

Australian Lutherans in Dialogue

Victorian Council of Churches

2008

Lutheran – Roman Catholic Dialogue

In 2007 the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue in Australia concluded an important round of conversation on *episcopate* and the ministry of oversight. A substantial statement documenting both common ground and remaining differences has just been published. Entitled *The Ministry of Oversight: The Office of Bishop and President in the Church* (to be launched at a special joint service in Adelaide in February, 2008), it represents the culmination of some seven years of dialogue.

Lutheran – Anglican Dialogue

In 2001, after almost here decades of discussions, this dialogue team issued a report entitled *Common Ground: Covenanting for Mutual Recognition and Reconciliation*.¹ In due course it was presented to the respective synodical gathering of each church, where it was endorsed without change by the Anglicans in 2004, and by the Lutherans the previous year, though with some provisional conditions relating to its implementation.

Lutheran – Uniting Dialogue

Over the past four years, dialogue has focused on the question of the authority of Scripture and the problem of hermeneutics. It was decided to focus on these topics following the adoption of the controversial Proposal 84 at the 2003 National Assembly of the UCA. This course of action has brought about a temporary postponement in further churchwide discussions of the dialogue's 1999 'Declaration of Mutual Recognition', which seeks to provide a working doctrinal basis for 'local cooperation between our two churches in the ministry of the word and pastoral care, and a shared deployment of human and material resources.'

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¹ Published in *Stages on the Way II: Documents from the Bilateral Conversations between Churches in Australia 1994-2007*, ed. Raymond K. Williamson (St Pauls, 2007), 14-77.