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Orthodox Statements on Anglican Orders

ROMANIA, 1936

*On March 20, 1936, the Sacred Synod of the Orthodox Church of
Romania resolved as follows:*

Resolution

Of the Sacred Synod concerning the Validity of Anglican Orders

Session of March 20th, 1936

The Patriarch, His Beatitude

Miron Cristea, presiding Secretary: Bishop Veniamin

His All Holiness the Patriarch of Constantinople having notified the Sacred Synod that he had recognized the Validity of Anglican Orders, and having requested our Sacred Synod to examine that question and to inform him in reply of its opinion:

1. Accordingly, the Sacred Synod of the Orthodox Church of Rumania replied in 1925:
 - a. That from the historical point of view no obstacle exists to the recognition of the Apostolic succession of Anglican orders
 - b. That from the dogmatic point of view the validity of Anglican orders depends upon the Anglican Church itself and especially upon whether or not that Church recognizes Holy Orders to be a mystery (Sacrament)

In order to explain the doctrine of the Anglican Church concerning Holy Orders, a Delegation of four bishops and six theologians was sent to Bucarest by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Cosmo Lang) and from June 1-8, 1935, made such explanations to the Commission of Bishops and of expert professors of our faculties in theology appointed by our Sacred Synod.

The Rumanian Commission set before the Anglican Delegation statement of Orthodox doctrine concerning the Mystery of Holy Orders.

In view of the fact that the Anglican delegates accepted without reservation the doctrine of the Orthodox Church in regard to the Sacrament of Holy Orders after the Rumanian Commission had expressed it in all its points of importance and in its full sacramental characters as one of the Seven Mysteries.

The Sacred Synod of the Orthodox Church of Rumania resolved the adoption of the recommendations of its Commission, viz:

"Having considered the conclusions of the papers on the Apostolic Succession, Holy Orders, Holy Eucharist, Holy Mysteries in general, and Tradition and Justification,

"And having considered the declarations of the Anglican Delegation on these questions, which declarations are in accordance with the Doctrine of the Orthodox Church,

"The Rumanian Orthodox Commission unanimously recommends the Holy Synod (of the Rumanian Orthodox Church) to recognize the validity of the Anglican orders."

It is to be understood that the above resolution will become definitive as soon as the final authority of the Anglican Church ratifies all the statements of its delegation concerning the Mystery of Holy Orders in regard to the points of importance comprised in the doctrine of the Orthodox Church

1. This decision is to be communicated to His All Holiness the Oecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Primate of the Anglican Church;
2. At the same time the Sacred Synod of the Orthodox Rumanian Church expresses its great joy inasmuch as Divine Providence prepared the way that the representatives of the Anglican Church might be able to show us what effective and definitive steps have been taken towards establishing clearly their teaching to be in harmony with that of the Orthodox Eastern Church which is the faithful depository of the Christian Faith in all its Apostolic purity.

May this approach be of great use in the path shown by Our Common Saviour Jesus Christ in His words "That they all may be one."

3. In conclusion the Rumanian Church prays from its soul that such exploratory meetings may be continued in the future until the Holy Spirit pour out His Grace

to make clear the doctrines of the Anglican Church to be in complete agreement with the doctrines of the Orthodox Œcumenical Church.

In confirmation the Seal of the Sacred Synod of the
Orthodox Church of Rumania.

hieromonk Callist Radulescu

This translation was made by John A. Douglas and certified by Andrei Mager, London, July 7th, 1936. Published in *The Christian East*, vol. XVI, 1936, pp. 16-19

*The English Convocations provided the requested ratification as follows:
The Convocation of York resolved nem. con. on the report of the
delegation to Rumania, May 28, 1936*

That this Synod thankfully accepts and
approves the report, and trusts that it may
lead to yet closer relations with the
Rumanian Church and other branches of the
Orthodox Communion. (*York Journal of
Convocation*, May, 1936, p. 6)

*The two Houses of the Convocation of Canterbury resolved on January
22, 1937 (nem. con. in the Upper House and 104-6 in the Lower*

*That inasmuch as the Report of the Conference at Bucarest between the
Rumanian Commission on Relations with the Anglican Communion and
the Church of England Delegation appointed by the Archbishop of
Canterbury is consonant with Anglican formularies and a legitimate
interpretation of the faith of the Church as held by the Anglican
Communion, this House accepts and approves of the Report. (Chronicle of
Convocation of Canterbury, May, 1937, p. 71)*