

SA Council of Churches

Nurturing and nourishing the understanding, spiritual growth and practice of ecumenism across the Churches in South Australia



Walking Together: *Conversations of the Heart*

SA Council of Churches AGM - Saturday 21 October 2017, 8.45am registration, for 9am start, concluding by 1pm, at Happy Valley Church of Christ, 179 Hub Drive, Aberfoyle Park

Ecumenical Partnership in the Mission of Christ: Preparations

Background

General Council has oversight for the vision, direction and overall stewardship of SA Council of Churches. During 2015, General Council re-articulated certain priorities as being important for the journey together, and these are described in *2015 Onwards: nurturing and nourishing the understanding, spiritual growth and practice of ecumenism across the Churches* (see http://www.sacc.asn.au/data/2015_onwards.pdf)

General Council has already considered in depth Priority 1, *Formation and Education for Leadership in Ecumenism in the Spirit of Christ*, in which some of you were involved. The result was that SACC wrote to the Member Churches in April 2016 with some recommendations. See http://www.sacc.asn.au/data/Formation_and_Education_Letter_April_2016.pdf

The purpose of the request below is to continue to assist General Council in considering how each church is responding in the certain areas, and what further possibilities may exist across our churches, so that our unity in Christ might be more manifest.

Request

The focus at this year's AGM on 21 October is on Priority 5, *Ecumenical Partnership in the Mission of Christ*.

We invite you, as a denominational grouping, to prepare a short written response to questions 1 - 4 overleaf, and email to Geraldine Hawkes sacc1@picknowl.com.au **by Friday 22 September 2017**.

Feel free to consult widely across your church. There may be a range of expressions, whether local or state-wide.

All responses will be collated and distributed to meeting participants before the AGM. At the meeting there will be time for presenting as needed, for conversation, and for discernment, leading to comments and any recommendations to Member Churches.

We suggest also that that one of you be open to offering a few words at General Council, if and as needed. Thank you!

26 July 2017

Action

SACC Priority 5: Ecumenical Partnership in the Mission of Christ

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.** *(SA Council of Churches – 2015 Onwards: nurturing and nourishing the understanding, spiritual growth and practice of ecumenism across the Churches)*

Q 1: In what ways does your church **act with other Christians on education, advocacy and fundraising to help alleviate poverty, oppression and injustice in Australia and overseas?** Can you give 3 - 5 examples?

Q 2: What more do you hope for in this regard in your church?

Q 3: What steps might be possible?

Q 4: With whom might these steps be taken?

Complete and return to Geraldine by 22 September 2017.

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