

### **Report on CCJWA 30 August 2022 seminar**

Over 40 attendees, comprising Jewish and Christian members and guests, gathered at Temple David Function Centre on Tuesday 30 August for presentations by Christian educators on the topic *Teaching the Scripture Teachers: Education of Clergy for Jewish–Christian Relations*. The Facilitator for the seminar, Dr Judith Schneider, Vice-Chairperson of the Council of Christians and Jews WA, explained that the brief given to the panelists, representing Anglican, Baptist, and Catholic traditions, was to share their approach to mission and biblical interpretation with respect to Jews and Judaism.

The presenters — the Rev Dr Raewynne Whiteley (Anglican), the Rev Dr David Cohen (Baptist), and Mr Joseph Tedesco (Catholic) — tackled the task from different perspectives, but all referred to the fallacy of the notion which is widely held within Christianity that the Hebrew Scriptures are merely precursors of the Christian faith, and all demonstrated a passionate interest in fostering Jewish–Christian relations.

It would have been particularly reassuring to Jewish members of the audience to hear citations from some notable Catholic statements concerning the irrevocability of God's covenant with Israel, and that 'the permanent elective fidelity of God expressed in earlier covenants is never repudiated.' On the matter of 'mission', it was pointed out that the focus now is on *being* Christians in the world, with charity extended to all, rather than on conversion of Jews to Christianity.

The Q & A session was very animated, with all of the panelists providing erudite responses to challenging questions. However, there was insufficient time to deal adequately with some topics, particularly those on the Gospel of John, and it was clear that there is a need for further opportunities to debate relevant issues, with a panel of Jewish speakers.

The presentations of each of the Christian educators are to be published on the CCJWA website.

*Mary J. Marshall*  
*Hon Secretary, CCJWA.*