

Criteria for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Involvement

The below template can be used to assess if a potential ecumenical or inter-religious alliance is feasible or desirous or not. This can be used at the denomination and/or local church level

Denominational	Local Church
1) Would it support MCC's overall statements of vision, direction and strategic priorities?	1) Would this relationship be consistent with the local congregation's overall strategy, goals and ministry priorities?
2) Would this be a healthy two way relationship where MCC can contribute to this body and where it would augment and support MCC's current ministries?	2) Would this be a healthy two way relationship where the local church can contribute to this body and where the relationship will contribute to the life and ministry of the local church?
3) Would we as a denomination have the required human and financial resources to support the relationship? What would the body require of MCC in terms of committee support, financial support, attendance and participation at events etc?	3) Does the local church have the required human and financial resources to support this relationship? What is required of the local church in terms of any committee or financial support and/or participation at events?
4) Is this body's theology and beliefs consistent with MCC's? Would they be welcoming of us? Could this be an open and affirming relationship? We may not want to push a relationship with a group which would cause an adversarial process.	4) Is this body's theology and beliefs consistent with our local church and would they welcome us? Are they open and affirming? A local church may not want to use it's energy pushing involvement with a group which could cause an adversarial relationship,
5) Is there a major conference with this group occurring where we can contribute and participate? Can this be a tremendous learning and teaching opportunity for MCC?	5) Is there a local conference or event occurring where the local church can contribute and participate? Can this be a learning and teaching opportunity for the local church?
6) Is there some key social justice work occurring where involvement can help – both from our denominational work and with the overall issue on a global level? Is there a crisis on the world stage where working collaboratively we can have a much larger impact?	6) Is there a key social justice issue in the community that the local church cares about where local church involvement can address this issue? Can it both assist the church's ministry with this issue as well as contribute within the community? Is there a crisis in the local community where working collaboratively we can have a much larger impact?
7) Do you have the support or approval from the appropriate Elders or Elders and / or the Moderator and the Ecumenical and Inter-religious team?	7) Do you have the support or approval (if required) from your church pastor, board of directors, ministry board or other appropriate church leadership?