

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS AND THEOLOGICAL OPINIONS (DSTO)

VOLUME 1 C. CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Altar and pulpit fellowship: special cases

Recommended by the Joint Union Committee of the amalgamating Churches. Resolution adopted by the Constituting Convention, 1966.

The Convention resolved:

THAT, although according to paragraph 12 of the Document of Union we cannot automatically invite members of Lutheran Churches to our altars and pulpits until altar and pulpit fellowship has been established with their Churches, we nevertheless believe that in special cases the question of occupying pulpits should be considered on the merits of each case, and shall require the approval of the Officials of the Church, and that the question of communing should be determined pastorally according to the past practice of the two amalgamating Churches.

NOTE: The document *Church Fellowship and the LCA*, which was adopted at 2003 General Synod combines and builds on three doctrinal statements previously adopted by the LCA: 'Altar and Pulpit Fellowship' (1966), Fellowship and Declared Fellowships' (1968 & 1972), and 'Relationships with Overseas Churches' (1968). Part one traces developments in church relations between the years 1966 and 2000; part two summarises theological principles that govern Church fellowship; part three describes how relations with Lutheran and non-Lutheran churches can be maintained and new relations developed; part four addresses practical implications for the future.