

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OECUMENICAL OFFICER

Our primary engagement at the diocesan level in oecumenism is the organization of and participation in the Week of Prayer of Christian Unity which takes place 18-25 January. We meet for prayer with Roman Catholics, Lutherans and members of the United Church.

In 2019 we gathered at St Peter's Roman Catholic Church in Nanaimo using the material prepared by churches from Indonesia. The theme "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:18-20) called us to move from shared prayer to shared action.

In 2020 we gathered at Trinity Ecumenical Centre in Nanaimo with the material prepared by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (Christians Together in Malta). The theme "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2) called us to show greater generosity to those in need.

With Covid restrictions our 2021 celebration was hosted by Christ Church Cathedral using the material prepared by the <u>Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland</u>, a group of religious sisters from different church traditions brought together by a common vocation of prayer, community life and hospitality and by their commitment to Christian unity. The theme was *Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit* (John 15:5-9) – and called us to pray and to work for reconciliation and unity in the church, with our human family, and with all of creation.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev Canon Dr John Alfred Steele Oecumenical Officer

