

## Churches of Christ dialogues

Churches of Christ in Australia (C of C) have been in dialogue with the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA). In 2006 a draft agreement was prepared as a 'Declaration of Mutual Recognition' and an agreement for the secondment of ministers between the two churches which clarified arrangements for the secondment of ministers between the two churches. The dialogue recognised growing links and a common faith and tradition.

The dialogue was stalled by Churches of Christ due to some awkwardness from dialoguing with a national church (UCA) while the polity of C of C consists of state conferences of churches, federated nationally. This presented challenges including the nature of C of C representational agreement, confusion between the nature of these draft agreements and the Covenanting Agreement, and the impact of personnel changes during the process. It is anticipated that this dialogue will be revisited in the future.

Churches of Christ in Australia are also represented (by two Australian representatives) in an International dialogue between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Roman Catholic Church. The current theme of this dialogue is 'Christ's Presence in the Church, with particular reference to the Eucharist'.

Churches of Christ in Australia also participates in ecumenical relationships through formal representation on ecumenical bodies such as National Council of Churches and equivalent State Bodies, Christian Conference of Asia and World Council of Churches.