

That We All May Be One

Ecumenical and
Interreligious
Relations of
The Episcopal Church



Artwork by Miranda Hassett

Jesus' disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost—the 50th day after the Resurrection. The Book of Acts says that the disciples rushed into the marketplace and began preaching to the multicultural, multilingual crowd in languages they had not known they could speak.

On the Day of Pentecost, therefore, the Church remembers that ministry includes making connections with those who walk a different path, including people of other faith traditions and Christians of other denominations.

Part of the Episcopal Church's work in this area is carried out by the Office of Ecumenical and In-

terreligious Relations, which is charged with fostering unity among the separated branches of the Christian Church, for the sake of cooperation and mission in the world. The Office is also responsible for overseeing the Episcopal Church's

relationships with other religions, for similar cooperation and mutual understanding.

The work is led by the Presiding Bishop's Deputy for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, Bishop C.

Christopher Epting, assisted by Dr. Thomas Ferguson, Associate Deputy, on behalf of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori.

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—The Lambeth Conference 1998

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The office works in conjunction with General Convention through its Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (SCEIR).



Bishop Epling

The Episcopal Church was also a founding member of, and continues to be active in, the World Council of Churches based in Geneva, Switzerland, and the National Council of Churches headquartered in New York. Full communion relationships include the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Old Catholic churches in Europe, the Philippine Independent Church, and the Mar Thoma Church. There are active relationships of eucha-

ristic sharing, along with theological dialogue on the way to possible full communion, with the Moravian Church and the United Methodist Church. In addition, ecumenical dialogues continue with the Roman Catholic Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Ecumenical Officers from each diocese and province of the Church work together in a group known as Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO). Each diocesan officer encourages and organizes ecumenical and interfaith activity at the congregational, local and regional levels.

Dialogue with people of other faiths begins when people meet each other ... in mutual understanding, respect and trust ... to share in service to the community ... as an authentic witness.

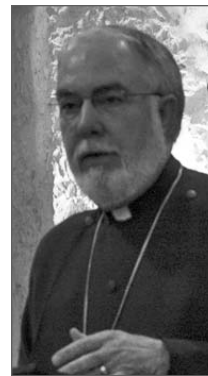
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Finally, the ecumenical and interfaith work of the Episcopal Church is part of the efforts of the Anglican Communion. The Episcopal Church's dialogues with the Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Old Catholics are complemented by parallel international dialogues through the Anglican Communion.

For several years TEC has been active in the NCC's Commission on Interfaith Relations, and through that Commission has been in an ongoing ecumenical dialogue with the Jewish community and the newly instituted National Muslim Christian Initiative.

To learn more about the Episcopal Church's ecumenical and interfaith programs, visit www.episcopalchurch.org/eir.htm

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