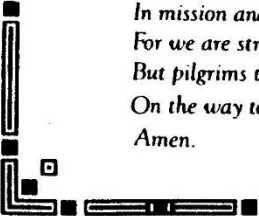


*Lord God, we thank you
For calling us into the company
Of those who trust in Christ
And seek to obey his will.
May your Spirit guide and strengthen us
In mission and service to your world;
For we are strangers no longer
But pilgrims together
On the way to your Kingdom.
Amen.*

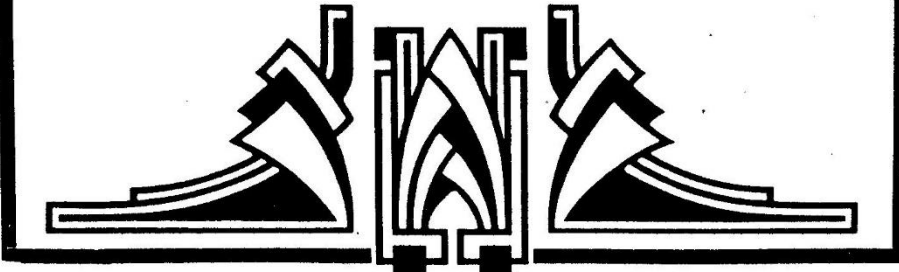


A similar covenant will be signed by
the Barking Area church Leaders in Barking Parish Church
on Tuesday, 23 January 1990



A PERSONAL COVENANT OF UNITY

to be signed by
Essex Church Leaders
in Chelmsford Cathedral
on Thursday, 18 January 1990



What is it all about?

After many years of growing together leaders and representatives of the main churches in Essex intend to pledge themselves to pray, to work, and to act together so far as possible. This covenant does not pledge the churches in any official way but reflects the developing relationship among the signatories and the way they intend, by God's grace, to develop their pattern of leadership. The goals of the covenant will be subject to annual review.

Signatories of the covenant will include:

The Rt Revd Thomas McMahon [Bishop of Brentwood, Roman Catholic]

The Rt Revd John Waine [Bishop of Chelmsford, Church of England]

The Revd Brian Galliers [Chairman, London North-East District of the Methodist Church]

The Revd David Harper [General Superintendent, Eastern Area of the Baptist Union]

The Revd Wilfred Gathercole [Moderator, Eastern Province of the United Reformed Church]

Doris Smith [representing the Society of Friends - which has no officially appointed leader]

[Free Church Leaders fulfil a role within their churches which is, in some measure, comparable with that of diocesan bishops in the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, though it is more of an advisory nature.]

A PERSONAL COVENANT

We as servants of the Church in Essex

acknowledge with joy our membership of one another in Christ and in his ministry which we share;

We acknowledge with sorrow all that hinders the full expression of our union in Jesus Christ.

Therefore we covenant to come together

in prayer and study

in prophetic and public witness

in planning:

- for mission through evangelism and social action
- for Christian nurture
- for the building up of local Churches and the provision of ministry.

Together we seek the help of the Holy Spirit in these things so that where we live and work the loving purposes of God for his creation may be served.