

# CUIC NOTES

MAY 2007

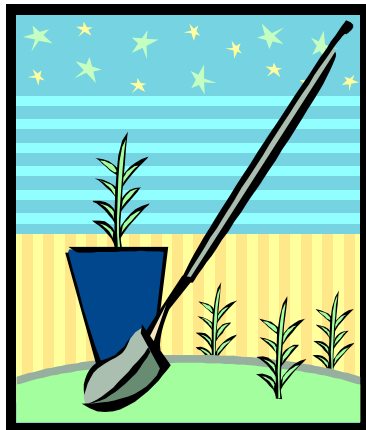


## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PENTECOST PRAYER	2
A METHODIST AFFAIR	2
CUIC PEOPLE IN THE NEWS	3
BEYOND CAMPAIGNS	4
CONFRONTING RACISM	5
MISSOURI LEADERS CALL FOR JUSTICE	6
HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION	7

## SOWING CUIC SEEDS

"The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose...for we are God's servants working together"  
1 Corinthians 3:8-9 NRSV



At its March meeting the CUIC Coordinating Council approved a plan proposed by the Local and Regional Task Force to "plant" and nurture CUIC relationships in ten communities across the country. The Ecumenical Officer of each CUIC communion will recruit a lead pastor from his or her communion. These recruits will determine the ten cities for the program. It is intended that the communities will evidence a diverse spectrum of size, location, and demographics.

The lead pastor and congregation will make a two-year commitment to the program. This will entail developing a core group of CUIC committed persons in the community that are willing to work together as people of faith to undertake a mission project particularly aimed at combating issues of racism in that community and to

hold at least one CUIC service of Eucharist each year.

Support for the program will come from Ecumenical Officers, members of the CUIC Local and Regional Task Force, and the CUIC director.

So far, lead pastors have been identified in Wisconsin Rapids, WI; Decatur, GA; and Hot Springs, AR. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact the CUIC office by phone at 314-252-3160 or by email at [prosner@eden.edu](mailto:prosner@eden.edu)

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Future Church Leaders Provide Hope
- Remembering Rev. Jeffrey Newhall
- Plenary News
- Calendar

## REJOICE IN HOPE

As a seminary student I frequently hear the phrase "for such a time as this" in classes and in chapel services. For a time such as this we nurture leaders of the church; for a time such as this we equip women and men to share with the world the good news of Jesus Christ; for a time such as this we thoughtfully and prayerfully try to figure out how to do justice and love mercy in our world. Seminaries across the country prepare leaders of the church for a time such as this.

A few weeks ago I participated in the Disciples biennial Seminarians Conference. The 2007 theme was "Rejoice in Hope." During this four-day event I was reminded that there is so much for which we may have hope. I met seminarians who are called to start new churches, called to be missionaries, called to transform churches, and called to be congregational pastors. All these leaders give me hope. Their passion and excitement, their love and joy of sharing the good

*(continued on page 5)*



## PENTECOST PRAYER

This prayer was used to convene the 18<sup>th</sup> and final Plenary of the Consultation on Church Union (COCU), and was offered from time to time throughout the meeting. The Plenary participants believed that the Spirit of God was present among them to guide and to give hope. The prayer was circulated to the member churches with an encouragement to pray for the upcoming Plenary that would consider next steps for the Consultation, which became the decision to move toward the inauguration of Churches Uniting in Christ.

God of hope,  
 Who calls us to abound in hope  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
 We give you thanks for our common calling in Christ.  
 You have made us one.  
 Help us to become what you have made us.  
 Show us how this Christ-like hope can calm our fears and shape our future as you would have it.  
 Help us to see beyond our divisions to your unity.

Guide us into that new way of being.  
 When we do not know how, show us the way.  
 Give us courage.  
 Give us strength.  
 Give us hope.  
 And give us that joy that comes from rooting our being in you,  
 The Holy One who makes us one. Amen.

The words of Lewis Lancaster, interim General Secretary of COCU at the time, still ring true. "Prayers for our journey together are still very much in order and are necessary. For we continue seeking to discern the way ahead in faithful obedience to God, whose will for the church and the world is reconciliation and peace."

