

VISION

The Alleluia Forum on Unity and Renewal exists to inform and instruct ordained and lay leaders in a prophetic vision for Jesus Christ-centered discipleship that is at once: apostolic, catholic, charismatic, evangelistic, and contemplative:

1. We are apostolic and are embracing the apostolic foundation and the ongoing apostolic mission of the church. Rooted in the faith given in scripture and handed down by tradition, we draw upon the riches of the Holy Spirit at work in history and through the church and we find unity in our shared heritage. We also find our shared heritage by seeking our common bond expressed in the Creeds, Ecumenical Councils and the Patristic commentary of the Ancient Church as well as the Jewish tradition. At the same time, open to new movements of the Spirit at work in the world today, we find unity in our common mission to share Jesus with the world. As wise stewards we draw forth treasures old and new to grow in unity and unite in mission. (Matthew 13:52)
2. We are catholic as we seek to live the universal faith of the church. We further seek to “gather up the whole” of the great tradition which exist in differentiated ways and forms in the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and various forms of the Protestant, Pentecostal and Evangelical traditions. Finally, we desire to form leaders to go into all the world to make disciples of every nation (Matt 28:19-20; Luke 24:46-48).
3. We are charismatic and Holy Spirit-filled as we believe in the essential empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the extraordinary gifts of the Spirit as a present and necessary experience for every believer to fulfill the work of the ministry. (Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. . . , 1 Cor. 12).
4. We are evangelistic as we believe our present experience of salvation is based on an initial (and ongoing) encounter with the Risen Christ (John 14:6). We also understand that in order to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord (Matthew 28:18-20) that evangelism and personal witness are synonymous with ecumenism. We seek the unity communicated in the high priestly prayer of Jesus (John 17:20-23) as a great sign to the world that the Father has sent the Son; accordingly, evangelization must occur both inside and outside the Church.
5. We are contemplative as we practice and teach a contemplative life of prayer and holiness that is rooted in the mystical tradition of the ancient, medieval, and early modern church (1 Cor. 14:15) We mourn that this form of prayer has been deemphasized, or even lost to many parts of the contemporary church. We seek to retrieve this deeply transcendent form of prayer that leads toward oneness with the triune God (John 16:23-24).

MISSION

1. To teach and form believers (both clergy and laity) in the strategy and practice of Receptive Ecumenism;
2. To declare together the central Christian proclamation that “Jesus is Lord!” (Acts 2:36)
3. To affirm the indelible mark of the Holy Spirit, the cross of Jesus Christ and the pursuit of personal holiness on our Life in Christ: But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.” (2 Timothy 2:19)
4. To foster the charism of Unity (John 17:21-23) by seeking our common bond expressed in the Creeds, Ecumenical Councils and the Patristic commentary of the Ancient Church.
5. To better share our unity, we embrace the spiritual gift of Koinonia of the Spirit that formal schism has suppressed. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:9).
6. To promote the understanding that despite our theological and ecclesial diversity, we are all part of the one body as there is one Spirit according to the Apostolic model found in Ephesians 4:4-6: 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

7. To maintain the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace that promotes the spiritual reality of our bond of peace. This bond affirms the One body and One Spirit that maintains the hope that belongs to our call to One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God and Father of us all. (Eph 4:3-6)
8. To engage in intentional dialogue with Messianic Judaism as we seek the one humanity that Christ established through the cross (Eph. 2:11-22).
9. To accomplish our mission through conferences and teaching events that gather together scholars and recognized theological experts in different traditions to communicate the truths of the Universal faith found throughout the traditions of historic Christianity. (John 14:6, Hebrews 1:3)
10. To impart to one another the gifts of our respective traditions in order to obtain to the fullness of Apostolic Faith: 11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— 12 that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. (Rom. 1:11-12).

Alleluia Forum on Unity and Renewal Goals

1. Identify the “gifts” the various Christian Churches, Traditions and Networks have to offer to the others, and what can be authentically be received.
2. Develop a greater understanding of Messianic Judaism and its role.
3. For Catholics, present a strong apologetic on how one must be ecumenical to be a good Catholic.
4. Review the whole history of the ecumenical movement—both institutionally and in the spontaneous move of the Holy Spirit beginning with Topeka, Kansas.
5. Grow in awareness of current trends of how the Holy Spirit is breaking down walls, various churches and communities where this is happening, etc.
6. Pay special attention to the strategy of Receptive Ecumenism and its place in pursuing the path to Christian unity. In this we hope to foster good communications between ecclesial leaders, theologians and lay leaders to bring awareness of significant agreements between ecclesial leaders and theologians that may be practically implemented by lay leaders and lay communities.
7. Establish a pathway for healing and reconciliation for past and present ecumenical wounds and offenses that will one day, we pray, lead to one communion celebrated in the entire Body of Christ
8. Experience the lifestyle of unity and reconciliation by temporarily living with members of the Alleluia community, an ecumenical and charismatic covenant community, as part of the educational component.
9. Focus on our shared heritage and better ways to understand and express that unity.
10. To Increase our love and appreciation for the catholic (universal) faith. (Eph 4:4-6)
11. Recognize a resurgence of Christian morality and the pursuit of holiness (1 Thes 3: 12-13).
12. Hold a commitment toward reform of the universal church: *ecclesia semper reformanda* (“The church is always reforming!)
13. Increase the yearning of all of the diverse followers of Jesus Christ for increased love, fraternal affection and honor to grow between them while being faithful to their own tradition and doctrine. (Romans 12:10)