



### **Mission, Evangelism and Proselytising**

Christianity is based on an understanding of the loving engagement of God with humanity through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is the responsibility of Christians to witness in their lives to the good news of this mission of God in the ways that Jesus did – by lives of love in action. Christian members of CCJ will therefore want to focus on serving others and witnessing to their faith' through deeds and dialogue.

Proselytising – that is “aggressive and manipulative attempt to convert” is not consistent with the core Christian understanding of mission and evangelism, nor with a proper respect for the dignity of each human being. It also completely contradicts everything that CCJ values, namely respecting and encouraging the traditions and identities of each other, seeking to learn and share, to encourage our own faith and practice.

Christians who seek to convert Jews do so because they sincerely believe it to be in the best interests of all Jews, without any intention to cause distress. However, throughout the difficult history of Christian Jewish relations, there have been continuing attempts to persuade or force Jews to convert and to abandon their Jewish identity. Jews then and now feel that Christian enthusiasm for targeting them for conversion stems from a lack of respect for Judaism as a religion. The tragic history of Christian treatment of Jews in many parts of Europe means that Jews see missionary approaches as a reminder of past suffering and they are therefore hurt and upset by this.

Many of us make 'journeys of faith' within our own traditions. Sometimes, individuals may cross boundaries. However, proselytising – that is “aggressive and manipulative attempts to convert” - completely contradicts everything that CCJ values, namely respecting and encouraging the traditions and identities of each other, seeking to learn and share, to encourage our own faith and practice.

In order to provide a 'safe space' for dialogue where Jews and Christians can meet together in a spirit of trust, CCJ does not tolerate the use of its meetings, seminars or literature for the purposes of proselytisation.