

Baptist Dialogue with Other Christians: So What?

A CBFNC General Assembly Workshop presented by

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- **A brief history of ecumenical dialogue**
- **Types of ecumenical dialogue**
 - Multilateral dialogue
 - World Council of Churches Commission on Faith and Order
 - *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry* (1982): www.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/documents/p2/FO1982_111_en.pdf
 - *One Baptism: Towards Mutual Recognition. A Study Text* (2011): [www.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/documents/p2/2011/One Baptism Corrected for reprint.pdf](http://www.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/documents/p2/2011/One_Baptism_Corrected_for_reprint.pdf)
 - Bilateral dialogue
 - International conversations between world communions
 - BWA / World Alliance of Reformed Churches, 1974-1977
 - BWA / Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity
 - 1984-1988 (www.prounione.urbe.it/dia-int/b-rc/doc/e_b-rc_report1988.html)
 - 2006-2010
 - BWA / Lutheran World Federation, 1986-1989
 - BWA / Mennonite World Conference, 1989-1992
 - BWA / Anglican Consultative Council, 2000-2005 (www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/ecumenical/dialogues/baptist/docs/pdf/conversations_around_the_world.pdf)
 - BWA / Pentecostal representatives, 2012-2014
 - BWA / Orthodox pre-conversations, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2011
 - National and regional conversations
 - American Baptist Churches / United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
 - Southern Baptist Convention / United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
 - French Baptists and Catholics
 - Italian Baptists and Catholics (2009, “A Common Document for a Pastoral Approach to Marriages between Catholics and Baptists in Italy”)
 - North American Baptist Fellowship and Lutheran Council in the United States of America (1981)
 - Baptist Union of Norway / (Lutheran) Church of Norway
 - Bavarian Baptists and Lutherans
 - Baptist Union of Great Britain / Church of England

(continued on reverse)

- Mutual recognition / communion discussions (both bilateral and multilateral)
 - American Baptist Churches / Church of the Brethren (“Resolution Regarding Mutual Recognition of Membership and Ministry of American Baptist Churches in the USA and the Church of the Brethren,” 1976)
 - European Baptist Federation and Community of Protestant Churches in Europe
 - Agreement on Mutual Recognition between the Waldensian, Methodist and Baptist Churches in Italy (1990)
- Church union discussions (both bilateral and multilateral)
 - Bedfordshire Union of Baptist and Congregational Churches (1797)
 - Church of Christ in China (1920s union of non-episcopal churches)
 - United Church of North India (1970)
 - American Baptist Churches / Disciples of Christ (1940s; no union, but jointly published hymnals)
 - Baptist Union of Great Britain / Churches of Christ (Disciples) (1941-52; no union)
 - Merger of the Baptist Union of Sweden with the Mission Covenant Church and the United Methodist Church in Sweden (2012)
- **But so what? Implications for local Baptist churches**
 - Continuing pastoral ecumenical formation
 - Congregational Christian education
 - Inter-congregational studies
 - Basis for acting locally on the “Lund Principle” (3rd World Conference on Faith and Order, Lund, Sweden, 1952), according to which churches should “act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately.”
- **Resources**
 - *Growth in Agreement: Reports and Agreed Statements of Ecumenical Conversations on a World Level*, ed. Harding Meyer and Lukas Vischer (New York: Paulist Press; Geneva: World Council of Churches, 1984)
 - *Growth in Agreement II: Reports and Agreed Statements of Ecumenical Conversations on a World Level, 1982-1998*, ed. Jeffrey Gros, Harding Meyer, and William G. Rusch (Geneva: WCC Publications; Grand Rapids MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2000)
 - *Growth in Agreement III: International Dialogue Texts and Agreed Statements, 1998-2005*, ed. Jeffrey Gros, Thomas F. Best, and Lorelei F. Fuchs (Geneva: WCC Publications; Grand Rapids MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2007).
 - Neville Callam, “Baptists and Church Unity,” *The Ecumenical Review* 61, no. 3 (October 2009): 304-14 (online: www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2065/is_3_61/ai_n39371702/)
 - Ken Manley, “Inter-Church Relations,” *American Baptist Quarterly* 24, no. 2 (June 2005): 136-56.
 - Steven R. Harmon, *Ecumenism Means You, Too: Ordinary Christians and the Quest for Christian Unity* (Eugene, Ore.: Cascade Books, 2010)
 - Steven R. Harmon, *The Baptist Vision and the Ecumenical Future: Radically Biblical, Radically Catholic, Relentlessly Pilgrim* (Waco, Tex.: Baylor University Press, forthcoming)