## A METHODIST AFFAIR



Bishop Nathaniel Jarrett

Atlanta, GA – For certain Sunday, March 11 was one evening when God was not a respecter of race, gender, or denominational persuasion as leaders representing all of Methodism in the United States assembled at the West Mitchell CME Church. This celebration of Holy Communion served as the beginning of the once-every-four years Consultation of Methodist Bishops, the Commission of Pan-Methodist Cooperation and Union. The service was an exercise in liturgical splendor with as many as 30 or more bishops in attendance from the various brands of

Methodism, including the AME Church, the AMEZ Church, the CME Church, and the UMC. Joining the consultation for the first time were the African Union Methodist Protestant Church and the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church.

While the bishops value fellowship among the churches, a union or merger is definitely not on the horizon. They even re-named the consultation the Pan-Methodist Commission, dropping the terms "cooperation" and "union." The name change must still be approved by the individual General Conferences,

said Bishop Nathaniel Jarrett, AMEZ, president of the Commission.

The bishops discussed some cooperative ventures with regard to children and poverty, substance abuse prevention, higher education, and men's ministries.

(excerpted from the March 2007 *Christian Index* and an article by Alice M. Smith)

Churches Uniting in Christ is a relationship among ten communions who have pledged to live more closely together in expressing unity in Christ and combating racism. Member communions are: African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, The Episcopal Church, International Council of Community Churches, Moravian Church Northern Province, Presbyterian Church USA, United Church of Christ, and The United Methodist Church. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a partner in mission and dialogue, and the Roman Catholic Church participates as an observer.

CUIC NOTES is published several times a year.  
 Patrice L. Rosner, Director  
 Patricia Garnett, Secretary

Photo Credits: Carlos Malave— "Beyond Campaigns,"  
 "Confronting Racism"  
 John Kriedler—"Missouri Leaders Call For Justice"

We welcome your comments and questions. Please send them to: CUIC, 475 E. Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119.

To be better stewards of the environment and of the CUIC finances, please send us your email address so that you may receive this newsletter electronically. Send your contact information to: [cuic@eden.edu](mailto:cuic@eden.edu)

## INVESTITURE OF NEW LEADERSHIP

Columbus, OH—The 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Board and Bishops' Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Church will meet in Columbus, OH June 24-26. On Monday, June 25, they will conduct an investiture service for Bishop Wilfred J. Messiah, the newly elected President of the Council of Bishops. Bishop

Wilfred serves as the Presiding Bishop of the Twentieth Episcopal District. The Bishops' Council elects a new president each year.

The Council of Bishops is the Executive Branch of the Connec-tional Church. It has the general oversight of the Church during the interim between General

Conferences, which occur every four years. The next AMEC General Conference will be July 4-11, 2008, at America's Convention Center in St. Louis, MO.



Bishop Wilfred J. Messiah

## AN ECUMENICAL WITNESS IN OHIO

Portsmouth, OH—On Sunday, February 25, folks from at least five CUIC congregations gathered to celebrate the installation of the Reverend Galen Hahn as Pastor and Teacher of Evangelical United Church of Christ in Portsmouth, Ohio.

The day of celebration included three gatherings lifting up Christ's Church at worship. In a morning service, Rev. Hahn brought a message that focused on "understanding his ministry at Evangelical and throughout Portsmouth as decidedly ecumenical." Youth involvement included the West Portsmouth High School Chamber Choir.

The ecumenical community provided leadership in an afternoon service. Twenty clergy representing many CUIC congregations attended. A PCUSA pastor brought the message, and a UMC pastor offered the prayers.

During the evening hours folks gathered in the Scioto County Welcome Center for a dinner and concert. Books and an offering were received to be donated to the Owsley County Public Library in Booneville, KY, a library Rev. Hahn helped start during his college days. That is the only public library in the county, one of the poorer counties in the nation.

CUIC People  
in the News

## NEW PCUSA GOVERNING BODY COORDINATOR



Rev. Jill M. Hudson

Louisville - Rev. Cliff Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, and Linda Bryant Valentine, Executive Director of the General Assembly Council announced that the Rev. Jill M. Hudson has been named Middle Governing Body Relations Coordinator.

Hudson will succeed the Rev. Gary Torrens who is retiring in November after eight years in the position.

In her new position, Hudson will provide leadership in developing, evaluating, and fostering networks, initiatives, and relationships between

presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly agencies. She will also facilitate communication among middle governing body staff and between them and General Assembly staff.

"I look forward to this new call to ministry," Hudson said. "Many now serving in presbyteries and synods no longer look to the General Assembly for answers, but they do want the General Assembly to help them find others who are working on their own answers. I see this position as one that can help make that happen."

