

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical Newsletter

March 2013

LOOKING BEYOND DIVISION

A six day winter school introducing the study of Ecumenism

As proposed by Mission and Ecumenical and decided by Conference 2011 a week long course of **Ecumenical Studies** is planned to be held in Auckland from **Monday 8 to Saturday 14 July 2013** at St. John's College Meadowbank Auckland. **Applications close on 31 May 2013.**

The course is to be held in association with the Centre for Ecumenical Studies of Charles Sturt University, Canberra. Course content and details of registration is available in the M&E office. Please send your request to get a copy by email.

Resource persons for the course from Charles Sturt University will be Rev. Prof. Robert Gribben (co chair of International Anglican Methodist Dialogue) and Rev. Dr. Ray Williamson (director of Centre for Ecumenical Studies). For further details, please contact Prince at the Mission and Ecumenical office at

mm-e@methodist.org.nz

Private Bag 11903 Ellerslie Auckland 1542

Those who wish to get course fee from Travel & Study Committee must submit their application to Travel & Study Committee before 15 May 2013.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2013

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2013 explores what "God requires of us." In the southern hemisphere the observance will be **from 12 to 19 May 2013**. Material and liturgical resources available from <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/faith-and-order-commission/xi-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-resources/resources/2013-worship-and-background-material.html>

Anglican-Methodist International Commission for Unity in Mission – AMICUM

The final meeting of the Anglican-Methodist International Commission for Unity in Mission (AMICUM) took place 22 February to 1 March 2013, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, hosted by the Anglican Communion. Members of the Commission worshiped together morning and evening, and the Eucharist was celebrated according to both traditions.

The Commission has after five years completed the phase of work mandated to it by the World

Methodist Council and the Anglican Communion, and has now prepared a report for both bodies. As the last three words in its title suggest (Unity in Mission), AMICUM aims to foster the unity of the Church so that the Church can engage more fully in God's mission of love to the world. The report begins and ends with biblical reflections, on our Lord's Prayer for the unity of his people that all might believe, and on the radical nature of Jesus' ministry as a mandate for mission.



Participants in the AMICUM

AMICUM has set out key points of agreement concerning the interchangeability of ordained ministries, and the awareness of each Communion's need of the other. It sees a common, interchangeable ministry as crucial in making the unity of the Church visible.

The report analyses the place of the apostolic tradition and the nature of the oversight (*episkope*) in the life of the Church. It explores the history of oversight, and the way it has been exercised in the Methodist and Anglican traditions, and the way it is exercised today.

AMICUM has closely monitored dialogues and agreements around the world, and has drawn lessons and recommendations from these which it now offers to both Communion. The report shows that each tradition has affirmed the authenticity of the other's ministries, and encourages churches that have not yet entered into mutual agreements to do so.

A toolkit is provided for churches wanting to move into closer co-operation, giving questions for consideration to enable this process to advance.

AMICUM is recommending that the World Methodist Council and the Anglican Consultative Council establish an Anglican-Methodist International Coordinating Committee to oversee and foster relationships between Methodist and Anglican member churches.

The Report will be published during 2014.

SUPPORT THE M&E ANNUAL APPEAL 2013 –

Annual appeal for 2013 is to raise funds for a water supply scheme for Goldie College. Brochure for the appeal has been sent out through e-messenger. If you have not seen one, please send an email to the secretary M&E for a copy. M&E looks forward for your continued support.

Flash mob for women's rights invades Geneva's Ecumenical Centre

A flash mob erupted today (14.02.2013) in the cafeteria of the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. At 12:30 people scattered throughout the lunch crowd suddenly left their tables and broke into dance. Twenty dancers, wearing bright pink and purple, performed to a song condemning violence against women. The lyrics of *Break the Chain* written by Tena Clark and Tim Heintz call attention to the fact that one billion of the world's three billion women

and girls will be raped or attacked

"...there's never been anything like this here before."

in their lifetime. The song ends with a stirring call for people to rise up and stop the violence.

Similar dance events are being held today in countries from Australia to Lebanon as part of the One Billion Rising campaign created by V-Day, a global activist movement that promotes creative events to increase awareness about violence against women and to re-energize anti-violence organizations.

Aiko Sumichan, a youth intern from Indonesia, gathered dancers from among organizations including the World YWCA, World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, COHRED and World Student Christian Federation.

"Taking over the cafeteria and filling it with the sounds of protest and power is a wonderful way of giving momentum to the movement to stop the violence," Sumichan says. "And besides it was a lot of fun. People tell me there's never been anything like this here before." More information at

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/article/1634/flash-mob-for-womens-rig.html>

Together towards life: mission and evangelism in changing landscapes

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW WCC AFFIRMATION ON MISSION AND EVANGELISM

SUBMITTED BY THE COMMISSION ON WORLD MISSION AND EVANGELISM (CWME)

The Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) has, since the WCC Porto Alegre Assembly in 2006, been working and contributing toward the construction of a new ecumenical mission affirmation. The new statement will be presented to the WCC 10th assembly at Busan, Korea, in 2013. Since the integration of the International Missionary Council (IMC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) in New Delhi, 1961, there has been only one official WCC position statement on mission and evangelism which was approved by the central committee in 1982, "Mission and Evangelism: An Ecumenical Affirmation." This new mission affirmation has been unanimously approved by the WCC Central Committee held in Crete, Greece on 5 September 2012. It is the aim of this ecumenical discernment to seek vision, concepts and directions for a renewed understanding and practice of mission and evangelism in changing landscapes. It seeks a broad appeal, even wider than WCC member churches and affiliated mission bodies, so that we can commit ourselves together to fullness of life for all, led by the God of Life!

A full version of the document "Together towards life: mission and evangelism in changing landscapes" is available in PDF format for free download from

[http://www.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/2012pdfs/Mission statement approved 10 9 2012 final.pdf](http://www.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/2012pdfs/Mission%20statement%20approved%2010%2009%202012%20final.pdf)

Catholic delegates reflect on WCC's new mission statement

In a consultation held in Switzerland, delegates of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) pointed out "inspirations" as well as "challenges" in the new mission statement titled "Together towards life: Mission and evangelism in changing landscapes", issued by the World Council of Churches (WCC) last year.

"This statement is a 'vision', an invitation to dream together, to walk 'together towards life' for both humanity and the whole of God's creation," said Fr Richard Nnyombi from the Missionaries of Africa. More details from

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/eng/a/article/1634/vatican-delegates-reflect.html>

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