

T.F. Torrance Theological Fellowship
President's Letter: October, 2017

Dear Members,

Accompanied by my wife I visited his All-Holiness Dimitrios at Fener, Istanbul, during the second week of March, 1977, when we were cordially and royally received by the Patriarch himself, and also by his Bishops...

So T. F. Torrance begins his account of his visit to Ecumenical Patriarch forty years ago at the beginning of the theological dialogue between the Orthodox and Reformed Churches. Consultations continued in Istanbul in 1979, in Geneva in 1981 and 1983, in Leuenberg in 1988, in Minsk in 1990 and finally in Kappel in 1992. The papers were published in two volumes which T.F.T. edited, *Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox and Reformed Churches*, published in Edinburgh by the Scottish Academic Press in 1985 and 1993.

This year at our meeting during the AAR conference in Boston, Dr Jason Radcliff will speak on 'The Patristic Foundations of the Reformed-Orthodox Ecumenical Dialogue.' He will build on his doctoral research at New College, Edinburgh, which resulted in his book, *Thomas F. Torrance and the Church Fathers: A Reformed, Evangelical, and Ecumenical Reconstruction of the Patristic Tradition* (Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick, 2014). Dr Radcliff will be referring particularly to the 'Agreed Statement on the Holy Trinity' which can be found as Chapter 10 of Volume 2 of the *Theological Dialogue*. There will be copies of the Agreed Statement at the meeting, and those who do not have the book but wish to read it in advance will find it by using this link: <http://www.ecupatria.org/documents/agreed-statement-on-the-holy-trinity-1992/>

You will find this link to the Agreed Statement and an abstract of the lecture on the TFFTTF web-site. I will be particularly interested in what we are going to learn about some of the unpublished and behind-the-scenes conversations on the Athanasian Doctrine of the Trinity, Barthian Christocentrism, and John Zizioulas. The lecture will give us a foretaste of Dr Radcliff's forthcoming book, *T.F. Torrance and the Reformed-Orthodox Dialogue*.

Members' Meeting

Please remember that before the lecture at 1.40 pm, there will be a members' meeting at 1.00 pm in the same room (Hynes Convention Centre-109 which is at the Plaza Level). We will hear reports from the executive committee, the editor of *Participatio* and there will be elections as necessary.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Noble
President
Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship