

# The Promise and Potential of Receptive Ecumenism

24-28 July 2012 - five-day series of Conversations and Presentations held in 7 different venues across South Australia.

Presented by Professor Paul D Murray, *Centre for Catholic Studies, Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University, UK*

## Participants included:

- Over 215 people from at least 11 different traditions
- Leaders/Heads of 8 different Churches
- Lay and ordained leaders in local congregations
- Theologians, Scripture Scholars, Liturgists, Church Historians...
- Members of bi-lateral dialogues
- Students for Ministry
- Chaplains
- Retired Church Leaders
- Leaders from ecumenical organisations

## Key words and phrases:

- Broken sign value
- Healing gifts for wounded hands
- Offering our wounded hands - or offering our best china?
- Run at the horizon and the horizon expands
- Surprised by joy – expectant and penitent joy, realising we are on Holy ground fed by the presence of Christ
- Lean into the Spirit, the agency of the ecumenical journey
- A journey of continuing growth on each side
- Start with the part of the garden we're responsible for...

## Insights following the various presentations...

- A renewed emphasis on ecumenism
- A renewed insight into the importance of ecumenism
- Learning from as distinct from learning about

- Understanding Receptive Ecumenism – recognising we are on Holy Ground in each other’s presence
- Sharing our woundedness with others
- Introduction of a new concept to me
- The change of thought and new receptive ecumenism is extremely important to the future of our combined Christian faith
- Need for openness
- Importance of Theology of Blessing in the absence of sharing at the table
- Receptive ecumenism is a movement, not a programme
- An understanding of RE as vision and strategy
- Respecting not only other denominations, but the strength of their tradition
- The desire of many more people for ‘eternal’ unity
- RE is not a method or a tool, but ultimately a disposition of the heart
- Receptive ecumenism ... as a tool ... for my tradition as well as for others
- Starting with what is difficult within my tradition
- Receiving others in ecumenical way of love
- Humility
- Paul’s input new way of looking at ‘problem’ P becomes a new way of doing ecumenism
- Reconnection with an interest in ecumenism
- The difference between receptive ecumenism and spiritual cherry-picking
- Anyone can be an ecumenical starter!
- Learning to lean into the Spirit
- How can we sing a new song?

Feel free to share your own insights - contact Geraldine Hawkes [sacc1@picknowl.com.au](mailto:sacc1@picknowl.com.au)