Council of Nicaea

325

First Ecumenical Council

- Convoked and underwritten by Constantine to settle Arian controversy
- From 250 to 318 bishops present, mostly Eastern
- Adopted a baptismal creed, probably from Jerusalem (by tradition, attributed to Eusebius)
- Affirmed Son is of the same substance (homoousios) as Father (5, then 2 dissenting)
- Creed included anathemas against Arian beliefs
- 20 canons formed basis for later church law
- Determined unified date for Easter
- Meletian schismatics’ ordinations were to be re-ordained, though Meletius was suspended
- Identified patriarchal sees Rome, Antioch, and Alexandria; Jerusalem accorded special honor
- Permitted reconciliation of Novatianists (cathari), required [re]baptism of Paulianists
- Ended neither Arian conflict nor the schisms