

Themes 1968-2007

In 1968, materials officially prepared jointly by the WCC Faith and Order Commission and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity began to be used.

- 1968 To the praise of his glory (Ephesians 1: 14)
- 1969 Called to freedom (Galatians 5: 13)
- 1970 We are fellow workers for God (1 Corinthians 3: 9)
- 1971 ...and the communion of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13: 13)
- 1972 I give you a new commandment (John 13: 34)
- 1973 Lord, teach us to pray (Luke 11: 1)
- 1974 That every tongue confess: Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2: 1-13)
- 1975 God's purpose: all things in Christ (Ephesians 1: 3-10)
- 1976 We shall be like him (1 John 3: 2) or, Called to become what we are
- 1977 Enduring together in hope (Romans 5: 1-5)
- 1978 No longer strangers (Ephesians 2: 13-22)
- 1979 Serve one another to the glory of God (1 Peter 4: 7-11)
- 1980 Your kingdom come (Matthew 6: 10)
- 1981 One Spirit - many gifts - one body (1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13)
- 1982 May all find their home in you, O Lord (Psalm 84)
- 1983 Jesus Christ - the Life of the World (1 John 1: 1-4)
- 1984 Called to be one through the cross of our Lord (1 Cor 2: 2 and Col 1: 20)
- 1985 From death to life with Christ (Ephesians 2: 4-7)
- 1986 You shall be my witnesses (Acts 1: 6-8)
- 1987 United in Christ - a New Creation (2 Corinthians 5: 17-6: 4a)
- 1988 The love of God casts out fear (1 John 4: 18)
- 1989 Building community: one body in Christ (Romans 12: 5-6a)

- 1990 That they all may be one...That the world may believe (John 17)
- 1991 Praise the Lord, all you nations! (Psalm 117 and Romans 15: 5-13)
- 1992 I am with you always ... Go, therefore (Matthew 28: 16-20)
- 1993 Bearing the fruit of the Spirit for Christian unity (Galatians 5: 22-23)
- 1994 The household of God: called to be one in heart and mind (Acts 4: 23-37)
- 1995 Koinonia: communion in God and with one another (John 15: 1-17)
- 1996 Behold, I stand at the door and knock (Revelation 3: 14-22)
- 1997 We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5: 20)
- 1998 The Spirit helps us in our weakness (Romans 8: 14-27)
- 1999 He will dwell with them as their God, they will be his peoples
(Revelation 21: 1-7)
- 2000 Blessed be God who has blessed us in Christ (Ephesians 1: 3-14)
- 2001 I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life (John 14: 1-6)
- 2002 For with you is the fountain of life (Psalm 36: 5-9)
- 2003 We have this treasure in clay jars (2 Corinthians 4: 4-18)
- 2004 My peace I give to you (John 14: 23-31; John 14: 27)
- 2005 Christ, the one foundation of the church (1 Corinthians 3 1-23)
- 2006 Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them (Mt 18:
18-20)
- 2007 He even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak (Mk 7: 31-37)

Key dates in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- ca. 1740 In Scotland arose a Pentecostal movement, with North American links, whose revivalist message included prayers for and with all churches.
- 1820 The Rev. James Haldane Stewart publishes “Hints for the General Union of Christians for the Outpouring of the Spirit”.
- 1840 The Rev. Ignatius Spencer, a convert to Roman Catholicism, suggests a “Union of Prayer for Unity”.
- 1867 The First Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops emphasises prayer for unity in the Preamble to its Resolutions.
- 1894 Pope Leo XIII encourages the practice of a Prayer Octave for Unity in the context of Pentecost.
- 1908 The observance of the “Church Unity Octave” initiated by the Rev. Paul Wattson.
- 1919 Robert H. Gardiner of the Commission of the American Episcopal Church on the World Conference on Faith and Order printed Suggestions for the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity asking “Christians of every name in every land” to fill these eight days “with ardent prayer” for the “fulfilment of our Lord’s prayer for their visible unity”.
- 1921 Continuation Committee of the World Conference on Faith and Order made “Suggestions for an Octave of Prayer for Unity during the eight days ending with Pentecost (Whitsunday), namely May 8-15”.
- 1926 The Faith and Order movement begins publishing “Suggestions for an Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity”.
- 1935 Abbé Paul Couturier of France advocates the “Universal Week of Prayer for Christian Unity” on the inclusive basis of prayer for “the unity Christ wills by the means he wills”.
- 1958 Unité Chrétienne (Lyon, France) and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches begin co-operative preparation of materials for the Week of Prayer.
- 1964 In Jerusalem, Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras I prayed together Jesus’ prayer “that they all may be one” (John 17).
- 1964 The “Decree on Ecumenism” of Vatican II emphasises that prayer is the soul of the ecumenical movement and encourages observance of the Week of Prayer.

- 1965 The Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity [now known as the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity] begin official joint preparation of the Week of Prayer material.
- 1968 First official use of Week of Prayer material prepared jointly by Faith and Order and the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity [now known as the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity].
- 1975 First use of Week of Prayer material based on a draft text prepared by a local ecumenical group. An Australian group was the first to take up this plan in preparing the 1975 initial draft.
- 1988 Week of Prayer materials were used in the inaugural worship for The Christian Federation of Malaysia, linking the major Christian groupings in that country.
- 1994 Text for 1996 prepared in collaboration with YMCA and YWCA.
- 2004 Agreement reached that resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity be *jointly published and produced in the same format* by Faith and Order (WCC) and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (Catholic Church). In 2006, the WCC oversaw the printing of all brochures: for their use and that of the PCPCU.