

## Christian Baptism

Jesus Christ is our salvation. Through him sinners have been reconciled to God (Romans 5.10), in order that we might be his sons and daughters. In enabling us to share in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection Baptism means new birth in Jesus Christ. Whoever receives this sacrament and affirms through faith God's love becomes one with Christ and at the same time with his people at all times and in all places. As a sign of the unity of all Christians baptism binds us together with Jesus Christ who is the foundation of this unity. Despite differences in the understanding of what it is to be the Church, there exists between us a basic common understanding of Baptism.

Accordingly we recognize every baptism which has been carried out according to the commission of Jesus in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit through the symbolic act of immersion in water or through the pouring of water over the person to be baptized. We rejoice over every person who is baptized. This mutual recognition of baptism is an expression of the bond of unity which is based on Jesus Christ (Eph 4.4-6). A baptism which has been performed in this way is unique and unrepeatable.

We confess together with the Lima Document: Our one baptism in Jesus Christ is "a call to the churches to overcome their divisions and visibly manifest their fellowship" (Convergence document of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, Baptism, 6).

29<sup>th</sup> April 2007