

# INJUNE COVENANT

We, the members and ministers of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Uniting Churches, confessing one faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and believing that the Unity of the Church is the will of God, desire to further this unity by venturing together into a **Local Covenant** between our communities in Injune. This group will be known as Injune Churches Together.

We recognise one another as Communities of Faith, Hope and Love, committed to following Christ and pledged to serve God's kingdom, grounded in our mutual respect for one another's **baptism**.

We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ according to the Scriptures, and acknowledge our calling to serve His **mission** in the world, seeking to explore with one another issues and strategies for mission, so that the possibility of common mission is recognised as a priority.

We also affirm our intention to nurture and nourish the understanding, spiritual growth and practice of **ecumenism** of each of our churches and in line with the prayer of Jesus that "...they may be one. As you Father are in me and I am in you, may they also be one in us, **so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**" (John 17:21)

We therefore make a commitment to each other as partners on the ecumenical journey to engage in an ongoing process of growing together (covenanting), not knowing what visible form unity, which is God's will and gift, may take, but believing that, by taking the steps to which we now commit ourselves, we shall be led to grow ever more deeply into that unity.

We rejoice in all we have in common and give thanks for the richness of our diversity, though recognising that our disunity is a hindrance to the Church's mission. And we pledge ourselves to support each other in growing appreciation of and respect for our own **tradition**, and each other's, for the enrichment of the life of the wider Church.

We also pledge to intercede and care for one another, to pray regularly both in our private prayer and public worship for all member Churches as well as non-members Churches.

As we undertake the sharing of physical resources, we will also encourage and support consultation between the appropriate governing bodies of our churches **before new major developments** are undertaken.

As we undertake this overall covenant, we undertake to be aware of **existing agreements** between member churches such as the agreement between the Anglican and Roman Catholic Dioceses of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2001 and similar agreements; and also be sensitive to the **guiding principles** of each member denomination such as The Directory for the Application of the Principles and

Norms of Ecumenism issued by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1993.

We undertake to have a review of this Covenant on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009

The Management Committee will be encouraged on behalf of the whole group:

- To organise joint acts of worship annually which include a Renewal of Covenant
- To establish a roster for services for each of the covenanting churches
- To facilitate visiting preachers from covenanting Churches to present the homily/sermon/message where this is possible, while preserving the integrity of the normal worship service in each Church/denomination
- To consider together matters of common interest from time to time
- These could include “community” as well as “Church” matters
- To care for inter-faith couples, especially regarding marriages and baptisms
- To develop a policy for conducting non-eucharistic funeral services for members of each other’s churches when their representative priest/minister is away, and only when doing so does not contravene the wishes of the bereaved family or the practice and policy of the Church concerned.

Signed 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Bishop Rob Nolan  
Anglican Diocese of  
Brisbane,  
Western Region

Bishop William Morris  
Roman Catholic Diocese  
of Toowoomba

Ms Sharon Kirk  
Presbytery Minister  
Uniting Church in  
Australia (Qld Synod)

And other members of the communities involved.