

South Australian Council of Churches Inc

Affiliated with the National Council of Churches in Australia



News from SACC General Council & AGM 19 November 2016 - Summary

We thank the Australian Lutheran College, including Pastor James Winderlich, Principal, and Lutheran appointees to SA Council of Churches - Bishop David Altus, Pastor Leon Rosenberg, and Mr Gilbert Materne - for their gracious and generous hospitality in hosting the AGM of SA Council of Churches on 19 November 2016.

We are grateful to Dr Stephen Pietsch, Lecturer in Pastoral Theology at ALC, who described the Reformation, 500 years on, with a focus on **Luther, Conflict and Communion**. He traced some important aspects of Luther's reformation theology for ecumenical dialogue today, drawing on the Document 'From Conflict to Communion':

<https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/From%20Conflict%20to%20Communion.pdf>

Following Dr Pietsch's presentation, the meeting considered:

What insights emerge on what Reformation might look like today?

In what ways is each church contributing to reconciliation and healing, within and across the Church?

How would we describe the disposition in our Church towards Christian unity?

What more can we do so that our love and unity in Christ is manifest – in, with, and for our world?

The meeting also considered how they, as Companions on the Journey, would relate to one another and to their church, so that together all Member Churches may help bring healing to our broken life.

Reports

Each committee had time to speak to their annual report. Of particular note was the Bequest *for the work of refugees and displaced persons*, which had recently been given to SA Council of Churches, following the death of Yvonne Button. Yvonne had been a member of St Saviour's Church, Glen Osmond, and a former member of SACC Committee for Refugees and Displaced Persons. Ecumenical Partners for Justice and Peace (EPJP) – *a standing committee of SACC* – is developing criteria for funding from the Bequest. EPJP will be keen to hear from groups and organisations, working to support refugees and displaced persons in the community of South Australia, who may be interested in applying for funding to continue or enhance their work. Details of criteria and procedures will be made available through SACC weekly e-news *Ecumenism: News, Resources & Events* in the next few weeks.

Appointments & Elections

People expressed their thanks to those churches that have made appointments through to the end of 2015 to SA Council of Churches. Member Churches are dependent on the people that each appoints so that their journey towards Christian unity through their ecumenical council may continue. The meeting noted that some Member Churches are still to make appointments to SA Council of Churches.

We welcomed also the following people who were elected by General Council to serve as Officers of SACC during 2017: President – Rev Rob Williams [Uniting]; Vice President – Rev'd Dr John Littleton [Anglican]; Vice President – Dr Marie Loller [Roman Catholic]. Mr Neil Traeger was re-appointed as Treasurer by Executive Committee on 8/11/16.

Thanks were given to Ms Jill Gallio, Roman Catholic Church; Ms Ngaire Llewellyn, Churches of Christ; Mr Peter Burke, Anglican Church, each of whom had concluded their appointment as Officers of SACC.

Rev'd Dr John Littleton [Anglican] was also re-elected as Ecumenical Delegate on Executive Committee, until end of 2018, with Rev Rob Williams continuing his appointment as Ecumenical Delegate through to end of 2017. Mr Geoff Davis was re-appointed as Auditor for 2016/17. Geoff has been Auditor for SACC Inc since 2008 and SACC is grateful for his ongoing willingness to share his wisdom and expertise in ensuring good stewardship and reporting of SACC finances.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded with participants reviewing:

- . What have I learned...what will I do differently...?
- . What story will I communicate to others about today's gathering ...?
- . What steps will I take within my Church...who do I need to speak with...?

Finally, we thank all who shared their stories and their hopes, and all who are taking on, or now letting go of, an appointment to the work of Christian Unity through SA Council of Churches. Please send through your own reflections, or stories that you shared.

*Geraldine Hawkes
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SA Council of Churches*

21 November 2016