

## **REVEREND PROFESSOR JAMES HAIRE, AC**

### **Citation for the conferral of the title of Emeritus Professor**

Reverend Professor James Haire, AC retired from Charles Sturt University in March 2015 after more than 11 years as a Professor of Theology. He first joined the University as the Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture and held various positions conjunctly including the Director of the Research Centre for Public and Contextual Theology from 2005 until 2015 and the Chair of the Global Network for Public Theology from 2008 to 2011.

Throughout his illustrious career, Professor Haire has held many highly distinguished positions.

He concurrently served as National President of the Uniting Church in Australia and Chairperson of the National Heads of Churches of Australia from 2000 to 2003 and then as President of the National Council of Churches in Australia from 2003 to 2006.

Professor Haire has always been active in ecumenism, and from 1992 to 2004 was Co-Chair of the National Dialogue between the Uniting Church in Australia and the Roman Catholic Church in Australia. From 2002 to 2014, he was a member of the Joint International Commission between the Vatican and the World Methodist Council. Professor Haire was one of twenty international theologians from the Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed traditions invited to the Vatican to discuss the "Harvesting the Fruits" document with the Roman Catholic Church in 2010. From 2005 to 2010, he was a Member of the Executive, General and Personnel Committees of the Christian Conference of Asia and was also a Delegate of the Uniting Church in Australia at the Fifth Conference on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches in Spain in 1993, and the Uniting General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches in the USA, in 2010. Professor Haire gave a D.T. Niles Memorial Lecture as Keynote Speaker at the Christian Conference of Asia Assembly in Thailand in 2005, was also a Main Speaker at the Maramon Convention in India in 2005 and, an Official Guest at the Ninth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Brazil in the following year.

A graduate and scholar of the University of Oxford, he has also completed postgraduate work in Leiden, the Netherlands and graduated with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Theology from the University of Birmingham.

Professor Haire also holds many honorary awards that recognise his contributions not only on a national but international level and was made a Knight of St John in 2000. He is a Rotary Honorary Peace Ambassador and was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal by the Australian Government in 2003 for his service to Australian society through The Uniting Church.

Professor Haire was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2006 and a Companion of the Order of Australia in the 2013 Australia Day Honours.

Professor Haire's prominence on an International scale is vast and he has been involved in inter-faith dialogue in both Indonesia and Australia, and has spoken extensively at inter-faith conferences, including being a Keynote Speaker and Member of the Australian Delegation at the Fifth Asia Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue (hosted by the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and The Philippines) in Perth in 2009. He was a Member of the Australian Delegation at the Sixth Asia Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue (again hosted by those Governments) in Semarang, Indonesia in 2012.

Among other things, Professor Haire has lectured at the State Islamic Institute in Malang, East Java, and has engaged in inter-faith dialogue on a number of public occasions. Most notably he was involved in peace and reconciliation discussions between Christians and Muslims in the Molucca Islands, Indonesia, between 2001 and 2005, after the violent communal conflict there. In 2009, Professor Haire was involved with Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu in the conference related to the commissioning of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific and became a Presidential Friend of Indonesia in 2010, at the invitation of the President of Indonesia.

Professor Haire has served on the Advisory Boards of seven international theological journals and was Editor of *Colloquium* from 1990 to 1992. He has been an examiner for doctoral students and an assessor for university academic promotion, in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Indonesia and The Netherlands. He has published nationally and internationally, in monographs, book chapters and theological and other academic journals.

In 2010, Professor Haire was appointed by the Government of Victoria as a Member of the Panel to assess a proposal for a new specialist university in Victoria (subsequently set up by the Parliament of Victoria as the University of Divinity) and in 2012 was presented with an academic *Festschrift* (a collection of essays by academic colleagues in his honour).

The University has enormous respect for Professor Haire's intellect, vision and commitment to higher education as a means to benefit society and the public good. He has been an outstanding role model as an academic leader and is deserving of the title of Emeritus Professor.

**Dated this Fourteenth Day of December Two Thousand and Fifteen**