



## Statement For Ecumenical Dialogue

In recognition of the passion of Jesus' heart for unity, "that they may all be one as you, Father, are in one and I in you" (John 17:21), and in light of St. Paul's affirmation, "there is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5), we members of the Association of Christian Therapists encourage these attitudes:

- **A Readiness** to believe that the other is speaking in good conscience and to approach dialogue with prayerful openness.
- **A Desire** to increase knowledge of one's own Christian tradition.
- **An Openness** to broader understanding of others and their Christian tradition. This implies:
  - a. An Openness to refine one's understanding of the Christian tradition of the other as self-understood and to experience new perspectives in a positive way.
  - b. A Willingness to understand the Christian tradition of the other in its best light rather than in its weakness.
- **An Acknowledgement** of the collective churches' responsibility for their actions, both past and present, which foster and perpetuate division.
- **An Emphasis** on recognition of issues that create the need for solidarity, and support for movements that foster unity and healing.
- **A Willingness** to Approach areas of separation and disagreement with searching compassion, intelligent discussion, and an understanding and forgiving heart.
- **A Constant Review** of new developments and trends in ecumenism with mutual respect of documents from various Christian traditions. This could include the collected documents of the Christian Churches, the World Council of Churches, and agreed statements between denominations and those resources that provide a context for informed dialogue.
- **A Daily Commitment** to pray for the unity that Christ wills, "on earth as it is in heaven."