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## A summary of keynote addresses

### Friday 9th August

#### *Ecumenism-in-Migration:*

#### *Movement in the Ecumenical Movement*

Victoria Turner's first keynote will map out the ecumenical movement from a global and generational perspective. Who took the reins and whose voices were elevated? Who took the mic themselves and stirred the pot? How did we end up where we are now? Has movement in the ecumenical movement stagnated, or is it still possible today?

We explore how the centre of gravity shifting in Christianity affected the missionary and ecumenical movement and their self-understanding(s). The talk ends by thinking about where justice is today in the ecumenical movement and juxtaposing the origins of the movement to the institutional basis today. Our context of neoliberalism and neo-capitalism is profoundly shaping the ecumenical movement today. This talk questions whether the relationships enacted between churches through the ecumenical movement are what was desired by the early ecumenical pioneers.

#### **A call for papers (please register your interest)**

The event on Friday 9th August will be an opportunity for people to contribute their own reflections on the theme, *Ecumenism in Migration: Movement in the Ecumenical Movement*. Papers and presentations may cover migration patterns and its impact on the ecumenical movement in Australia. It might explore the migration of ideas on ecumenism. It might explore the paradigmatic changes in ecumenism. It is a very broad theme and we welcome a wide range of papers and presenters. We anticipate some papers may be published in journals.

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### Saturday 10th August

#### *Receptive-or-Restricted Ecumenism:*

#### *Re-establishing Vulnerability in Relationship*

Victoria Turner's second keynote critiques a recent method of ecumenism prominent in the Western world. It exposes its distance from the local and also distance from key decision makers. It also prioritises comfortable exchange over costly exchange. This talk gives an alternative model of ecumenical relationships and how we should go about embracing "otherness" within our own traditions from being blessed by the "other".

### Saturday 10th August – evening dinner

#### *Emerging Ecumenism: Is there Space for Visions from the New Generations Today?*

Victoria Turner notes that the impetus for the ecumenical movement came in part from the audacity of young people. Does the ecumenical movement today have space for the righteous audacity from visionary younger people?

This presentation will bring in the voices of younger scholars and church practitioners embracing the decolonial, anti-capitalist and world-embracing agenda necessary for a more-just world.

A panel of respondents will be invited to respond to the presentation, in our particular context here and now in Australia.

More information on all of these events will be published on the VCC website, [vcc.org.au](http://vcc.org.au)

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Victorian Council  
of Churches  
(VCC)

Acknowledging  
75 years

## A brief history of the Victorian Council of Churches

In 1937, the “Conference on Church, Community, and State” (known as the Oxford Conference of 1937) made a decision to form the World Council of Churches. War intervened. The first meeting was held in August 1941. On 23rd August 1948, the World Council of Churches (WCC) was formally constituted in Amsterdam.

The Australian Committee for the World Council of Churches was established in 1946, This was the result of many years of dialogue, negotiation and paperwork, and patient work. It developed later into the Australian Council of Churches. In 1994 the Australian Council of Churches became the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA), and is celebrating 30 years in 2024.

The Australian Council of Churches – Victorian Branch was established in 1948, later becoming the Victorian Council of Churches. A series of events is planned to acknowledge the silver jubilee.

## Visit of WCC General Secretary

### *(World Council of Churches)*

**24 June** Rev Prof Dr Jerry Pillay, WCC General Secretary, will be in Melbourne for one evening only to speak at a free public event. He will share insights about ecumenism from a global perspective, the imperative of church unity amid fragmented communities and escalating conflict, and what the global church might look like in the future for the sake of common witness and service in the world. 7.15pm for 7.30pm, St Athanasius College, 285 LaTrobe St, Melbourne.

### Friday 9th August

A day of presentations, papers and conversation on the theme: *Ecumenism-in-Migration: Movement in the Ecumenical Movement*.

#### Keynote speaker

Victoria Turner.

Venue: Pilgrim Theological College, Parkville

### Saturday 10th August

Grassroots ecumenism in Victoria - a day to hear about the diversity of ecumenical programs and initiatives in Victoria.

#### Keynote speaker

Victoria Turner

Venue: Pilgrim Theological College, Parkville

### Saturday 10th August

(evening)

A dinner to celebrate the VCC silver jubilee.

Cost: \$50

Seating for 100 guests - register and book early!

#### Keynote speaker

Victoria Turner

Venue: Treacy Centre, Parkville

### Sunday 24th November

*(afternoon in person event)*

Celebrating 75 years of the Christmas Bowl in 2024.

It began in 1949, when Rev Frank Byatt, a Victorian clergyman, placed a Bowl of Remembrance on his Christmas dinner table, inviting family to contribute a gift to support people in crisis around the world because of conflict or disaster. This simple idea grew into the annual Christmas Bowl appeal through Act for Peace (which was also founded in 1948, by the then Australian Committee for the World Council of Churches)

*This event is a joint collaboration with Act for Peace and the Victorian Council of Churches.*

Victoria Turner is a Lecturer in Theology and Mission at Ripon College Cuddesdon and associate lecturer at the University of Oxford, alongside being an associate tutor at Westminster College, Cambridge. She is co-editor of the International Journal of the Study of the Christian Church with Rev Dr Stephen Burns and book review editor for the journal, Modern Believing. Her PhD is in World Christianity from the University of Edinburgh and explored the shifting models of mission in the 20th century through researching the Iona Community (1938) and the Council for World Mission (1977—previously the 1795 London Missionary Society). Victoria has three edited books with SCM Press and has multiple book chapters and journal articles published. She won the Lombard Essay Prize from the World Communion of Reformed Churches for her essay on transformative ecumenism. Victoria is a Trustee of Churches Together in England, and is a member of the United Reformed Church after being brought up in a church formed through the five-way denominational ecumenical covenant in Cardiff, Wales. <https://www.ed.ac.uk/profile/victoria-turner>

