



Ecumenical Shared Ministries: Going Deeper

ECUMENICAL SHARED MINISTRIES TOOLKIT
PRAIRIE CENTRE FOR ECUMENISM



Some Key Topics in Shared Ministries

- **Worship**
- **Working with the Judicatories** (regional church leaders)
- **Conflict Triggers**

The Worshiping Life

- "A liturgy of Christians is nothing less than the way a redeemed world is, so to speak, done."

– Aidan Kavanagh





Finding our Common Heritage

- 20th Century historians began to highlight patterns of worship in ancient Christian texts:
 - Gathering
 - Hearing the Word
 - Giving Thanks at the Table
 - Sending
- Churches began to shape their worship using this pattern

How Do Ecumenical Congregations Worship?

- **ROTATIONAL WORSHIP:** Participating denominations' liturgies in a rotating pattern
- **"BLENDED" WORSHIP:** Combined or ecumenical liturgy prepared for the shared congregation
- Combination of "rotational" and "blended"



Preparing to worship together ...

- Ask of each denomination:
 - WHO decides the shape/content of worship?
 - What MUST be in all worship services?
 - What must be present sometimes?
 - What do you love most about your church's worship life?
 - What are the "sticking points" in your church's worship?
 - What pattern (rotating/blended) do you prefer?

Special Liturgies

- Confirmation
- Denominational celebrations
- *"We do not do these things in complete unity, but we do them in solidarity."*



Judicatory Challenges

Uneven denominational support

Mutual Recognition of Ministries

Geographical boundaries

Overworked Judicatories ... and everyone else!

Some Conflict Triggers





Grace, Discipleship, and Daring to Share

- Every task in ESMs involves an “other”
- It means choosing the “other” over the urge to compete with or ignore one another
- **Grace itself is a dare:** God in Jesus dares to love the world without reserve
- Is sharing the journey a way to accept the dare to live that grace?