

Consultation on Ecumenical Ordo

A Project of the English Language Liturgical Consultation

For Review and Response by the Member Churches of:

- Association of Irish Liturgists
- Australian Consultation on Liturgy
- Consultation on Common Texts
- Joint Liturgical Group (New Zealand)
- Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain
- Liturgical Committee of the South Africa Church Unity Commission

Introduction

The Reims Statement¹ 'Praying with One Voice' was a celebration of 'what as been accomplished thus far' and looked towards the 'future with hope'. It was a point of reflection on our 'common work for our life in Christ as a response to Christ's prayer for unity' and was intended both for the English Language Liturgical Consultation and for its member organisations.

One of the areas the Statement encouraged for future work was:

- Continuing ecumenical reflection on core symbolic actions and gestures, the ordo and shape of liturgy.

Questions

To explore what might be possible Member Organisations are invited to respond to the following questions:

1. How actions and gestures have symbolic value in our liturgy and provide a starting point for ecumenical reflection and development? From the act of gathering to dismissal and mission - to involve a wider discussion of the whole area of symbol and meaning for Christian liturgy
2. How a Colloquium 2015 on ordo and shape might advance the other "encouragements" of the Reims Statement – resources for ecumenical worship, developing scholarship, promoting the RCL?
3. How this discussion might consider the insights of the 1995 WCC Bossey Proposal², given the many revisions of English speaking liturgical texts then and since, and in the broader ELLC context (i.e. including Catholic Church)?

It is hoped that this is a way for ELLC to contribute at this time to the ecumenical process, given that theological and ecclesial discussions are at a particular moment in their progress. It will also provide a way of looking at the ecumenical liturgical journey and offer a historical contextualisation for the structure and elements of liturgy.

Responses from Member Organisations should be submitted by **1 June 2015** to the address below.

¹ <http://www.englishtexts.org/reims.html>

² <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/faith-and-order-commission/ii-worship-and-baptism/celebrations-of-the-eucharist-in-ecumenical-contexts-a-proposal>