

International Receptive Ecumenism Conference, June 2022

Transforming Ecumenism – “listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches”

***Koinonia*: ecumenical transformation through participation in the *koinonia* of God, leading to the sharing of *koinonia* amongst God’s people in the world.**

This paper will look at the insights of the International Reformed Anglican Dialogue (2015-2020). The dialogue involved the presentation of papers embracing a range of topics, including the scriptural understandings of communion; Christology; and Pneumatology. Insights were gained from the different contexts in which the meetings took place, for example, the union of the Church of South India, embracing a range of different Christian traditions, including Reformed and Anglican, and the role of indigenous people affecting the life of the church in Canada.

This paper will look at the way in which the Greek word *koinonia* became the key theme for the dialogue rather than the English translation, communion. *Koinonia* was felt to point more specifically to the relationship held within the Holy Trinity, into which God calls people to enter and out of which people are summoned to share this *koinonia* in the world.

A key understanding in terms of response to divine *koinonia* arose out of the South African context and a presentation on ‘Responsible Communion’, that is, how the church takes communion forward in a suffering and broken world.

This paper will examine the theological debates that ran through the dialogue, leading to a final report with a strong focus on *koinonia*, to be offered to the Anglican and Reformed Communion. The hope is that the relationship between these two communions might be transformed, for the sake of God’s world.

Key words/phrases: *koinonia*, responsible communion, international ecumenism

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