

RECEPTIVE ECUMENISM IV CONFERENCE – SIGTUNA, SWEDEN

PAPER:

“Receptive ecumenism and JDDJ – developing a basis for relationships.”

Rev Tony Franklin-Ross

Abstract:

The *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* (“JDDJ”) started as a bilateral ecumenical document between the Lutheran and Roman Catholic communions, in 1999. This document has been described as expressing a method of differentiated consensus; overcoming centuries-old controversies by identifying common substance and distinguishing aspects of their different confessional expressions.

Subsequently, the Methodist, Reformed and Anglican communions have each become associated with JDDJ, forming a ‘multilateral JDDJ ecumenical family’.

For the 20th anniversary of JDDJ, the *Notre Dame Consultation Statement* was formulated in March 2019. *Notre Dame* affirms “We rejoice that we are given fresh perspectives of seeing one another and given a new dynamic in our inter-relationships, helping us to find undiscovered fruit in what has already been done before. This will enable us to address further [and] more fully the various questions among us requiring additional clarification as indicated in JDDJ.”

This paper explores JDDJ as being a transformative multilateral ecumenical methodology through the lens of receptive ecumenism, encouraging responses to present challenges, and creating stronger bonds through listening to each other and what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Keywords:

Author Bio:

Rev. Tony Franklin-Ross:

An ordained presbyter-theologian in the Methodist Church of New Zealand, Tony is currently its ecumenical officer, and involved in a range of national ecumenical dialogues. Tony is the Chairperson of the Ecumenical Relationships Committee of the World Methodist Council, and a member of the JDDJ working group.