



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Council for Christian Unity

Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ www.cofe.anglican.org/info/ccu

21 steps

as Anglican parishes and Christians of other traditions grow together in unity and mission

A General

1. Undertake an ecumenical **AUDIT** of your locality.
 - Who and where are your partners?
 - Can you identify local needs?
 - Are you already working to meet them together or separately?
 - What does it mean to be the people of God in this place?
2. **PRAY** by name for neighbouring churches of other denominations, their local ministers, and church leaders such as District Chairman, Provincial Moderator, Area Superintendent or Bishop
3. **MAP** out the resources you all have and live generously with one another.
 - Can you train another church's Sunday School teachers, for example, while they help you with financial expertise?
4. **PARTICIPATE** in each other's normal pattern of worship or meetings. Avoid adding another layer of joint services or events. You may need to adjust the parish routine to develop your ecumenical partnership.
5. **PLAN TOGETHER** for new church or community programmes, deciding with the others if one church should take the lead, or if all should participate.
6. **LIAISE** with other churches at the first stage of any new proposal. Avoid fixing your dates and plans and then later inviting other churches to share.
7. **PROVIDE** time on the agenda of PCC or committee meetings for news of other churches. Report your news and plans to your partners.
8. **NOMINATE** particular people in the parish to maintain two-way communication with neighbouring churches.

9. Work towards common programmes of catechesis and nurture
 - for parents and godparents of children being baptized or dedicated
 - for young people and adults preparing for baptism or confirmation.
 - For children and young people, in and out of school
 Such common programmes could include some shared work, and some particular to different traditions.
10. **EXPLORE** the possibility, if your church is the only place of worship in your community, of making the Ecumenical Declaration of Welcome and Commitment (Leaflet D~2).
11. **ASK** your Diocesan Ecumenical Officer about the opportunities, under Canon B44, for entering into Covenanted Partnership or other kind of Local Ecumenical Partnership.

B Using the Ecumenical Canons

12. **AFFIRM** members of other churches in the congregation by asking them to read scripture, or lead prayer (Canon B43.1(1), (b), (d)).
13. **INVITE** lay or ordained ministers of other churches to participate in parish worship and share their own traditions (Canon B43.1(1)(a) - (f), B43.9). Plan a regular programme of pulpit exchanges.
14. **ACCEPT INVITATIONS** to take part in the worship of other churches. (Canon B43.3, ordained; B43.6, lay).
15. **WELCOME COMMUNICANTS** from other churches to receive Holy Communion, whether or not they declare themselves also to be members of the Church of England (Canon B15.A.1(b)). Announce this welcome at all

communion services. As ‘actual communicants’ they will have rights because of Church Representation Rule 54 1(b).

C Encouraging sharing in church government

16. **INFORM** members of other churches that they may also declare themselves to be members of the Church of England and be entered on the Church Electoral Roll. (Church Representation Rule 1.(2) (a) (b) (c))
17. **MAKE SURE** that those on the Electoral Roll, who are ‘actual communicants’ and also members of another Church, know that they may be elected
 - to the PCC or the Deanery Synod. Church Representation Rule 10(1)(a)(b)
 - to the Diocesan Synod. Rule 31(1)(3)
 - to the General Synod. Rule 37(1)(a)(b)(c))
18. **ADVISE** members of the Deanery Synod who are also members of another Church that they are electors for both the Diocesan Synod; (Church Representation Rule 31(1);) and the General Synod; (Rule 35(1)(3)).
19. **INFORM** those on the Electoral Roll who are ‘actual communicants,’ and also members of another church, that they may be appointed Churchwarden by the Annual Meeting of Parishioners. (Churchwardens (Appointment and Resignation) Measure 1964).

D Think creatively ...

20. **REMEMBER** that your Diocesan Ecumenical Officer is there to help you think creatively about the way forward; to interpret the Church of England’s Rules and Canons; and to advise on links with your County or Metropolitan Intermediate Body.

E ...and enjoy it!

21. **EAT** together! The best ecumenists are friends.