

Abstract:
***Receptive Ecumenism and Mission:
transformed ecumenism for transformed societies***

The paper first explores the significant relationship between Receptive Ecumenism and the *Missio Dei*, showing how not only are mission and unity profoundly connected but that the specific understandings of them displayed by Receptive Ecumenism and the *Missio Dei* are interconnected. This is grounded in and reveals the spiritual roots of each.

This interconnectedness also has ecclesiological implications. The challenge is that receptive learning should become receptive living, something that can most effectively be practised in the context of an applied (not just theoretical or devotional) spirituality of unity. Resources already exist for this and, within the concert of spiritualities both traditional and contemporary, light can be shed by Chiara Lubich's spirituality with its focus upon the living practice of unity. The ecclesiological shift implied here opens up the possibility of a new shape for ecumenism that in no way denies the range of ecumenical tools while, at the same time, setting them in a new context of deepening and living relationships among Christians of different traditions, on the one hand, and expansive and transformative service going beyond simply the human environment to the whole of creation, on the other.

Such a living Christian community, even before achieving the longed-for goal of full institutional reconciliation, can speak beyond itself, promoting what could be called a Receptive Society. Contributing to such a society further stimulates work for Christian unity, since resolving any remaining theological, liturgical, regulatory, or institutional divisions enables the Church to be more agile in experiencing, modelling, and promoting a society rooted in receptive values and patterns of behaviour. Rather paradoxically, a proper humility for Receptive Ecumenism that recognizes it as not the only form of ecumenical endeavour, also indicates that it may have repercussions beyond the ecumenical sphere.

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Key words

Ecclesiology, Ecumenism, Lubich, *Missio Dei*, Mission, Receptive Ecumenism, Society, Spirituality, Transformation