

SA Council of Churches

Community for Ecumenical Learning

A Standing Committee of SACC

Focus for 2016-2018

Background

Since being formed in 2008 as the Standing Committee for Ecumenical Learning, activities have merged with the overall SACC planning, taking the lead on offering a range of opportunities for ecumenical learning eg Annual Lecture, Learning Together in Christ, mini-Conference.

We thank all those who have led, participated in and enabled these activities and ideas so far.

The contribution of the committee has continued to evolve and for some time now the focus has emerged as catalyst, think tank, planning and reflection around shaping and developing ecumenical consciousness and leadership.

This has led to an articulation of the main Focus for ecumenical learning for the next few years, and to the Committee, from May 2016, being re-named as **Community for Ecumenical Learning [CEL]** to reflect better the relationship with and for the churches.

Role

Community for Ecumenical Learning [CEL], in collaboration and consultation with others, assists in encouraging, facilitating and nurturing the **ongoing shaping and development of ecumenical consciousness/disposition and leadership, individually and institutionally**. [SACC Core Purpose, Priorities 1 & 3]

Focus for 2016 - 2018

1. Regular **prayer** for the greater flourishing across the churches of leadership in ecumenism in the Spirit of Christ.
2. **Creating Spaces for Conversations of Learning and Exchanges of Gifts**, through
 - Scriptural and Theological Reflection [for example, through ensuring the preparation of Ecumenical Lenten Resource every two years].
 - Hospitality and Conversation [for example, Emmaus Meals].
 - Offering and participating in Receptive Ecumenism processes and opportunities.
3. Contributing to, developing and sharing **resources and events to assist the nurturing of a disposition of ecumenical learning**, including dissemination through church communications, newsletters and SACC weekly E-news and website.
4. **Remaining aware of and connected with** developments and trends in ecumenical learning in one's own church as well as of the work of others, including world-wide, as appropriate.

Collaboration across SACC, the Member Churches and other bodies is encouraged. In addition, CEL affirms individual initiative/action within their church and other spheres of influence, moving with creativity and imagination, and drawing on any current involvement in, and commitment to, formation and education for leadership in ecumenism in the Spirit of Christ.

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

Appointments

- Each Member Church is encouraged to appoint at least two people who have experience of or are passionate about ecumenical learning.
- Appointments will generally be for a two year term which is renewable on a two yearly basis.
- CEL may include other people 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 at least 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 CEL as it discerns and explores significant and emerging aspects for action/reflection. The EF also assists CEL 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 CEL 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 CEL are encouraged to attend the two meetings a year of General Council [usually May and November].

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

Once a year CEL will prepare a Report for General Council.

9 May 2016

Focus for 2016-2018, is drawn from conversations among members in recent times, and with reference to SACC Constitution and the Terms of Reference: Standing Committees and Related Bodies.