



## Annual Report July 2014 - June 2015

### Standing Committee for Ecumenical Learning

*...nurturing and nourishing the Formation and Education for Leadership in Ecumenism in the Spirit of Christ*

The committee has met four times since the last annual report and can announce an increase in membership. These topics have been the focus of our attention during the past year.

1. A most illuminating **Introduction to Orthodox Iconography** event was held in May at St Mary & Anba Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church, SA. Thirty-eight people from various traditions participated in this significant teaching and learning “Together in Christ” community occasion.
2. Plans are afoot to invite each SACC member church in November-December to launch an **Ecumenical Lenten e-Resource for 2016**, using their own networks. This resource is not a study, nor is it in a study booklet format.

Rather, the resource will focus on the Gospels during Lent with a theological reflection from the vantage point of the Orthodox, Protestant and Catholic perspectives; including the use of Icons. The process will encourage maximum flexibility in the use of the themes, the Gospels and the reflections, with the invitation for users to reflect on/share their own experience of the Gospels.

3. We have used and discussed A Parish Workbook on Receptive Ecumenism (RE) called **The Gift of Each other: Learning From Other Christians**, published by the New South Wales Ecumenical Council, 2013. Geraldine was consultant to the editorial committees for this publication. Cost \$5 available at the SACC Office. Recommended as a follow-up resource after events about RE.
4. Ongoing discussions about the conducting of an **International Conference on Receptive Ecumenism (RE) in Australia, 2017**.
5. In 2014 the annual Ecumenical Lecture (see below) and the annual “Learning Together in Christ” events were brought together into a Lecture and Mini-Conference programme on October 17-18. No Lecture and Mini-Conference has been planned for 2015. The planning of a Lecture and a Mini-conference for 2016 will be considered at the next meeting in September.
6. The evolving role of this Committee has continued to be considered. During the past seven years the Committee’s activities have merged with the overall SACC planning. In the light of these developments, ELC now has these roles: catalyst, think tank, planning and reflection.

ELC events are self-funding. The Ecumenical Learning Committee brief derives from the SACC core purpose statement priority one which is about formation and education for leadership in ecumenism in the Spirit of Christ. We thank all those who have led, participated in and enabled these activities.

## Historical Notes

The SACC Annual Lectures on ecumenical themes have proven to be very worthwhile occasions and have stimulated ongoing discussion.

- 2009: “Receptive Ecumenism” by Rev’d Dr. Denis Edwards;
- 2010: on Ecumenism Today, delivered by The Most Rev’d Dr. Jeffrey Driver and entitled “The Emmaus Journey of Ecumenism”;
- 2011: The Rev’d Dr. Andrew Dutney on “Christian unity today: post-denominational, post-colonial, and missional”;
- 2012: Professor Paul Murray from Durham, UK, entitled “Healing Gifts for Wounded Hands: The Promise and Potential of Receptive Ecumenism”;
- 2013: Geraldine Hawkes on “Receptive Ecumenism: Encounter with Beauty, Truth and Love”;
- 2014: Professor Catherine Clifford of St Paul University, Ottawa, Canada, entitled “Ecumenism in the Twenty-first Century: Deepening recognition and receptive learning”.

There has been a wide denominational representation amongst the fifty to sixty people who have attended each lecture. Copies of the lectures are available on the SACC website [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au) .

The participatory format on the occasion of a lecture should be noted: lecture (20-30 minutes), two respondents, small group discussion, and questions. The whole event was conducted during one and a half hours.

### *Standing Committee for Ecumenical Learning:*

John Littleton [Anglican Diocese of Adelaide]

Heshmat Keroloss [Coptic Orthodox-Diocese of Melbourne and Affiliated Regions]

Stephen Ghabriel (Correspondent) [Coptic Orthodox-Diocese of Melbourne & Affiliated Regions]

Ted Wright [Salvation Army SA Division]

Marie Loller [RC Archdiocese of Adelaide]

Mary Camilleri [RC Archdiocese of Adelaide]

Anne Hewitt [Uniting Church in SA]

# South Australian Council of Churches Inc



## Annual Report July 2014 - June 2015

### Standing Committee for Local Ecumenism

*...nurturing and nourishing visible expressions of Christian unity at the local level*

Each member of the Committee is involved in some way in ecumenism at the local level and below are some of their stories. It is hoped that these will resonate with your own and inspire you as we continue to journey together.

