

## **Disability as an ecumenical concern**

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In my paper I want to compare two documents from The World Council of Churches: *The Church Towards a Common Vision* (F&O paper no. 214) that came 2013 and *The Gift of Being* that was published as a joint venture by EDAN (Ecumenical Disabilities Advocates Network) and Faith and Order and was presented for the Central Committee of the WCC at a meeting in June 2016. In my paper I want to explore the concerns of persons with disabilities as an ecumenical and ecclesiological issue. We tend to understand these issues as a question of human rights and a question of working against different practices that are discriminating for persons with disabilities. I want to explore how our understanding of these concerns changes if we understand them as ecumenical and ecclesiological questions. The fact that persons with disabilities around the world feels excluded from the fellowship in different churches is a problem for the unity of the churches and has ecclesiological implications. By comparing these documents, I want to explore how the concerns of persons with disabilities might impact the ecumenical conversation on ecclesiology and what that can mean for the ecumenical movement's work for visible unity between the churches. Are we at a point in our ecumenical pilgrimage where we need to understand that various forms of discriminatory practices towards different categories among the people of God is a problem for a church that seeks unity that they all may be one so that the world may believe?