

South Australian Council of Churches Inc

Affiliated with the National Council of Churches in Australia



70th Birthday Celebrations Saturday 29 April 2017, 10am-3.30pm

Theme: *An Exchange of Gifts on the Journey towards Unity: a pilgrimage*

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Reflections

Four Adelaide churches - Pilgrim Church [Uniting], St Francis Xavier Cathedral [Catholic], St Mary Magdalene's Church [Anglican] and St Stephen's Church [Lutheran] – welcomed more than 100 people from nine different denominations, leading prayer and offering hospitality, as SA Council of Churches celebrated 70 years as an ecumenical council on Saturday 29 April 2017.

The gathering also included story telling, through word, image and song, while at table, or walking together in twos from church to church.

As we departed and as we arrived at each church, some led us in Taizé chants, others carried the bible and candles. Member Church leaders or their representatives brought greetings from their church to the other member churches, and Sr Elizabeth Delaney, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia, came from Sydney and brought a greeting from NCCA. Truly an exchange of gifts on the journey towards unity.

All are invited to send through their personal reflections to add to these brief reflections. Meantime, we give thanks to all who contributed and all who participated. In thanksgiving we sing: *Bless the Lord my soul and Bless God's Holy Name. Bless the Lord my soul, who leads us into life.*

Geraldine Hawkes, Ecumenical Facilitator

Then and now

SA Council of Churches [SACC] was formed as an ecumenical council in June 1947 "to represent South Australia in the World Council of Churches and to function as an integral part of the Ecumenical Movement". Seventy years later, SACC continues to exist through the membership and active participation of eleven denominations across SA in their desire for and commitment to greater manifestation of their unity in Christ. The primary focus for their ecumenical council is as a place of gathering where the Churches together nurture and nourish their understanding, spiritual growth, disposition and practice of ecumenism, so that all may be drawn into deeper expressions of love and more visible expressions of Christian unity, from within as well as across. *For History details* www.sacc.asn.au/en/index.php?rubric=en_who_history

Local Events

If you wish to send through your plans, or discuss ideas for local events similar to the SACC day of pilgrimage, contact Community for Local Ecumenism, through Geraldine Hawkes, Ecumenical Facilitator, SA Council of Churches E: sacc1@picknowl.com.au

South Australian Council of Churches: *nurturing and nourishing the understanding, spiritual growth and practice of ecumenism across the Churches of SA*