

# SA Council of Churches

## Ecumenical Partners for Justice and Peace

*A Standing Committee of SACC [formerly known as Committee for Christian World Service]*

### Focus for 2016-2018

#### **Background**

Since being re-formed in 2008 as the Standing Committee for Christian World Service, a range of activities has occurred and we thank all who have led, participated in and enabled a variety of areas to be promoted in the area of justice and peace.

The role has continued to evolve and the formation of collegial relationships with a wide range of people across the churches and in the justice sector has led to a new articulation of the main focus for the next few years, and to the Committee, from May 2016, being re-named as **Ecumenical Partners for Justice and Peace** to reflect better its relationship with and for the churches.

#### **Role**

**Ecumenical Partners for Justice and Peace [EPJP]**, in collaboration and consultation with others, assists in promoting, encouraging and celebrating ecumenical partnerships on matters of justice and peace across the churches with a view to helping alleviate poverty, oppression and injustice in Australia and overseas. [SACC Core Purpose, Priority 5]

#### **Focus for 2016 - 2018**

1. Regular **prayer for justice and peace**.
2. **Promoting justice and peace**, especially through the **Peace Lamps Project** [Middle East] [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au) and the **Journey to Recognition** [www.recognise.org.au](http://www.recognise.org.au) .
3. **Promoting and reviewing stories, events and resources** related to justice and peace, especially through:
  - Existing & new relationships and networks;
  - Church newsletters, with reference to SACC weekly E-news and website as both a source and resource;
  - Arranging gatherings as appropriate.
4. **Remaining aware of and connected with** justice and peace developments and trends in one's own church as well as in the work of others.

Collaboration across SACC, the Member Churches and other bodies is encouraged, and at the same time EPJP affirms individual promotion/action within their church and other spheres of influence.

#### **Appointments**

- Each Member Church is encouraged to appoint at least two people who are involved in or are passionate about justice and peace.
- Appointments will generally be for a two year term which is renewable on a two yearly basis.
- The Committee may include other people from across the Member Churches.

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#### **Accountability Relationship**

Members are accountable to one another, to SACC General Council and to their Member Church.

Those appointed directly by their church should ensure there are opportunities to share insights at least once a year with their church through some formal arrangement.

#### **Meetings Leadership & Frequency**

Members are responsible to one another for the dates and the content of the meetings.

They will generally meet three times a year, following consultation with one another about date, time and venue. At least two of these meetings will be face-to-face.

Members will choose a Convenor, Facilitator and Note-taker as needed.

#### **Relationship to SACC Ecumenical Facilitator and SACC Office**

The role of SACC Ecumenical Facilitator is to journey alongside EPJP as it discerns and explores significant aspects for future action /reflection. The EF also assists EPJP as needed in relation to resources, processes and opportunities for ecumenical partnership on justice and peace, and possible linkages across the churches & wider community, in order to deepen and enhance the energy and focus.

The role of SACC Office is to assist as a channel for communication about the work and focus of EPJP and the work and focus of other parts of SACC, the Member Churches and ecumenism in general.

#### **Relationship to SACC General Council**

All members of EPJP are encouraged to attend the two meetings a year of General Council [usually May and November].

EPJP will choose two people to represent it at meetings of the General Council. These two people will be entitled to vote.

Once a year EPJP will prepare a Report for General Council.

9 May 2016

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*Focus for 2016-2018* is drawn from the Conversations with individual Committee members and SACC Ecumenical Facilitator during early 2016, and with reference to the Terms of Reference: Standing Committees and Related Bodies.