



Douglas Pratt

The Church and other Faiths

The World Council of Churches,
the Vatican, and Interreligious Dialogue



Peter Lang

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	7
Abbreviations	9
Chapter One: Introduction	17
Relationship Quest: The Church and Other Faiths	19
Investigative Quest: Guiding Questions	20
Theological Quest: Dialogue and Interreligious Engagement	22
Research Quest: From Investigation to Reflection	24
A Note on Terminology	27
Part One. The World Council of Churches	29
Chapter Two: Interreligious Dialogue to 1960	31
Nineteenth Century Antecedents	31
Early Twentieth Century Developments	33
Tambaram 1938	36
Mid-century Consolidation: the World Council of Churches	38
The Jewish Mission: Precursor to Dialogue	41
‘The Word of God and the Living Faiths of Men’	46
Chapter Three: Early Dialogue Developments	49
1961: The New Delhi Assembly	49
Council for World Mission and Evangelism	51
1967: The Kandy Consultation	53

1968: The Uppsala Assembly	56
Beyond Uppsala: Emerging Breadth and Depth	57
 Chapter Four: Dialogue during the Seventies	 63
1971: Structural Change – the Dialogue Sub-unit	63
Dialogue Understanding and Practice: the Early Seventies	65
Difficulties with ‘Ideologies’	69
1975: The Nairobi Assembly	70
Post-Nairobi Developments	73
1977: The Chiang Mai Consultation	76
Guidelines to Dialogue	79
Concluding an Era	82
 Chapter Five: The Dialogue Sub-Unit	 85
Early Eighties: Diversification and Stock-taking	85
1983: The Vancouver Assembly	88
Developments in Dialogue Understanding and Practice	91
Emerging Issues in Dialogue	96
Dialogue Study: ‘My Neighbour’s Faith – And Mine’	101
CWME 1988: Tambaram Revisited	105
1989: San Antonio World Mission Conference	107
 Chapter Six: Inter-Religious Relations and Dialogue	 113
Pre-Canberra Assembly: Reviews and Preparations	113
1990: Theology of Religions Conference	115
1991: The Canberra Assembly	120
Post-Canberra: The Office on Inter-Religious Relations	124
Difficult days for Dialogue	130

Chapter Seven: Dialogical Issues and Relations	137
Religious Plurality and Theology of Religions	137
Jewish-Christian Relations	142
Christian-Muslim Relations	151
1998: The Jubilee Assembly, Harare	162
Close of an Age	165
 Part Two. The Roman Catholic Church	 167
 Chap Eight: Vatican II and Interreligious Dialogue	 169
Initiatives for Dialogue	169
Relations with Judaism	171
Principal Documents of Vatican II	174
Subsidiary Documents of Vatican II	179
Relations with Islam	180
 Chapter Nine: Early Developments – Dialogue post Vatican II	 183
Encyclical Support: Solemn Magisterium of Paul VI	183
Consolidation and Limitation	187
The Secretariat for Non-Christians	190
Early Perspectives on Dialogue	199
 Chapter Ten: The Secretariat for Non-Christians	 205
Interregnum and Succession: John Paul I & II	205
Encyclical Support: Magisterium of John Paul II	206
Developments within the Secretariat	211
Day of Prayer for Peace: Assisi, 1986	214
Developments in Dialogue Understanding	216

Chapter Eleven: The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue ..	231
A New Era: From Secretariat to Pontifical Council	231
Papal Perspectives: John Paul II on Dialogue	235
The Role and Work of the PCID	249
Day of Prayer for Peace: Assisi, 1993	252
 Chapter Twelve: Point and Counterpoint – Select Documents	255
Attitude of the Church toward Followers of Other Religions	255
Dialogue and Proclamation	258
<i>Interreligious Dialogue</i>	261
<i>Proclaiming Jesus Christ</i>	264
<i>Interreligious Dialogue and Proclamation</i>	265
Catechism of the Catholic Church	268
<i>Dominus Iesus</i> : a recall to fundamentals	271
 Chapter Thirteen: Dialogical Scope	273
Relations with Jews	273
Dialogue with Islam	274
Extending Dialogue: Into the Wider World	282
<i>Dialogue in the Asian context</i>	283
<i>Dialogue in Africa</i>	287
Emerging Theology of Dialogue	291
 Part Three. Interfaith Engagement: Theology and Future of Dialogue	297
 Chapter Fourteen: Ecumenical Engagement – Theology for Dialogue	299
Opening up to Dialogue: Résumé of Engagement	299

The Vatican and the WCC: Ecumenical Cooperation	304
Rationales for Dialogue: Ecumenical Complementarity	309
<i>Dialogical Rationales of the WCC</i>	309
<i>Dialogical Rationales of the Vatican</i>	313
Toward an Ecumenical Theology <i>for</i> Dialogue	320
<i>The Contextual Factor</i>	320
<i>The Communal Component</i>	321
<i>The Theocentric Element</i>	321
<i>The Responsive Feature</i>	323
<i>The Salvific Dimension</i>	324
 Chap Fifteen: Theology <i>in</i> and <i>after</i> Dialogue	325
 Models of Dialogue: Ecumenical Compatibility	325
<i>WCC Models</i>	326
<i>Vatican Models</i>	328
Transcendental Dialogue: Toward Deeper Engagement	332
Recurring Issues: Theology <i>in</i> Dialogue	337
Theology and Dialogue: Shifts in Understanding	339
Reflection and Rethinking: Theology <i>after</i> Dialogue	344
Conclusion	350
 Chap Sixteen: Postscript – Beyond a Conclusion	351
 Ecumenical Activities and Issues	351
2006: The Porto Alegre Assembly of the WCC	354
Benedict XVI: a new direction?	356
The Future of Interfaith Engagement	358
Endings and Beginnings	362
 Bibliography	365
 Index	377