

Table of Contents

Introduction..6

The Pluralistic Theology of Religions..11

- Connecting culture and church..11
- Connecting our culture with the people around us..12
- Tillich's definition of religion..16
- The future of denominations..21
- Religious education versus cultural education..24
- Interreligious dialogue in churches..26
- Religious education or cultural education?..29

The Religious Situation in the 21st Century..31

- Connecting religion and culture..31
- Postmodernity and its quest for meaning..33
- Contextualizing church and theology..36
- The ministry of healing as part of intercultural dialogue..40
- Today's church-growth movement..46
- How to relate to God?..50
- Reforming the church in the 21st century – Addressing the failed connection of religion and culture..51

Religious Communities in Los Angeles..54

- Westwood Hills UCC..56
- First Baptist Church Glendale..59
- Unitarian Universalist Association..61
- Throop Church UUA Pasadena..61
- First Unitarian Church in Los Angeles..62
- Santa Monica Synagogue..64
- Young Nak Celebration Church, Presbyterian Church in America..65
- Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church..67
- Village Lutheran Church Brentwood (ELCA)..69
- Orders of worship in North American Protestantism..71
- The Books of Worship of the UCC and their predecessors..74

Sermons as Examples of Integration and Liberation..77

Village Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brentwood, Los Angeles..78

Pluralistic Theology: Dialogue and Social Justice..98

A different way of understanding Islam..100

The interdependence of culture and religion..102

Economy and religion..109

The need for social justice – Fundamental issues of the Christian faith..114

The need for interreligious dialogue within our culture..121

Latin American Liberation Theology..127

Leonardo Boff..128

Jon Sobrino..130

Pluralistic Theology and Interreligious Dialogue..132

Church in the 21st century..136

Addressing traumatic experiences..154

Connecting social justice and interreligious dialogue in religious education..158

Interreligious Dialogue in the 21st Century..160

Rudolf Otto..161

Paul Tillich..163

Examples of public ministry..165

Justice in society..174

Examples of teaching interreligious dialogue..179

Multireligious dialogue in Protestant religious education:

Understanding Islam..181

Conditions for teaching religion in public schools..186

Epilogue..192

Bibliography..195