

The Dialogue Between the Holy Synods of the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece and the Orthodox Ecclesiastical Community in Resistance

Twelfth Joint Communiqué

On Tuesday, January 22/February 5, 2014, the twelfth Joint Deliberation of the Committees for Dialogue Between the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece and the Orthodox Ecclesiastical Community in Resistance took place in Daphne, Athens, in the parish hall of the Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.

All of the appointed members of both committees were present.

During this six-hour deliberation, those present discussed the draft of a joint document dealing with historical and ecclesiological matters, entitled “The True Orthodox Church in Opposition to the Heresy of Ecumenism: Dogmatic and Canonical Issues,” and specifically the proposals of each side for putting this document in final shape. After an extended discussion, and after the necessary expansions and reformulations had been made, the members of the two committees agreed upon the draft of the document, which will be submitted to the Hierarchs of both sides for their evaluation and final approval.

It is clear from the official dialogue, which has hitherto proceeded in a positive manner—and especially during this twelfth Joint Deliberation—that the awaited union is closer to realization, especially after the joint endorsement of and agreement on (October 18/31, 2013) the “Schedule of Steps in the Union Process” (§§1-9). The first of these *steps* laid the basis for the completion of this endeavor, inasmuch as the Orthodox Ecclesiastical Community in Resistance has agreed no longer to insist on the ecclesiological expression by which the ecumenists are characterized as “ailing members of the Church,” nor will it insist on attributing to that expression a dogmatic quality (§1).

Steps 2 through 9 envisage the following:

- That there be a discussion of ecclesiological issues, and in particular the ecclesiological positions of the Synod in Resistance (§2).

- That we produce a precise formulation of our common Orthodox Faith, with special reference to the calendar innovation and the heresy of ecumenism (§3).

- That the dialogue between the two sides be brought to a conclusion on the basis of the appointed agenda (§3). The two committees are already approaching this point.

- That our joint agreement be worked out in cooperation with the True Orthodox Churches of Romania and Bulgaria and with the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, with whom we are called, by the Grace of the Lord, to coexist in Mysteriological communion (§4).

- In connection with this last point, the committee of the Orthodox Ecclesiastical Community in Resistance has undertaken to translate the agreed-upon draft of the aforementioned joint document (“The True Orthodox Church in Opposition to the Heresy of Ecumenism: Dogmatic and Canonical Issues”) into English, Russian, Romanian, and Italian, with a view to preparing more effectively for a multilateral meeting and deliberation, for the purpose of achieving a broader convergence on the ecclesiological basis of the sacred struggle of True Orthodoxy against the heresy of ecumenism.

- After agreement is reached on the issue of ecclesiology, we will deal with practical issues of a canonical nature, for the sake of completely removing any impediments to union (§§5-7).

- Thereafter, we will jointly pursue the ongoing effort to convene a General Synod of the local anti-innovationist Orthodox Churches, to the end that such a Synod might with expanded authority, decisively treat with the issues of the calendar innovation and the heresy of ecumenism (§§8-9).

The next Joint Deliberation will be held on Thursday, February 7/20, 2014 at the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, near Phyle, Athens.

*From the Joint Secretariat of the Committees for Dialogue
Daphne, Athens and Phyle
January 28/February 10, 2014*