



## God is Love: Ecumenism of the Heart

**Invitation** to congregations, parishes, church councils/committees, agencies, state/diocesan leadership, schools and ecumenical organisations, home groups – and individuals

**General Council and Committees** of SA Council of Churches have been reading, reflecting and sharing insights over recent months on **God is Love: Ecumenism of the Heart**, a paper by Dr Antonia Pizzey.

**God is Love** describes ‘the spirituality behind the ecumenical endeavour’, and ecumenism as an exchange of gifts. It has generated further hope and possibility on our journey together in Christ.

SACC invites you and your companions, during any of your scheduled gatherings, to join in an exploration of this paper and to share insights with one another, as we take further steps towards **living more fully our unity in Christ**.

### **Background**

**God is Love: Ecumenism of the Heart**, a paper by a young Australian woman, Antonia Pizzey, is included in ‘Prospects and Challenges for the Ecumenical Movement in the 21st Century *Insights from the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI)*’.

Antonia’s recently awarded doctoral dissertation at the Australian Catholic University focused on the potential of receptive ecumenism as a form of spiritual ecumenism. She is interested in exploring the affective and spiritual dimensions of ecumenical engagement, and believes that re-emphasising spiritual ecumenism is important for the renewal of the ecumenical movement.

She is a tutor at Australian Catholic University, teaching both theology units and the core curriculum.

### **Resource**

**God is Love** is at page 233 of ‘Prospects and Challenges for the Ecumenical Movement in the 21st Century’

Download it from:

SACC website [http://www.sacc.asn.au/en/index.php?rubric=en\\_receptive+ecumenism](http://www.sacc.asn.au/en/index.php?rubric=en_receptive+ecumenism)

or [http://www.globethics.net/documents/4289936/13403236/GE\\_Global\\_12\\_web.pdf/351b2e1c-8926-4710-ae1a-c159b9a88cf7](http://www.globethics.net/documents/4289936/13403236/GE_Global_12_web.pdf/351b2e1c-8926-4710-ae1a-c159b9a88cf7)

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## Process

The following suggested process may take place at any gathering of parish, study group, ministers circle, inter-church council, committee, home group, family...or, in part, by an individual.

There are five sections in the paper - ***Introduction, Spiritual Ecumenism, Ecumenism as an Exchange of Gifts, Receptive Ecumenism, Conclusion.***

The entire paper may be considered at one gathering, or over several. Or, one person may share at one gathering, and another at the next, and so on.

**a. Preparation [suggested]**

- *Before the gathering*, quietly and prayerfully read through **God is Love: Ecumenism of the Heart**
- Be aware of any word or phrase that touches your heart, your spirit.
- No need to analyse, just let it rest with you, and note the word/phrase on the document or on a notepad.

**b. Sharing Locally with Others**

- At your gathering, include time within the gathering, either to read over quietly or invite someone to read aloud.
- Ensure space for each person, as they wish, to speak aloud any word[s] or phrase[s] that has/have touched them.
- Receive all words/phrases that are offered, without comment or judgement.
- When all have had the opportunity to speak, spend quiet time in reflection and prayer, asking for a spirit of openness and wisdom.
- From there, share insights in conversation with one another about what these words and phrases might mean for our journey together in Christ.
- You may wish to describe any next steps, before concluding with closing prayer.

**c. Sharing Widely with Others**

SA Council of Churches invites you to gather up any words, phrases and insights, together with any other comments as you wish, and send them to [sacc1@picknowl.com.au](mailto:sacc1@picknowl.com.au) or post them as below.

Peace,

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Ecumenical Facilitator  
SA Council of Churches

September 2016

*GH/CLE/God is Love: Ecumenism of the Heart Process2*

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