



# Annual Report 2014 Summary

CTE's 2014 report to the Charity Commission will be published later this year. In the meantime we are able to offer a summary of our work.

## A meeting place and a living conversation

The re-alignment of Churches Together in England following the 2013 re-structuring has focused the repositioning of CTE to deliver the three strategic aims of deepening relationships, action for mission and reflecting theologically.

David Cornick, CTE General Secretary has recently written: *CTE is a meeting place, not a bureaucratic conundrum. It is a living conversation, not yesterday's tired structures and turgid agendas. In the breadth of ecumenical engagement we are unique in Europe, far more Global Christian Forum than World Council of Churches. CTE is handling transition – between black and white, charismatic and historic, new and old manifestations of the Spirit – whilst still attending to the 'classic' ecumenical agenda..*

## New and cutting-edge

The four full-time executive staff are focused on the new and the cutting edge – training and resourcing, mission and evangelism, Pentecostal and multi-cultural affairs. There is a part-time inter-faith post, and we have one full time administrator. Overheads are as light as is possible (rented office accommodation – two desks – in London and a mobile staff team on home-working contracts).

## Routine work

In the normal course of work we provide:

- A meeting point between Christian cultures of all kinds from Orthodox to Pentecostal.
- A point of doing business between black and white churches which is the result of trust and hard work built up over two decades.
- A rigorous membership procedure which guarantees the Trinitarian orthodoxy and good ecumenical credentials of Member Churches.

- A well-grounded network of county level ecumenical bodies, all of which are handling the transition from the 'old' ecumenism to the 'new' who share resources through our networking and processes.
- Sophisticated partnership in training in intercultural, interreligious and inter-church relations from a highly qualified and deeply experienced staff.
- Consultancy and advice on all matters ecumenical.
- An organisation which is at the forefront of ecumenical change, not the crippled residue of yesterday's dreams.
- Publishing CT-eNews monthly to well over a thousand subscribers.

## Responding to our strategic aims

Over the past two years we have focused on our three strategic aims of deepening relationships, action for mission and reflecting theologically in the following ways.

## Relationships

- We have supported and developed the group of black and white Pentecostal leaders around the Pentecostal President and been instrumental in facilitating meetings between black church leaders and senior staff of both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church.
- In 2014 we invested significantly in revamping our online Directory of Black and Multicultural Churches:  
[www.blackandmulticulturalchurches.co.uk](http://www.blackandmulticulturalchurches.co.uk)
- We organised the second national inter-faith advisors conference at Swanwick which took place in February 2015.

- We facilitate regular meetings of Co-ordinating Groups for denominational staff and representatives in Evangelism, Ministerial Training, Theology and Unity, New Housing, Communications etc.
- A huge achievement in 2014 was the creation of a new website, with rolling Twitter feed, focusing on church news and ecumenical resources. The website receives seven to eight thousand hits a day.

## Action for Mission

- We worked with a group of County Ecumenical Officers to organise the annual national Consultation for County and National Ecumenical Officers. In 2014, it focused on new ecumenical movements with a speaker from the *We Gather* network of the Evangelical Alliance.
- We organised a consultation for resource people (Archdeacons, Mission Enablers etc) in New Housing Areas, a key area for ecumenical co-operation.
- As part of our work with New Housing Areas, we host an annual meeting for pioneer ministers in New Housing Areas.
- We ran a symposium on the over-representation of black people in British prisons.
- We collated material and hosted web space for the resources of [Education Sunday](#).
- A regular task is providing [EvangelismUK](#) news which is circulated two or three times a week to over two hundred evangelism specialists.
- We worked with the National Ecumenical Officers to produce a [significant consultation paper](#) on the nature of local ecumenism which will hopefully deal with the perceived problem of LEPs and open up a new and broader agenda of local co-operation. This was due to be published in 2015.

If you would like a copy of the full report, with accounts, when it is ready, please send an e-mail with the subject line: **2014 annual report please** to:

[lorraine.shannon@cte.org.uk](mailto:lorraine.shannon@cte.org.uk)

## Theological reflection

- All staff produce conference papers, and write for publication. In particular, in 2014 we produced Celia Blackden's *A-Z of interfaith relations*, while Jim Currin and Colin Marsh together wrote *Mission-Shaped Unity* (Grove).
- We partner with the Church Army Sheffield Centre's SCOLER resource to make MAs and PhDs on mission available on line.
- We partner with academic institutions – with the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham on receptive ecumenism; providing informal advice/formal supervision of research students in ecumenism etc at Roehampton and Anglia Ruskin (through Joe Aldred at Roehampton and David Cornick at Cambridge).
- We worked with the National Ecumenical Officers to provide a major training conference for those engaged in ecumenism. This took place at High Leigh in the autumn of 2014 and was extremely successful with over a hundred participants.
- The Churches' Theology and Unity Group considered the following in 2014:
  - The Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium*;
  - The Lutheran-Catholic document *From Conflict to Communion*;
  - The World Council of Churches' Busan statement on Christian Unity;
  - The 50th anniversary of *Unitatis Redintegratio*, the Second Vatican Council's document on ecumenism;
  - Anglican-Methodist conversations.

One meeting was devoted to Quaker, Pentecostal and Orthodox understandings of the Spirit.

- We ran a seminar on black and Pentecostal understandings of inter faith relationships.
- A study session of the [Enabling Group](#), our Members' meeting, was devoted to *Unitatis Redintegratio*. CTE staff contributed to and participated in [seminars and events](#) to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.