



A Covenant

Between

THE OLD CATHOLIC
CHURCH IN SLOVAKIA

AND

THE ORTHODOX
ANGLICAN CHURCH



TO ALL THE FAITHFUL IN CHRIST JESUS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, GREETINGS!
BE IT KNOWN UNTO YOU BY THESE PRESENTS THAT WE,

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Humbly acknowledging the Will of God that all Christians are called to be one so that the world will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ; recognizing our common baptism in the name of the Blessed and Undivided Holy Trinity; acknowledging the validity of our Orders; encouraged by many years of dialogue, cooperation, and friendship between our Churches; wishing to respond to the pastoral needs of our people and to be a more effective evangelistic witness to the world, we, the Bishops of The Old Catholic Church in Slovakia and The Orthodox Anglican Church, in the name of our clergy and people, enter into this covenant.

We affirm:

That the source of true Christian charity is found in the mutual love and unity of the Triune God: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit; That Jesus Christ, the living centre of our faith, is the Saviour and Lord of the world; That the expressed desire of our Saviour Jesus Christ is that His Church be one people brought together from all races, languages and cultures in true ecclesial unity; That the life of grace is received in the Church, and given to the Faithful by the Holy Spirit through the proclamation of the Scriptures and the celebration of the Sacraments; That the Holy Spirit, having revealed a rich diversity of gifts in our Churches, never ceases to draw these communions into the fullness of ecclesial unity in Christ. And, having enabled us to achieve substantial agreement on the Eucharist, Ministry and Authority, the Holy Spirit now prompts us to overcome the separation which may exist in doctrine and ecclesial life, in order to achieve in our respective Churches that full visible unity which Christ wills for his Church.

We resolve:

To strengthen our existing unity in Christ and to maintain our commitment to full communion by: *a.* pursuing theological dialogue on matters concerning unity and respecting any differences we may have; *b.* issuing standing invitations for the attendance of Episcopal representatives of the sister-Church at the periodic meetings of each body; *c.* holding an annual meeting of the Ecumenical Commission of the two Churches; and *d.* making an act of re-dedication to the goal of unity each Pentecost.

We will:

Do together whatever does not have to be done separately, including: *a.* working together on matters of mutual social and religious concern; *b.* undertaking joint programs to strengthen family life and other Christian relationships; *c.* giving mutual support in educational ministries and formal theological education (such as through an exchange of staff and students in specific areas of study, mutual visits, publishing of research papers relating to contemporary topics and theological issues, and shared prayer).

We will give witness to our growing unity by: *a.* authorizing the religious orders of our Churches, to participate in the life of prayer together, including: conducting workshops together, sharing in common outreach programs, cooperating in various ministries and exchanging of retreat and workshop directors; *b.* working together to strengthen wider ecumenical activity, particularly through the Council of Churches and the College(s) of Bishops; *c.* encouraging prayer for a wider unity, especially through the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from Ascension to Pentecost; and *d.* making joint witness to the claims of Christ to the lapsed and to those in particular spiritual need.

The Most Reverend Scott E. McLaughlin
Archbishop of The Orthodox Anglican Church

The Most Reverend Augustín Bačinský,
Archbishop of the Old Catholic Church in Slovakia

Signed at St. Lazzaro's Church, Lucca, Italy, on 25 April AD 2007