

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS AND THEOLOGICAL OPINIONS (DSTO)

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G. INTER-DENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION – CHURCH MOVEMENTS

The use of Lutheran churches by other church groups

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Sometimes local circumstances require a Lutheran congregation to consider making its church and furnishings available to another denomination or church group. We offer the following guidelines for appropriate action:

1. Lutheran churches and worship centres may readily be made available for use by church bodies with which the Lutheran Church of Australia has developed close relationships (by means of dialog, for example).
2. In the case of other denominations and church groups, the Lutheran congregation should at least ensure that the group concerned worships the Triune God, as confessed in the ecumenical creeds.
3. Since the sanctuary of a Lutheran church is dedicated for word and sacrament ministry, it is not appropriate that the sanctuary is made available for use by a non-sacramental church.
4. The group which uses the church building should undertake not to make alterations to the building's appointments. It should also undertake not to proselytise among members of the local Lutheran congregation.
5. In all cases, care should be taken that the harmony of the Lutheran congregation is not disrupted by any decisions that are made concerning the use of the church building or the sanctuary.