



17TH Assembly Business Committee

20 30th Anniversary of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

That the Assembly resolve:

To give thanks to God for the work and witness of the National Council of Churches in Australia over the last thirty years.

Rationale

As a Church committed to living within the faith and unity of the one Holy, Catholic and Apostolic church and to maintaining membership of ecumenical bodies (Basis of Union, paragraph 2), it is good for us to pause and give thanks for a key milestone in one of the ecumenical bodies of which we are members.

On July 3 the National Council of Churches celebrated the 30th anniversary of their formation. The NCCA has a history stretching back to 1896 and the formation of the Australian Student Christian Movement, the Australian Council of Christian Education in 1922 and the National Missionary Council in 1926. 1946 saw the formation of the World Council of Churches - Australian Committee, which was later renamed the Australian Council of Churches. Finally in 1994, the NCCA was inaugurated.

The first members of these councils were primarily Anglican and Protestant. Over time Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran and other church communities have joined the NCCA. There are now 18 member churches of the NCCA and together we are a rich community of Australian Christian churches.

The NCCA facilitates and supports work through its Faith and Unity Commission, the Churches Refugee Taskforce, the Churches Ecological Taskforce, and Act for Peace. It seeks to encourage a collective ecumenical voice contributing to policy and societal discussion and fosters friendship, understanding and engagement amongst its member churches and other churches interested in ecumenical collaboration.

As a church committed to ecumenical spirituality and practice we give thanks for the ways the National Council of Churches fosters ecumenical relationships in Australia.

Mover: Sharon Hollis
Secunder: Sandy Boyce

