

# OIKOUMENE

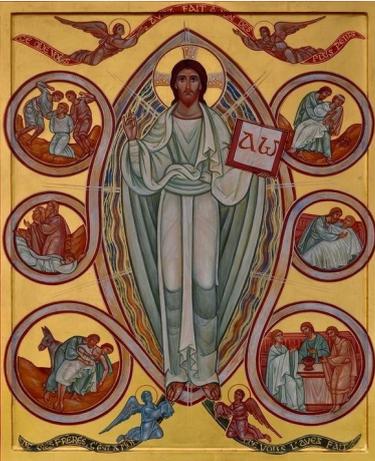
Tasmanian Council of Churches

October 2016

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## The 'Lund' Principle

*Should not the churches act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately?*



I had the great joy of meeting up with Br. Ghislain from Taizé again last weekend at an ecumenical Taizé retreat held at the Carmelite retreat centre in Varroville NSW. And it was a wonderful experience of refreshment and renewal. A group of Anglican, Uniting and Catholic people came together to pray a while. As I immersed myself in the reflections of Br.

Ghislain and the daily rhythm of contemplative prayer and the walks through the beautiful countryside, I found a renewed energy which I had missed very much. And at the end of the retreat I found that I had made new friends with those who were in retreat with me, and I was ready again to face the work of being the presence of Christ in the world. As it was said at the end of the retreat: when the women came to the tomb an angel was waiting for them to tell them that Jesus was waiting for them in Galilee. Equally so for me on retreat, towards the end of my stay in the desert I approached the presence of God and realised that Christ was in fact waiting for me back in Tasmania.

After the retreat I had some time with Br. Ghislain with whom I spoke at length about the past, present and future of Ecumenism in Australia. And about the problems of busyness and individualism in society and all the difficulties it brings. I have noticed how in Tasmania and other places in Australia the word 'retreat' has been taken by corporations to mean a conference or a 'course learning' week. But as Christians I think it is important to realise the need to step out into the desert every now and then, to go into our room, close the door behind us and pray to our Father in secret.



In other news as I said in my preview on Facebook I will be meeting with the Revd Olav Tveit, the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, on 13 and 14 October. I will be welcoming him to Australia along with my counterparts in Melbourne and Adelaide. He will also be travelling to Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra and while I am with him he will be meeting with Archbishop Philip Freier, the Anglican Primate, and spend time in prayer with the Coptic Orthodox, among many other things. Of course a more detailed story will follow after my visit.

I also promised to give some information regarding the start of an Ecumenical dialogue group. I have been brainstorming with my parish priest and my predecessor, the Revd Bob Faser, about starting an ecumenical dialogue group in order to find a renewed interest in Ecumenism. The idea is to have a speaker, preferably a Tasmanian, to come and speak on a particular topic or experience with us and have a Q and A afterwards, maybe some discussion groups. I am hoping to raise awareness of the great importance of ecumenical dialogue and I believe that there is a lot we can learn from each other.

If you have any ideas regarding Ecumenism in Tasmania please contact me on the address given at the top of this newsletter.

In Communion,

Frederik Mul,  
TCC Executive Officer.

# Lunch with the Moderator

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK



Clarence Uniting Church is delighted to invite you to a Mental Health Week lunch on 12 October. Moderator Rev Sharon Hollis will be attending as a special guest.



12:30pm

Clarence Uniting Church  
Cnr Cambridge Rd and York St,  
Bellerive TAS 7018



## The Corflutes have landed!

A supply of corflute signs for the 2016 Act for Peace Christmas Bowl appeal have arrived in the TCC Office.

Please contact Frederik Mul on **0420 639 903** to organise a way to pick up your congregation's sign(s).

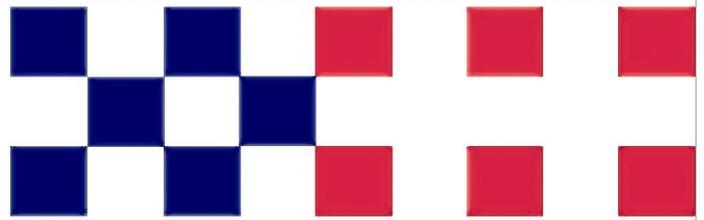
## 2016 Annual Meeting of the TCC

The main Speaker at the 70th annual meeting was Peter Jones. Peter Jones is a teacher at The Friends' School and has worked as a social activist for Amnesty International for many years. He is a traveller who has spent a lot of time in Israel and Palestine. He spoke on Christian-Muslim relations on the West Bank and it was excellent. He spoke with great enthusiasm and knowledge. And there were many questions and new insights into the huge complexities of Middle Eastern politics.

We also selected our new officers and the Revd Jeff Gray will continue for a second year as President, the Revd Ross Ellwood will continue as Vice President. We have also had the pleasure of appointing a new Treasurer, Mr David Clarke. David is a lay member of the Anglican Church where he serves as the treasurer of the Parish of All Saints in South Hobart and he works as the business manager for Scripture Union Tasmania. He replaces David Peters, OAM. Many thanks to both of them for their services.

Jeff Wild announced that he will be retiring as the Act for Peace Development Officer at the end of this year. A great many thanks to him for many years of service looking after Act for Peace in Tasmania and Victoria.

## Tasmanian Council of Churches



## EMERGENCIES MINISTRY

Gus Yearsley will also be continuing his work as Emergencies Ministry Officer. The TCC's Emergencies Ministry (TCC EM) has had a very busy and testing year. TCC EM volunteers were deployed across the entire State during the winter floods crisis. During a 12-consecutive-day period they were deployed in seven locations while in the North West leadership had to be taken up by the deputy regional coordinator who herself was trapped in her house. The Emergencies Ministry has performed very admirably and a major thank you to Gus Yearsley, his regional coordinators, trainers, and all the volunteers.

## ACT FOR PEACE

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER  
THROUGH THE **actalliance**



**We're counting on you!**

act for peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

### How Do I act for peace?

#### act for peace Regular Giving

Make a lasting difference in our world by becoming an act for peace Regular Giver. By giving from as little as \$1 a day (\$30 a month), you can help improve the lives of so many people in Australia and across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific.



#### Christmas Bowl Annual Appeal

60 years ago, Reverend Frank Byatt placed an empty bowl on the dinner table on Christmas Day. He urged all present to contribute a small gift to the bowl and do something selfless for the people around the world who are victims of disease, poverty and violence.

Thousands of people **act for peace** each year by giving to the Christmas Bowl, and many have also become Regular Givers.

#### Leave a Gift in Your Will

Please consider leaving a gift in your Will to **act for peace**. If you are interested in receiving more information, please indicate overleaf.

#### Be Informed

Please visit our website: [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au) for inspiring stories from the field. A variety of giving options are also available.



