

**Kinnamon, M & Cope B E 1997 — The ecumenical movement. An anthology of key texts and voices**

WCC Publication: Geneve; Co-Published with Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans. Paperback, 548 pages. Price US\$ 29.90

**Reviewer: Dr Gaffie van Wyk**

It is impossible to review critically each of the many 'texts and voices' collected in this book in this short space, but perhaps a few words about the idea, approach and intentions of the editors are necessary. The book is primarily designed as a resource for courses in ecumenism in theological seminaries and faculties of religion, but it can also serve as a useful reference guide for those engaged in various forms of ecumenical activity.

More than 150 documents from various backgrounds and situations are collected in this book. The documents are divided thematically into ten chapters (with an appendix), each beginning with an introduction on how the issues and themes treated in that particular chapter have developed in the history of ecumenical thought. The ten chapters in the book are:

- \* The ecumenical vision: Towards an integration of unity, service, mission and renewal.
- \* The unity of the church: Towards a common definition.
- \* Agreement on issues that divide the church: Towards fuller communion in Christ.
- \* Issues that divide both church and world: Towards a renewed and reconciled community.
- \* Ecumenical social thought: Towards solidarity in humanity's struggles.
- \* Mission and evangelism: Towards a common witness throughout the earth.
- \* Dialogue with people of other faiths: Towards better understanding of our neighbours.
- \* Marks of ecumenical community: Towards a fellowship of sharing, learning and participation.
- \* Councils of churches: Towards an understanding of their nature and purpose.
- \* Prayer and worship: Towards conversion of the heart.
- \* (Appendix) Regional and local voices.

The book also has a general introduction, a chronological listing of the various documents, a selected bibliography, an index of Scripture references and an index of subjects.

The editors of the book distinguish four priorities in the ecumenical movement: service, fellowship, witness and renewal. They are convinced that most theological libraries include anthologies dealing with one or more of the mentioned priorities, but that, until now, no anthology has attempted to bring together key statements from the ecumenical movement as a whole. The priorities mentioned here are often seen by people as being competitive rather than complementary. The conviction of the editors, however, is that there exists an ecumenical vision which powerfully integrates unity, service, mission and renewal. This conviction is the unifying element of the book.

'What should be included in a course on ecumenism? What should one have read before starting work with a council or other ecumenical ministry? This book is intended as an answer to such ques-

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tions'. The most important shorter ecumenical texts are brought together in this publication. This book will be a useful tool for theological faculties as well as ecumenical councils of churches. This is the kind of book one would expect to find in any ecumenical library and considering its low price, it is also great value for money — even for the individual.

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