

Doctrine Core Group

Report

1. Interfaith Relations

- 1.1 In 2002, the General Assembly asked the then Doctrine Reference Group to give guidelines and resources to the Church on appropriate ways for Christians to relate to and engage with people of other faiths. The context of that request was the particular challenge posed in relation to Muslim-Christian relations.
- 1.1 This request was passed to the newly formed Doctrine Core Group. A paper entitled "Guidelines and resources for Christians as they engage with people of other faiths, with special reference to Muslim-Christian relations" has been posted on the Presbyterian website.

2. Looking to the Future

- 2.1 In 2007, the Doctrine Core Group is planning to focus primarily on two issues.
- 2.2 The first issue is that of ordination. The distinction that our Church now makes between local ordained ministry and national ordained ministry, and the power that Presbyteries now have to authorise elders to administer the sacraments, raises the question of how we should understand the nature, purpose and effect of ordination. The Doctrine Core Group hopes to present a paper that will bring some clarity to this issue.
- 2.3 The second issue is that of the missiological challenges confronting the Presbyterian Church in the 21st century. We plan to hold a colloquium on this issue in 2007, from which we hope a number of papers will be made available to the Church.
- 2.4 The 2004 Assembly asked the Council of Assembly to consider recommending to Assembly an additional clause to the Church's mission statement. Council has asked for the advice of the Core Group and this will be further considered after the colloquium.

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