

# South Australian Council of Churches



## Receptive Ecumenism: Receiving the Gift of the Other

**Receptive Ecumenism** is about...

- ❖ Celebrating all we have already done, and will continue to do together;
- ❖ Re-imagining the vision for ecumenism with a new disposition;
- ❖ Being open to learn from one another;
- ❖ Becoming more fully who we are called to be.

**Receptive ecumenical awakening** is properly a matter of the heart before it is a matter of the head; a matter of falling in love with the experienced presence of God in the people, practices, even structures of another tradition and being impelled thereby to search for ways in which all impediments to closer relationship might be overcome.

Professor Paul D Murray

### Prayer for Christian Unity 'God is love' (1 John 4:8)

- ❖ Loving and eternal God, you continually delight in all of humanity and beckon us all on to our best possibilities.
- ❖ We rejoice with you at the many manifestations of our unity in Christ and we give thanks for the openness of those around us to be companions on the journey.
- ❖ We regret the times when we have overlooked or diminished the prayer of Jesus that we may all be one "*so that the world may believe that you have sent me*".



- ❖ We ask the Holy Spirit to help us recognise any place **within our own denomination** in need of healing, especially as it pertains to our structures, practices, systems or processes.
- ❖ Help us to let our gaze rest lovingly on one another, sisters and brothers in Christ, and on all our world, in the same way as your gaze rests on each one of us.
- ❖ May we live enfolded in your goodness, so that in every encounter and in every event we may be aware of your presence and move from fractured witness to healing, wholeness and unity in Christ.

We ask this through Jesus Christ who came as brother and servant to us all. Amen.

### Receiving the Gift of the Other

This activity can be carried out by one church alone or in an interchurch gathering. See Worksheet over and arrange a copy for all present - plus one extra to record all the 'gifts'!

1. Quiet & prayerful pondering: From your own experience, what is the gift that you have received from another tradition?
2. In small groups (3-6 people)
  - Share insights – name the gift(s) you have received from another Church.
  - What appears to be one of the distinctive gifts/charisms of that Church?
3. Plenary
  - Share insights with each other on these gifts.
  - What does this have to say to **our** tradition?
  - What might **we** in our tradition do differently in the light of what **we** have heard?
  - How do **we** take that step?
  - With whom do **we** take that step?



## Receiving the Gift of the Other: Worksheet

From your own experience, what Gift(s) have you received from another tradition?

Anglican	
Baptist	
Churches of Christ	
Lutheran	
Orthodox	
Pentecostal	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	
Roman Catholic	
Salvation Army	
Uniting Church	

### Next Steps

1. Which of the gifts named above has touched you or responded to a yearning within you?
2. How could your parish/council/committee listen and learn from that church about the gift and so open your church to become more than it is already, manifesting more fully the way of Christ?
3. How might you initiate a learning conversation with members of that church/tradition?

### Resources

**Healing Gifts for Wounded Hands** - a booklet to assist us in the way of Receptive Ecumenism – [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au) or phone 825 0300.

For more information on Events, Resources and Activities, see [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au)

### Your Story

Please share your stories and insights...you can contact us as below.



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