#### **Ecumenical Relationships in a Rural Setting**

With the belief that God is pleased when the Church expresses its unity, before accepting the call to the Karlsruhe Saddleworth Lutheran Parish, a rural parish in the Gilbert Valley, earlier this year I posed the question of whether they were serious about working ecumenically, to which they answered in the affirmative. Subsequently, a major part of ministry is to make myself known to the community, for many people see me as the “community pastor” - the only ordained person in the Valley.

I have visited the leaders of the Anglican and Roman Catholic communities, with no agenda item other than to learn who these communities are. I have (re-)started the local minister fraternal (which meets for lunch once a month) with ministers of Uniting, Anglican, Baptist and Catholic communities. Of course, I attend the Valley’s Inter Church Council (to try) to just listen and learn, and support our local Pastoral Care Worker.

I am intending to worship with the other denominations (in particular the Anglicans) when they have worship outside our worship times (ie. non-Sunday morning.) I often seed the idea within the parish, about worshipping together to get a good mass of people congregated. (We already worship with the Uniting Church on the fifth Sunday of the month in Riverton but I have suggested this could be more often, with others denominations and in other vicinities.)

We are hoping people of other denominations will attend our new “Café Church”. Recently I have started putting the service times of the other denominations in our weekly bulletin (as a “FYI”). And now that I am starting my second 3 months here, I am open to what else God has in mind.

*Pastor Leon Rosenberg, appointed by the Lutheran Church of Australia SA/NT District*

#### **Ecumenical Relationships through an Inter-Church Council**

The Mitcham Hills Inter-Church Council [MHICC] has been active in the Hills for a number of years. It has nine member churches that work together to support each other and interact with the local community.

Until Schools Ministry Group took over the running of the schools chaplaincy program the meetings were very much business meetings. Six years ago as a result of a perceived need in local schools MHICC decide to set up **Beacon Emergency Relief Service**. With volunteers and donated food and fundraisers from the different churches, food and food vouchers together with budget planning and other support is provided to local people in need. Local businesses and individuals are also supportive.

Traditionally the **bi-monthly meetings** start with a prayer. The minister or a representative of the host church is invited to report on any current news or events in their church. Then it’s over to business.

About a year ago we trialled having a **set topic to be discussed generally** in order to open up the meeting and allow more participation of members. This was a great success and has been

continued. The topics vary and are set by the Executive. As an example the topic for July meeting is - Special Projects of your Church.

Also last year we had a **special visiting Sunday** during June. MHICC members volunteered to visit or host a visitor from a church (not their own). Each visitor presented a greeting and a prayer from the council and stayed to chat over morning tea. It turned out very well and was repeated this year.

*Ms Bridgid Medder, appointed by the RC Archdiocese of Adelaide*

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2015**

This year the Anglican parish of Prospect initiated an event for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. A prayerful and vibrant worship service was held at the Rosary Roman Catholic Church in Prospect. A group of musicians played a mixture of traditional and modern hymns for those present. Dominican, Father Vickers OP, led the service while Anglican Archdeacon Paul Mitchell preached. Churches of Christ and Uniting Church ministers also took part and people from all four congregations attended. The service was wonderful and there were a large number of young people present. Many of these young people were from India and participated in our singing as we sang heartily to the music of the lively band. We had participants from all three churches and the ladies from the Rosary Church prepared a scrumptious supper. All told, it was a wonderful evening of ecumenical sharing.

*The Rev'd Dr Jane Lee-Barker, appointed by the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide*

### **Ecumenism at Parish level**

In addition to the Anglican Ecumenical Forum, my main involvements in local ecumenism include:

- Cross Road Forum – organised by a group of parishioners from the Catholic Parish of the Monastery/St Raphael's and the Anglican Parish of St Oswald's, Parkside.
- Lenten Study – a group from the two parishes above gather each year
- St Oswald's, as a member of the Unley Ministers Fellowship, contributes to an annual lunch for staff at Unley High School.

