

*An Official Statement from the Union of Scranton*



## **A Call to Missional and Ecumenical Fellowship**

**-March 8, 2018-**

### *The Great Commission*

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”– ( Matt. 28:18-20)

Leaders from the Polish National Catholic Church and the Nordic Catholic Church under the Union of Scranton invited Anglican Leaders representing various Churches and Provinces along with The Mission Province of Sweden, gathering in Dublin, Ireland March 6-8 for a Convocation for the Restoration and Renewal of the Undivided Church through a renewed Catholicity.

During this Convocation those attending heard presentations on Moving Forward in the Spirit Towards a Renewed Catholicity - based on Pauline Ecclesiology; The Polish National Catholic Church and the Declaration and Union of Scranton; Old Catholicism, the Nature and Promise of the Union of Scranton and Ecclesiology at the Crossings. (For more information go to: [TheUnionofScranton.org](http://TheUnionofScranton.org))

Through the history and formation of the Polish National Catholic Church and the Nordic Catholic Church, attendees were introduced to the Union of Scranton which binds these two Churches, and any other jurisdictions that may join the Union in the future, in full Communion. A presentation was also made reflecting the current state of relationships between Anglican Churches in the world today. The Church leaders present affirmed their mutual reception of the Old and New Testaments as the revealed Word of God; the Ecumenical Creeds; the Historic Episcopate; and the historic liturgies of the Western Church.

Moreover these leaders whose heritage rests with the historic catholic faith of the undivided church have recognized and affirmed in Dublin the essentials of common doctrine, discipline, and worship as represented in Statements of our traditions such as the Lambeth Quadrilateral 1888, the Declaration of Utrecht 1889, the Bonn Agreement 1931, Road to Unity 1987, the Porvoo Statement, 1992 ,(sections 32 a-l) and the Declaration of Scranton 2008.

Therefore as a result of our call to seek a renewed catholicity based on the undivided Church, the fellowship in Christ we share and the Standards of Faith that we each cherish and safeguard among us, we pledge....

- 1) To enter into a process whereby a delegation of observers from each ecclesial body may be sent to participate in each other's Convocations, Conferences and/or Synods.
- 2) To mutual dialogue, study and implementation of common missional objectives in our countries to the non-Christian and post-Christians found in the post-modern western world.
- 3) To each explore practical and pastoral missional objectives that each of these ecclesial entities could explore for a mission partnership that would advance the cause of the Gospel in their settings, through discipleship, stewardship, and ministry training.
- 4) To work together in the same great purpose of the Great Commission of Christ, and on the same basis, pledging to each other our mutual cooperation and support by agreeing to foster growing fellowship and commitment to find a path for a renewed ecclesial community based in principles of ecumenical catholicity among our ecclesiastical leaders through joint prayer, study, conferences, mission and ecumenical initiatives and worship services, along with other godly activities.

We look forward to a second gathering next spring hosted by the Polish National Catholic Church in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In the meantime, we will engage each other to continue our conversation as per point two above.