



24-27 June 2016
Mary MacKillop Place
80 William Street
North Sydney

**AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES COVENANTING TOGETHER –
POSSIBLE THEOLOGICAL AFFIRMATIONS**

Recognizing that the ecumenical movement leads churches to grow in understanding of one another, the National Forum provides an opportunity for the member churches to consider their understanding of each other.

The NCCA Executive and the Faith and Unity Commission have considered the following theological affirmations. The Forum provides an opportunity to representatives of churches to consider these statements, to reflect on them and to reflect in company with representatives of other member churches.

It is not intended that further action (other than reflecting on them with others) will be taken at the Forum.

For reflection:

Does my church affirm each of the statements below about

- Itself?
- other churches?
- all NCCA member churches?
- some NCCA member churches?

If not, what statement could my church affirm about

- itself?
- all other NCCA member churches?

e.g. In relation to ministry:

All ministry in our churches is a gift of God for the service of God's people in worship, pastoring and teaching.

COMMENTS

| <i>Possible Theological Affirmations</i> | Possible statement that my church might consider affirming |
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| Each of our churches stands in the continuity of the apostolic faith. | |
| Each of our churches is part of the one holy catholic and apostolic church. Acknowledging our failure to enact fully our calling, our churches witness faithfully to the gospel and seek to be more fully engaged in God's mission in the world. | |
| In each of our churches the Holy Spirit gives to the whole people of God gifts for the up-building of the church and for its continuation in the mission of Jesus Christ. | |
| Leadership in ministry in our churches is given by God as an instrument of grace, notwithstanding our different understandings of it. By this ministry, the people of God are called to faith, strengthened to witness to the gospel and empowered to serve in hope and love. | |
| In each of our churches the word of God is faithfully proclaimed. | |
| Oversight is exercised in our churches, albeit in different forms, to serve the church's unity and its faithfulness to the gospel. | |