

*When the legwork fails – local experiences of the devastating results of the lack of
(Receptive) Ecumenism*

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The importance of trust that comes out of sharing experiences and being curious about “the other” cannot be stressed enough. It is through that trust we can stand before each other with our strengths as well as our wounds.

This presentation will analyse the local ecumenical work in the parish of Sollentuna, Church of Sweden, and its ecumenical youth work with the local Pentecostal church - both what made it prosper and what (lack) of actions that paved way for it to crumble.

The focus of the report *Receptive Ecumenism and the Local Church*¹ will be used to deconstruct these local experiences. The report can help shed light on the outcome and the different building stones that sum up an ecumenical partnership, especially on the first key trajectory - the subject of Governance and Finance.

The first imperative from the Lund agreement och Catholic-Lutheran dialogue² and Callan Slippers *Enriched by Others – A Spiritual Guide to Receptive Ecumenism*³ will also be entry points to explore what went “right” and try to pinpoint where it went wrong and what could have been done instead.

The hard earned experiences of the Sollentuna example teaches us that Ecumenism isn’t something that you can do and then be done with – it is something you live every day and in every meeting.

As true as it is that every generation must win democracy anew – so must every generation win the gift of Ecumenism. Local experiences of when we fail to do the legwork that enables trust – the ecumenical struggle hurts the way to oneness.

¹Murray, P. D. et al. *Receptive Ecumenism and the Local Church – A Comparative Research project in the North East of England*. Durham University

² <https://www.svenskakyrkan.se/reformationsaret/ekumenisk-dialog-grunden-till-motet-i-lund> 2021-11-09

³ Slipper, C. *Enriched by Others – A Spiritual Guide to Receptive Ecumenism*. Grove Spirituality, S139. Cambridge Grove Books Ltd, 2016.