

Searching for deeper unity: Towards a theology of relational receptive ecumenism through the experience of interchurch families.

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This paper explores receptive ecumenism through the experience of interchurch families (where partners come from two different Christian denominations), considering the ways in which receptive ecumenism can be further strengthened through conversation with relational theology, asking whether it is possible to establish a distinct theology that is relational receptive ecumenism.

Engaging with the work of Paul Murray, Antonia Pizzey and Thomas Jay Oord, this paper brings together the complementary strands of receptive ecumenism and relational theology to consider the need and possibilities of a deeper more personal ecumenism. It considers the connections between relational theology and the experience of interchurch families and proposes that something deeper is required to further Christian unity than the mutual respect and personal reflexivity already found within receptive ecumenism. Relational receptive ecumenism has the potential for a more fruitful and resilient unity, starting from a position of love, as well as an openness to a process of mutual shaping and transformation.