

Association Française des Foyers Mixtes
Interconfessionnels Chrétiens: Meeting April 2008

The Generation Mix

On Sunday 6 April, about 100 people met at the Centre Huit in Versailles to talk about ecumenical issues, particularly those relating to interchurch couples and families. Among the participants were very few clergy, but about a third of those present were young couples who showed a lot of interest in questions of wedding celebrations, the spiritual life of the couple, the religious education and spiritual journey of their children, eucharistic hospitality and also their commitment to and involvement in their churches and the contribution interchurch couples can make to the ecumenical movement.

After an act of worship in the brand-new and very beautiful chapel of the Protestant community of the Diaconesses de Reuilly, on the same site, the meeting began with presentations by four couples, each at a different stage of their lives together. They spoke of the joys and the difficulties of interchurch marriage, and about their sense of involvement or lack of involvement in the 'Foyers Mixtes' movement. Through these couples' experiences, the evolution of the experiences of interchurch families over the past 25 years could be seen, and particularly the broadening of their concerns towards the more general sphere of Christian witness in the world.

Pastor Flemming Fleinert-Jensen and Fr David Rowe shared their vision of the position of interchurch families in the current ecumenical situation, and then people were able to continue the conversation in small groups, each one formulating a regret, a joy and a hope relating to their married and ecumenical lives. Among the conclusions of the day, there were calls for recognition of the individual experience of an interchurch family involved in two churches; that this real 'expertise' could more often be drawn on by the institutional churches, for example in sharing more ecumenical reflection on Confirmation.

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