By Jerry Van Marter

## BEYOND CAMPAIGNS, RESOLUTIONS, AND WORDS: LIVING OUR COMMITMENTS WITH BOLDNESS AND GRACE

One of the most damaging things we church folks do is to sketch out and plan campaigns, pass resolutions, and formulate theologically sophisticated words to address what we understand to be very pressing (and sometimes even practical) issues. For example, how many of you have ever been part of an organized campaign to gain new members or start new congregations? How many of those campaigns had sustained impact that actually might be called successful? By what metrics? What about prophetic resolutions, condemning this or that sin of the day? Were any of your most loyal parishioners somehow ever tarred by the often anti-business or anti-military rhetoric? How were those relationships redeemed?

Why do religious organizations, and leaders within them, make so many silly goals and spend so much energy and money in pursuit of them? I truly believe that there is a tyranny of expertise that frequently ties our hands. Many of us don't really wander far afield from the education we received and the symbols that are important within that area of expertise.

We wouldn't easily recognize effectiveness if we tripped over it because the metrics we use are not helpful. We need to consistently highlight the importance of using *qualitative* measures in addition to quantitative ones. For church life, that might mean on the one hand we recognize a big difference between noting how many are added to church rolls, married, buried and how

"So how are we actually helping to change lives for the better?"

much money was raised, and on the other hand how many people were brought to have a new sense of hope, meaning, and purpose. What would happen if we consistently asked about and measured our programmatic activities according to things such as how community is actually engendered across some of the social barriers that divide us? Or, how we can actually mobilize people to act from compassion to engage in sharing God's love not just as a short-term bandage but rather as a prod to change systems and policies that keep us divided? It wouldn't be a bad question for us to ask, "So *how* are we actually helping to change lives for the better?"

As I see it, the Church and all the organizations serving it (including schools of theology), have a biblical choice facing them: go directly to hospice or be transformed.



David Trickett

This choice affects not only our practical and social outreach (as well as in reach), but also our core grasp of theology and doctrine. We are who we profess to be, to an extent; and our challenge is to align our profession and our embodiment thereof—not to have these so divergent from one another that people within and outside the Church snicker and wonder if we're aware of how blatantly silly and hypocritical we often look. Only when our confession and our incarnation of it fit one another will others notice an integrity about what we say and do.

Racism is an enduring reality with which we have difficulty dealing. I grew up in the Deep South and know racism from the perspective of privilege; that means I know it only in part. As often is the case of privilege, it is very easy to assume that what I know is what matters, and that I and those like me can "fix" the problem. This is rather like the blind leading the blind. We must find a way to create safe emotional and intellectual space, often using our privilege as a buffer, so that those who know racism from all sides of the matter can find a place where their voices can be heard and factored into the adaptive changes facing us all.

There are many faces of racism. Only when as many as possible surface and are actually attended to appreciatively will we be able to think together about what is best to do next. Some critical steps to take include recognizing that there are multiple sacred memories—often of loss and destruction, of hate and misery—that must be evoked; inviting the presence of multiple ways of being and knowing (this hits some academics hard, and ecclesiastics as well—our standards of "excellence" are deeply bound up with assumptions of privilege that will not easily go away); and focusing not only on the "deconstruction" of naive assumptions that many of us privileged folks have, but also working with those who have been historically disadvantaged along life's way to help "reconstruct" a sense of blessed community that can then be struggled for and lived into together.

"Three terms are vital for facing racism: curiosity, discernment and hope."

Three qualitative terms are vital for our engagement with one another in facing racism: curiosity, discernment, and hope. If we don't embody a deep and vibrant curiosity about otherness and the different ways it expresses itself, we're missing something at the core of biblical faith (and effective leadership!). If we don't see that discernment is a gift from God that we can refine and employ daily to spot connections among the many things about which we are curious, we miss the whole point of the parable of the talents. And if we don't see that the whole point of our lives is to live grounded in a hope that can trump despair and even the destruction of what we find dear, it's no wonder that our society makes little advance in dealing with any important reality such as racism. Our task is to work hand in hand to listen, to learn, and to employ what we learn for the transformation of the society in which the Church lives. By this path the Church can be renewed, and our leadership can be refined and made more effective.

