

ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

(A&P 2001, p. 299-300)

PURPOSE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Ecumenical Relations Committee facilitates national and international relationships of the denomination and is accountable to the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The following responsibilities are not meant to encompass all the church's involvement in ecumenical work as it is involved in a variety of ecumenical activities at different levels from the local congregation to international endeavours. The Ecumenical Relations Committee is to:

- provide information on and co-ordination for ecumenical matters;
- maintain and strengthen relationships with ecumenical councils, committees and consultations, and to recommend to General Assembly the establishing of new ecumenical relationships;
- articulate the church's ecumenical vision;
- endeavour to develop strategies concerning ecumenism;
- educate members and adherents of the church about national and international ecumenical involvements;
- appoint delegates to ecumenical bodies and to enable those delegates to represent The Presbyterian Church in Canada; and
- establish and maintain grants to ecumenical councils.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership consists of:

- 6 General Assembly appointments, one of whom will be the convener;
- 2 ex-officio members: Principal Clerk, General Secretary of the Life and Mission Agency;
- Corresponding members: CANAAC (first named of the delegation), WARC (one delegate from the last General Assembly), WCC (two delegates from the last Assembly), WMS (one representative), Record (one representative).

ECUMENICAL COUNCILS

The following councils relate to the denomination through the Ecumenical Relations Committee:

- Canadian Council of Churches
- Caribbean and North American Area Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (CANAAC)
- World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC)
- World Council of Churches

INTERFAITH MANDATE

The interfaith mandate is: it is our interfaith mandate to encourage Presbyterians to acknowledge, understand and appreciate other faith traditions, and to help Presbyterians to live in good relationship with persons who belong to other religions; noting by the word "acknowledge" we mean, "accept the existence of", by the word "understand" we mean, "perceive the intended meaning or significance of"; and by the word "appreciate" we mean "recognize the value or significance of". (A&P 2007, p. 269, 47)

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO ECUMENISM

Two documents which relate to the work of this committee are: Definition of Ecumenism (A&P 1997, p. 291-92) and When the Church Speaks (A&P 1998, p. 338-39).