



## General Council Meeting and AGM 2018

### *Relationships, Renewal and Reform on the Ecumenical Journey...*

#### **Report for Member Churches and Newsletters – please share widely**

On Saturday 27 October 2018, SA Council of Churches General Council, Committees and friends gathered for an exchange of hopes, insights and ways of assisting the member churches in making more visible their unity in Christ and for the AGM.

SACC thanks The Rev'd Barbara Paull-Hunt and community of the Anglican Church of St Philip, Somerton Park Parish, for their gracious and generous hospitality in so many ways. Especially, we thank them for all that they shared through preparations, presence, morning prayer, story-telling and morning tea, all of which nourished and inspired us.

#### **Main Conversations**

1. The gathering reflected on and described *what encounters, conversations, collaboration or learning would your denomination need or seek in relation to:*

- a. *Neighbourhood/Local Church*
- b. *Social Justice*

*so that there may be deeper and more authentic flourishing in the way of Christ.*

This forms part of SACC consultation on an 'easing' and reshaping of some of the existing SACC relationships and structures in order that SACC may respond more fully to the expressed desires of Member Churches. More soon.

2. Deep concern was expressed about the church speaking collectively on issues, including about the children and families seeking asylum who are currently detained on Nauru. SACC has provided Member Church leaders with details from the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce (ACRT) urging the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, to end the suffering of the children and families on Nauru. SACC encourages all individuals and congregations in any church context to consider any social issue and to act either together or individually. (*Details re Nauru and ACRT to be circulated through a special edition of SACC News week beginning 29/10/18.*)

#### **Resources /Events**

##### **Book Launch: Receptive Ecumenism: *Listening, Learning and Loving in the way of Christ***

Friday 16 November 2018, 9.45am, at Uniting College, 312 Sir Donald Bradman Dr, Brooklyn Park.

This collection of essays is a response to the growing recognition of Receptive Ecumenism as a concept and process that has the potential to bring about renewal and reform of the Church, both from within denominations as well as across the Church universal. Books will be available for purchase on the day: \$30. Editors Vicky Balabanski and Geraldine Hawkes. Foreword and Afterword by Paul D Murray (Durham University, UK). John Littleton and Denis Edwards - contributors from SA. Many international contributors. Published by ATF Press <https://atfpress.com/>

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#### **Act for Peace**

Helen Beeby is the new Relationships Fundraising Partner for National Council of Churches in Australia Act for Peace, with responsibility for WA, SA, Victoria and Tasmania. Helen was visiting SA and had

been invited to the meeting to speak about Act for Peace and this year's Christmas Bowl.  
Contact Helen [HBeeby@actforpeace.org.au](mailto:HBeeby@actforpeace.org.au)

### **Officers of SACC**

We thank the following people, for their willingness to serve ecumenism together as Officers of SACC, through to AGM in 2019: President - Dr Marie Loller, [Roman Catholic]; Vice-Presidents (2) – Rev Doug Walladge [Churches of Christ] and Rev'd Dr John Littleton [Anglican].

Treasurer: Mr Neil Traeger was re-appointed by Executive in September 2018.

Auditor: SACC thanks Mr Geoff Davis for 10 years generous service as Auditor. Nominations are invited for this role and should be addressed to SACC Executive Committee [sacc1@picknowl.com.au](mailto:sacc1@picknowl.com.au)

### **Ecumenical Delegates to Executive Committee**

General Council elected Rev'd Dr Jane Lee-Barker [Anglican] to Executive for a two year term, joining Mr Pierre Magar [Coptic Orthodox] who continues as Ecumenical Delegate to AGM 2019.

Thanks were given to all who have given of their time and especially to Rev'd Dr John Littleton, Anglican Church, who has concluded his time as President and as Ecumenical Delegate of SACC.

The opportunity for the Member Churches to gather as an Ecumenical Council to meet to share prayer and signs of God's beauty, love and unity across the churches in South Australia is indeed a response to the prayer of Christ 'that they may be one'.

We look forward to the ongoing journey together as we seek to walk more faithfully in the ways of Christ, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Geraldine Hawkes, Ecumenical Facilitator, SA Council of Churches  
[sacc1@picknowl.com.au](mailto:sacc1@picknowl.com.au)

29 October 2018

*Q: What encounters, conversations, collaboration or learning would your denomination need or seek in relation to:*

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  - b. Social Justice*
- .... so that there may be deeper and more authentic flourishing in the way of Christ.*

