

# SA Council of Churches

## Community for Local Ecumenism

*A Standing Committee of SACC*

### Focus for 2016-2018

#### **Background**

Since being re-formed in 2008 as the Standing Committee for Local Ecumenism, ecumenism at the local level has continued to change focus, energy and vision on account of various factors, including:

- the role of ICCS overseeing CPSWs;
- the ease of individual relationships which have been established over the years through ICCS, ministers circles etc;
- the emergence of a different vision of unity than existed in the earlier days.

As a result, the need to renew the approach to nourishing and nurturing expressions of Christian unity at the local level has become clearer. This has led to a new description of the main Focus for local ecumenism for the next few years, and to the Committee, from May 2016, being re-named as **Community for Local Ecumenism [CLE]** to reflect better its relationship with and for the churches.

#### **Role**

**Community for Local Ecumenism [CLE]**, in collaboration and consultation with others, assists in promoting, encouraging and celebrating **the essential place of community at the local level in relation to visible expressions of Christian unity**. [SACC Core Purpose, Priority 2]

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

1. Regular **prayer for the greater flourishing of visible signs of unity in Christ** at the local level.
2. **Encouraging local gatherings and action** around aspects such as:
  - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
  - Hospitality and Conversation eg Emmaus Meals
  - Scriptural and Theological Reflection, Learning from one another and on social justice [for example Ecumenical Lenten Resource, Receptive Ecumenism processes, justice and peace].
  - World Day of Prayer
3. **Promoting and reviewing stories, events and resources** regarding Christian unity, especially at the local level, through:
  - Existing & new relationships and networks;
  - Church newsletters, including with reference to SACC weekly E-news and website as both a source and resource;
4. **Remaining aware of and connected with** developments and trends in ecumenism in one's own church as well as in the work of others.

Collaboration across SACC, the Member Churches and other bodies is encouraged. In addition, CLE affirms individual initiative/action within their church and other spheres of influence, drawing on their own experience of, involvement in and commitment to unity in Christ at the local level.

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#### **Appointments**

- Each Member Church is encouraged to appoint at least two people who have experience of or are passionate about Christian unity at the local level.
- Appointments will generally be for a two year term which is renewable on a two yearly basis.
- The Committee may include others from across the Member Churches.

#### **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 CLE as it discerns and explores significant and emerging significant aspects for action/reflection. The EF also assists CLE as needed in relation to resources, processes and opportunities for ecumenism 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 CLE 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 CLE are encouraged to attend the two meetings a year of General Council [usually May and November].

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

Once a year CLE 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 the Ecumenical Facilitator during early 2016, and with reference to the Terms of Reference: Standing Committees and Related Bodies.

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