Churches; and shall be charged with relations with inter-Church organizations; with the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, and the Ancient Eastern Churches; with other parts of the Anglican Communion and the Wider Episcopal Fellowship; and with consultations on and approaches to unity; and be it further

2. *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the task of the new Joint Commission be to develop a comprehensive and co-ordinated policy and strategy on relations with other Churches, confirming, interpreting, or making fresh, definitions, in harmony with the faith and canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church, thus involving (a) statements on Faith and Order, (b) theological discussions with other Churches, separately or in

ecumenical gatherings, and (c) questions of Church law, tradition, and worship, arising in relationships with other Churches; and, be it further

3. *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That such responsibilities of the new Joint Commission as relate to the Orthodox be committed to a special section, consisting of members particularly qualified therefor; and be it further

4. *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That, in addition to its thirty members, the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies be members *ex officio*, and that the Ecumenical Officer, Advisory to the Presiding Bishop, be assigned as Staff Officer; and be it further

5. *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the chairmen and secretaries of the several Joint Commissions aforesaid be named a Committee to continue the on-going responsibilities of the three former Joint Commissions until the organization of the new Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations is put into effective operation; and be it further

6. *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the sum of \$35,000.00 for the triennium 1965-1967 be appropriated for the expenses of the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations and its committees; and be it further

7. *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That 15% of the Good Friday Offering be appropriated annually to the Joint Committee on Ecumenical Relations, to be expended on the recommendation of the "Orthodox" unit of the Commission, for use in the support of the Orthodox Theological Institute in Paris and its related undertakings, and to provide other services in the field of co-operation with the Eastern Churches.

The Resolutions were adopted.

[Communicated to the House of Deputies by Message No. 42.]

Later, the Bishop Coadjutor of North Carolina, for the Committee on Ecumenical Relations, offered another series of Resolutions, identical to the ones already adopted, but containing no Preambles and omitting Resolutions No. 2 and No. 3 above.

These, too, were adopted by the House.

[Communicated to the House of Deputies by Message No. 45.]

The President of the House of Deputies referred to the Committee on Ecumenical Relations House of Bishops Messages No. 42 and No. 45.

On the Seventh Day, the Very Rev. Gray M. Blandy, D.D., of Texas presented Report No. 4 of the Committee on Ecumenical Relations, recommending concurrence with Message No. 42 from the House of Bishops, with amendments as follows:

In the first Resolution, the addition of the phrase, "by means of special units or otherwise", after the words, "which Joint Commission", so that the first Resolution would read:

1. *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That there be appointed a Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations, consisting of ten Bishops, ten Presbyters, and ten Lay Persons; which Joint Commission, by means of special units or otherwise, shall continue the work of the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations, the Joint Commission on Approaches to Unity, and the Joint Commission on Co-operation with the Eastern and Old Catholic Churches, and shall be charged also with relations with inter-Church organizations; with the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, and the Ancient Eastern Churches; with other parts of the Anglican Communion and the Wider Episcopal Fellowship; and with consultations on and approaches toward unity;

In the sixth Resolution, the changing of the appropriation to "\$25,000.00"; this change being in accordance with the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Expenses, reported by Mr. Seaborn J. Flournoy of Southern Virginia, who also informed the House that representatives of the Joint Commission had agreed to the reduction. As amended the sixth Resolution would read:

6. *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the sum of \$25,000.00 for the triennium 1965-1967 be appropriated for the expenses of the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations and its committees.

The House concurred, with amendments as aforesaid.

[Communicated to the House of Bishops by Message No. 53.]

The Very Rev. Gray M. Blandy, D.D., of Texas then presented Report No. 12 of the Committee on Ecumenical Relations:

Your Committee on Ecumenical Relations, to whom was referred House of Bishops Message No. 45, on the subject of a new Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations, moves non-concurrence, since this matter has already been provided for in a previous action.

The House voted not to concur with Message No. 45 of the House of Bishops.

[Communicated to the House of Bishops by Message No. 58.]

The House of Bishops received House of Deputies Message No. 53, concurring, with amendments, with House of Bishops Message No. 42.

Referred to the Committee on Ecumenical Relations.

The Bishop Coadjutor of North Carolina, reporting for the Committee on Ecumenical Relations on the Eighth Day, presented House of Deputies Message No. 53, concurring with House of Bishops Message No. 42, with two amendments. He moved that the House accept both amendments.

The motion carried.

[Communicated to the House of Deputies by Message No. 92.]