By David Trickett, President  
The Iliff School of Theology

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL TASK FORCE HOSTS "CONFRONTING RACISM" CONVERSATION"

Denver, CO - On Wednesday, March 7, faculty, staff, and students of Iliff Theological Seminary, members of the Colorado Council of Churches, local CUIC pastors in the Denver area, and members of the CUIC Local and Regional Task Force (LRTF) gathered at Iliff to talk about confronting racism. Iliff President David Trickett brought greetings on behalf of the seminary, and Jim Ryan, executive director of the Colorado Council of Churches and the Disciple representative to the LRTF, moderated the evening.

Four panel members were each asked to address three questions:

- 1. What was your formative ecumenical experience?

- 2. What was your first experience or observation of racism?

- 3. When have you observed any expression of the Church effectively addressing the issue of racism?



Panel members were: Rev. Ben Reynolds, Iliff D. Min. student; Dr. Tony Alumkai, Asst. Prof. Sociology of Religion; Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt, Iliff M. Div. student; and Rev. Andrew Simpson, presiding elder of the Rocky Mountain district of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and vice chair of the Colorado Council of Churches.

Following the panel presentation, participants were invited to share their

experiences in small groups. The evening closed with remarks from Rev. Patrice L. Rosner, CUIC Director; Dr. Robert Welsh, ecumenical officer for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and Dr. David Trickett, Iliff president.

(See excerpts from Dr. Trickett's remarks, p. 4).

The evening was part of the LRTF's commitment to engage local communities in places where they meet. Their next meeting will be in Columbus, OH, October 17-19. LRTF chair Rebecca Tollefson, is making arrangements for the task force to meet with representatives of three seminaries in the Columbus area as well as local pastors.

## REJOICE IN HOPE (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

news of Jesus, and sharing transformation with people throughout the world, offer rich possibility. In these church leaders there is an abundance of hope to be found.

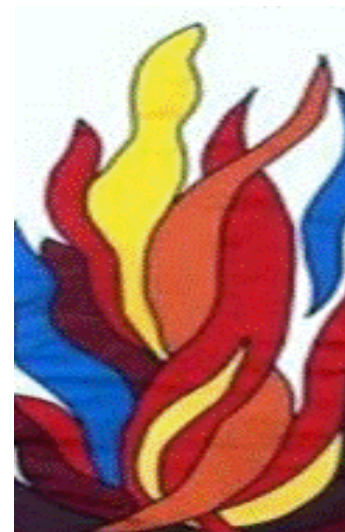
Figuring out how to do ministry in our world, in our particular contexts, is not easy. It requires time, patience, reflection, awareness, and prayer. In this conference I encountered future ministers listening and paying attention to their contexts and trying to figure out what their ministry might look like and how they might do it. Future leaders of the church, future teachers in the church, future theologians ask questions. They search and seek. They find God in the midst of their journey as they embark on this process. Knowing that God is with us, that God is present on this journey, and that God is active in the world offers hope. There is also hope because these faithful people said "Yes" to God's call to ministry, hope because when God asked "Who will go for me?" they responded,

"Send me," and hope because they are still on the journey

Among the CUIC communions we have more than 1,138\* seminarians preparing to serve as leaders in ministry. Rejoice in our seminarians! Congratulations to all seminarians graduating this May, and congratulations to all seminarians on their journeys. May we find hope in one another and in the powerful witness found in our struggle to do ministry in a time such as this.

[\*This number is compiled from reports provided by AMEZ, CME, CC (DoC), UCC and ICCS communions. According to the 2005-2006 Association of Theological Schools data tables for enrollment, there were 575 M.Div. students from 9 of the 11 CUIC communions. Figures for the ICCS and MNCP were not included in the ATS data chart.]

By Jennifer Simmons,  
Eden Theological Seminary Student



May the fire of the Holy Spirit  
set ablaze hope  
in the church  
Patrice and Pat

## MISSOURI LEADERS CALL FOR JUSTICE

The Missouri Churches Uniting in Christ (MOCUIC) and the Missouri Christians Against Racism and Poverty (MOCARP) held a press conference in the Missouri State Capitol on Monday, April 23, to issue a united call for social and economic justice. The focus of the religious leaders at this event was the need to restore Medicaid coverage to the 114,000 - 180,000 people who were cut by legislation passed in 2005.

"In 2005, the administration said that we had to cut low-wage workers, people with disabilities, the elderly and children from Medicaid coverage because the state

"Scripture speaks of walking with the poor, not on them"

didn't have enough money," said Bishop Paul A. G. Stewart, Sr. of the

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, St. Louis. "Now we have a surplus. Our first priority should be to restore coverage to those cut."

