



## Annual Report July 2016 – June 2017

### President

The Core Purpose of the South Australian Council of Churches is “to *serve* the churches of South Australia in their deeper engagement in ecumenism, and *nurture and nourish* the churches’ understanding, spiritual growth and practice of ecumenism so that, as Jesus prayed, ...*they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me*”. *John 17:21* We will be encouraged in our life together as we read in the Reports how this is being achieved.

One of the ways we work to fulfil our Core Purpose is through the many resources to be found on our website – [www.sacc.asn.au](http://www.sacc.asn.au). Its comprehensive ‘menu’ reveals so much from its ‘Events Calendar’, the latest from our SACC ‘Communities’ and their work, through to helpful online ‘Publications’ to stimulate your thinking and inform your ecumenical endeavours. I commend it to you for your investigation. Another vital link is our weekly e-Newsletter, *Ecumenism: Reflections, News, Resources and Events*. To subscribe simply contact the office.

There have been many key happenings to encourage us during this last year and I want to highlight a few of these. In October, we were privileged to join in a day with Rev Dr Olav Fyske Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches, at St Mary and Anba Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church, Cowandilla. At our November General Council Annual Meeting, Dr Stephen Pietsch, Australian Lutheran College/Lutheran Church of Australia SA/NT District presented a paper entitled *The Reformation: 500 years on*, a helpful introduction to anticipated celebrations later this year. Geraldine Hawkes and I attended the 2017 Harmony Day celebration at Government House in March. At the multi-faith blessing during the Celebration, I carried and displayed the small wooden cross given to SACC during the visit of the World Council of Churches in October 2016, a good and appropriate sign for and link with the global Christian community. Our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration incorporating our April General Council Meeting was an enriching day of discovering the gift of the ‘other’ as those attending ‘journeyed together’ from venue to venue.

The work of ecumenism is challenging. We are assisted so effectively by our Ecumenical Facilitator and Executive Officer Geraldine Hawkes. Her broad knowledge and experience of the ecumenical ‘scene’ in South Australia, nationally and internationally continues to inform, encourage and enrich our work together as SACC. Melanie Macrow is our Office Administrator and provides consistently valuable support to Geraldine and the Executive. Peter Burke chairs the Executive and Neil Traeger is our Treasurer. Thank you all for the skills and commitment you bring to your tasks – indeed, your gifts to us.

*... that they may all be one ....*

Rob Williams  
President

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#### Members of South Australian Council of Churches

Anglican Church of Australia - Dioceses of Adelaide, and of Willochra; Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide and Catholic Diocese of Port Pirie; Churches of Christ in SA/NT; Coptic Orthodox Church - Diocese of Melbourne and Affiliated Regions; Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia - District of SA/NT; Lutheran Church of Australia - SA/NT District; Religious Society of Friends SA/NT Regional Meeting; Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of Australia/New Zealand - SA Parish; Salvation Army SA Division; St Urael Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church in SA Inc; Uniting Church in SA

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