*Ms Kay Thorp, local ecumenist*

### **And more...**

Three other aspects in relation to ecumenism at the local level are worth noting:

- All **General Meetings** of SA Council of Churches are held in local church communities. In recent times, we have gathered at St Mary and St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church, Cowandilla, The Otherway Centre, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Stepney and Cathedral Church of Sts Peter & Paul, Port Pirie in the Anglican Diocese of Willochra. These occasions offer the opportunity for Council members to pray with that community and to listen to and learn from their story. Contact Geraldine [sacc1@picknowl.com.au](mailto:sacc1@picknowl.com.au)
- In consultation and collaboration with the Committee, SACC has continued to gather and promote **stories** as possible from people at the local level about ecumenism. One example is from Balaklava. See [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au)
- *Ecumenism: Reflection & News* – SACC weekly e-news carries items of interest from local, national and international perspectives. Your stories and events are invited. Contact [sacc@picknowl.com.au](mailto:sacc@picknowl.com.au)

### **Standing Committee for Local Ecumenism:**

The Rev'd Dr Jane Lee-Barker [Anglican Diocese of Adelaide]  
Mr Pierre Magar [Coptic Orthodox Church-Diocese of Melbourne and Affiliated Regions]  
Pastor Leon Rosenberg [Lutheran Church of Australia - SA/NT District]  
Ms Bridgid Medder [RC Archdiocese of Adelaide]  
Ms Kay Thorp [Local Ecumenist]

# South Australian Council of Churches Inc



## Annual Report July 2014 - June 2015

### Standing Committee for Christian World Service [CWS]

CWS Committee Priority - *SACC will encourage, facilitate and nurture a range of ecumenical partnerships in the mission of Christ to enable people in churches, individually and institutionally, to act as Christians together on education, advocacy and fundraising to help alleviate poverty, oppression and injustice in Australia and overseas.*

In 2014 the CWS and Local Ecumenism Committees met as one but decided to meet separately again in 2015. Our discussions and actions have been in the following areas.

#### **Peace Lamps: an International Appeal to Pray for Peace in the Holy Land**

We have continued to be part of this Appeal, including the promotion of Peace Lamps, which are made by young people in Palestine. Their hope is to place a Peace Lamp in every church in the world and to unite as many Christians and people of faith as possible in a common prayer for peace in the Holy Land.

The number of lamps purchased by SACC to date is over 600 and most of these have been sold on to people in SA and beyond. The sale of each lamp generates a small surplus and so at Easter we were able to send a donation of \$1,000 to Taybeh, to support a Centre for Elderly People. [Last year we sent \$1,600.] Thank you all who have bought or promoted Lamps.

A friendly working bee is held when new stock arrives and we are indebted to Dawn and John Sullivan who have handled almost all the mailing, some of which has been to interstate addresses. We are grateful for the leadership of Geraldine Hawkes and for the organizational skill that Melanie has put to stock control.

Information, stories and order forms are available on the SACC website. [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au)

#### **Refugee Support**

As a Committee we are very concerned about the Refugee situation internationally and within Australia: on the local front a few of our members attended a meeting of people from agencies and organisations and, with various individuals, discussed the sharing of resources to assist people who wish to extend hospitality to people who have newly arrived as refugees.

We are delighted to have contributed in a small way to the current edition of *Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers*. Downloadable from Effective Living Centre [www.effectiveliving.org/social-issues/](http://www.effectiveliving.org/social-issues/)

#### **Pastoral Care Workers (PCWs) in Schools**

PCWs play a significant role in the lives of many children who face relationship problems, either at school or within their family. We acknowledge the valuable contribution made by ecumenically based Inter-church Councils in providing support and pastoral care to these committed carers. This is an important aspect of churches working together at the local level and requires continued support from member churches.

#### **Recognition, Reconciliation and Relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the churches in South Australia.**

Relationships with Indigenous people is an on-going justice issue on the Committee's agenda. The meeting of General Council in May heard the encouraging story of renewed relationship building with the community of Point Pearce, Yorke Peninsula. We have continued to share such stories with the wider church, mainly through the weekly E-Newsletter. We remain alert to ideas about encouraging the fostering of right relationships between the Churches and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, especially as the referendum on Indigenous recognition in the Constitution approaches.

#### Standing Committee for Christian World Service

Mrs Andrea Gordon  
[Anglican Diocese of Adelaide]  
Mrs Julie Staszyc  
[RC Archdiocese of Adelaide]

Ms Jakleen Shonoodh &  
Ms Miriam Tanios  
[Coptic Orthodox Church-Diocese  
of Melbourne/ Affiliated Regions]

Dr Colin Cargill  
[Uniting Church in SA]  
Ms Pamela Jones & Ms Ngaire  
Llewellyn [Justice & Peace Issues]