



Union of Utrecht NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

A distinguished Guest for the Old Catholic Church of Switzerland



26/10/2018 This weekend sees His Holiness Aram I in Bern. He is paying a friendship visit to the smallest state-recognised church in Switzerland.

His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Armenian Apostolic Church, is paying a visit to the Old Catholic Church of Switzerland. As the Old Catholic Church reports, this visit is at the invitation of Bishop Harald Rein.

According to the communiqué, Aram I is regarded as "one of the outstanding

contemporary church leaders." He is an advocate for peace in the Middle East and is committed to the Christians who are based there. The visit of this church leader is particularly remarkable, in that the pope (so to speak) of a church other than the Roman Catholic Church will be seen in the middle of the reformed city of Bern.

For the whole article see:

http://www.utrechter-union.org/seite/580/a_distinguished_guest_for_the_ol or in German: http://www.utrechter-union.org/seite/577/hoher_besuch_bei_der_christkatho

Old Catholic ,Summer School' in Utrecht

In 2019 a summer school in Old Catholic theology in its Ecumenical Context will be offered again, from 7-12 July. The course offers a concise introduction to the theology, history, and spirituality of the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht. Taught in the beautiful medieval city of Utrecht, students will study with the faculty of the Old Catholic Seminary based there. The course includes excursions to an Old Catholic parish, to the Catharijneconvent, the main Dutch museum of religious art, and through the city of Utrecht itself. For more information, see <https://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl/courses/culture/old-catholic-theology-in-its-ecumenical-context>, or contact the course director, prof. dr. Peter-Ben Smit (p.b.a.smit@uu.nl). University and permanent education credits can be earned through this course.

Communiqué of the meeting of the International Anglican/Old Catholic Co-ordinating Council 2019



The Anglican–Old Catholic International Coordinating Council (AOCICC) met in the central European capital city of Prague, Czech Republic, from 16 to 19 January 2019. The meeting was hosted by the Union of Utrecht. This was the seventh and final meeting of the Council under its current mandate (2013–2019). The work of this meeting centred on:

- finalising the *Report of the Anglican–Old Catholic International Coordinating Council 2013–2019* to the Anglican Consultative Council and the International Bishops' Conference;
- the importance of and progress made in Safeguarding in both Communion;
- formulating recommendations for the next mandate of the AOCICC.

For the whole communiqué see :

http://www.utrechter-union.org/seite/584/communiqu%C3%83%C2%A9_of_the_meeting_of_th
http://www.utrechter-union.org/seite/583/communiqu%C3%83%C2%A9_der_sitzung_des_inte

She shall be a bishop. Firsthand experience of Communion with the Church of Sweden

On Sunday, 3rd March 2019, Karin Johannesson was consecrated bishop of the Diocese of Uppsala in the Cathedral of Uppsala. Church Communion between the Utrecht Union and the Church of Sweden was agreed two years ago. In view of this, I was invited to participate at the event in my capacity as secretary of the International Old Catholic Bishops' Conference; an excellent opportunity to experience and strengthen the Communion.

For the whole article see:

http://www.utrechter-union.org/page/588/she_shall_be_a_bishop._firsthand
http://www.utrechter-union.org/seite/586/bischoefin_soll_sie_sein._gelebt

On-going Lifelong Dialogue

The Permanent Orthodox – Old Catholic International Working Group (OAAG) met in Bern on 5th and 6th March 2019 for its annual meeting. Since 2017, the composition of the group has remained: Bishop Kyrillos Katerelos, Bishop H. Rein, Prof. K. Delikostantis, Prof. G. Larentzakis, Lecturer M. Ploeger and Revd O. Kaiser. The response to various questions has shown that this working group should continue as a "lifelong dialogue" and so cannot be compared with other temporary bilateral dialogues at world level.

With our eucharistic local church ecclesiology and successful dialogue, our churches are very close ecumenically. At present, the only obstacle to the completion of Church Communion is the question of the ordination of women. In future it is possible that further questions may arise in dealing with same-sex issues in the church.

For the whole article, see:

http://www.utrechter-union.org/page/590/on-going_lifelong_dialogue
http://www.utrechter-union.org/seite/589/den_dialog_des_lebens_fortsetzen