"I recently heard a single mother in Kansas City speak about her anguish over the loss of Medicaid coverage for her four-year old asthmatic child. A \$2 a month increase in her wages meant that she now had to cover the \$200 medication expense out of her meager budget," said Bishop Gerald Mansholt, Central States Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Kansas City. "That is a gross injustice, and we, as church leaders of the state of Missouri, deplore it."

Bishop Robert Schnase of the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church, called for legislators to strive

toward policy that reflected the character of the people of Missouri. "Public policy involves not only the things we do and don't do, and the things we support and don't support. Public policy also reflects the kind of people we are, and kind of people we strive to be," he said. "I believe that we are the kind of people in Missouri who want to do what is just and fair. We're the kind of people who don't want to hurt working mothers, deny medical care to children, or add to the burden of the working poor. We're the kind of people who not only value charity in our personal giving, but also value justice and fairness in our public policy. We are people of faith who take our responsibilities and citizenship seriously, and so we speak with a united voice to remind our policy makers to represent all people, including the poor, and to do what is good and right and just."

"Without access to health care, those who are struggling in our communities and in our congregations cannot reach their full potential," said Elly Commings, Vice-Moderator, Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, St. Louis.

"Scripture speaks of walking with the poor, not on them," said Rev. Dr. Danny Stewart, Regional Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America, Jefferson City. "This demands of us that we witness for justice in access to the necessities of life including access to health care."

"Though many of us work with and for charities, including charity hospitals, we know that charity health care as a model won't work and that currently, charity hospitals are losing millions of dollars each month providing care for the uninsured including those cut from Medicaid," said Bishop Barry Howe, Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri, Kansas City.

Rev. Freda Cash-Bady, Pastor, Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Jefferson City said, "We have people in our communities and in our congregations who struggle with low wages and no health care. In 2005, thousands of working, single parents were cut from Medicaid coverage. This coverage should be restored."

"It is especially troubling that so many children in Missouri are without the basics in health care access. I know we can do better," said Rev. Anthony Witherspoon, Washington Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, St. Louis.

Rev. Char Burch, Interim Conference Minister, Missouri Mid-South Conference, United Church of Christ said, "Our public policies are a reflection of who we are. We have gathered from across the state because we are deeply concerned that many of Missouri's children and families do not have adequate health care."

"Public policy also reflects the kind of people we are, and the kind of people we strive to be"

As of February 6, the group was scheduled to meet with Governor Matt Blunt, but the governor's office later dropped the meeting from his schedule.

MOCUIC also invited Senate President pro tem Michael Gibbons, Senate Minority Floor Leader Maida Coleman, House Speaker Rod Jetton, and House Minority Floor Leader Jeff Harris. Only three elected officials were present: Harris, Rep. J.C. Kuessner from Eminence, and Rep. Judy Baker from Columbia. All three are Democrats.

The previous morning, Sunday, April 22, the bishops, executive presbyters, regional and conference ministers, and other church leaders were guest preachers in congregations in Jefferson City and Columbia as part of this Justice Weekend. Sunday afternoon First Christian Church in Jefferson City hosted an ecumenical service of worship with Bishop Stewart as the guest preacher. More than 175 were in attendance.

By Sharon Feltman



First row, left to right: Rev. Char Burch, Bishop Gerald Mansholt, Bishop Paul A.G. Stewart, Sr., Rev. Danny Stewart, Bishop Robert Schanse, Rev. Anthony Witherspoon. Second row, left to right: Rev. Patrice L. Rosner, Ms. Elly Commings, representing Rev. Paul Reiter, Rt. Rev. Barry Howe, Rev. Jim Hill, Rev. Freda Cash Bady., representing Bishop John Bryant.

## HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

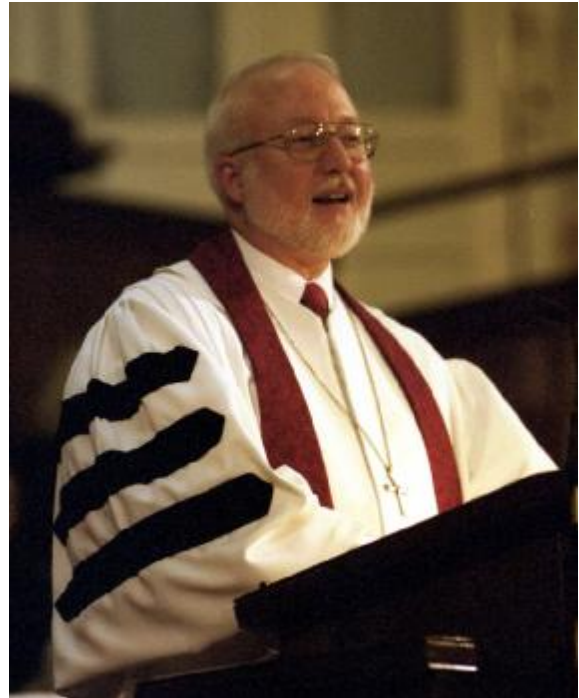
CUIC stands on several foundational documents that over the years have been approved by the national governing bodies of each of the ten member communions. The life within CUIC is consistent with the *COCU Consensus* and *Churches in Covenant Communion*. These texts, in turn, are deeply indebted to work done in other parts of the ecumenical movement, particularly the World Council of Churches text *Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry*. But one foundational text that was approved by the communions as they inaugurated CUIC was the proposal for the CUIC relationship. Entering into CUIC means that these churches express this unique relationship with one another through eight visible marks:

- Recognition of one another as authentic expressions of the one church of Jesus Christ.
- Mutual recognition of members in one Baptism.
- Mutual recognition that each affirms the apostolic faith of Scripture and Tradition expressed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, and that each seeks to give witness to the apostolic faith in its life and mission.
- Provision for the celebration of the Eucharist together with intentional regularity.
- Engagement together in Christ's mission on a regular and intentional basis, especially a shared mission to combat racism.
- Intentional commitment to promote unity with wholeness and to oppose all marginalization and exclusion in the church and society based on such things as race, age, gender, forms of disability, sexual orientation, and class.
- Appropriate structures of accountability and means for consultation and decision making.
- An on-going process of theological dialogue that attempts to clarify theological issues defined by members of CUIC in order to strengthen their shared witness to the apostolic faith, to deepen the churches' understanding of racism in order to make an even more compelling case against it, and to provide the foundation for the mutual recognition and reconciliation of ministries.

In the next few issues of CUIC Notes we will hear from the various CUIC member communions how they bear witness to these eight marks.

Spring is a season of ordinations and installations. It is important for congregations to invite members of other CUIC congregations to bear witness to these significant events in the life of the church.

We would like to hear from you how CUIC congregations in your community live out the CUIC relationship according to these marks of commitment. Please send us stories of how your congregation works in ministry and mission with other CUIC congregations in your local or regional area to combat racism, to celebrate the Eucharist, to recognize one another's expression of the one church. Send your stories to us by email at [cuic@eden.edu](mailto:cuic@eden.edu) or by mail to 475 E. Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119



### REV. JEFFREY NEWHALL: FAITHFUL WITNESS IN LIFE AND IN DEATH

Worcester, MA -The Rev. Jeffrey R. Newhall, who once led the International Council of Community Churches and was pastor to the Greendale People's Church, was remembered by the congregation on Sunday, May 6, as a man of great faith and great humor who had a lifelong commitment to racial justice and Christian unity. Rev. Newhall died Friday, May 4, after a two-year battle with brain cancer. He was 60.

For seven years he served as executive director of the International Council of Community Churches. He was the last president of the Consultation of Christian Union (COCU) as it transformed into Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC). An active ecumenicist, developing greater understanding and cooperation among Christian denominations was one of the passions of his life, said his wife, the Rev. Sally Newhall.

The Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary of CUIC at the time Rev. Newhall was president, said, "It was a real pleasure for me to work with Jeff during his time as president of the Consultation on Church Union, and to count him as a friend. Jeff gave steady, thoughtful leadership to COCU in the crucial transition to becoming Churches Uniting in Christ. I always trusted his faithfulness to the gospel vision of unity and his judgment in the midst of difficult decisions. He will be missed by me and all who care about the ecumenical movement in this country."

Rev. Newhall loved to laugh, to hear jokes, tell jokes and even play practical jokes. His sense of humor only eluded him, said Rev. Sally Newhall, when it came up against bumbling, power-tripping or ethically challenged politicians.

In his 35-year career as an ordained minister, Rev. Newhall served in churches in Washington, D.C., where he grew up, and in Connecticut, Illinois and New York as well as Massachusetts.

## EMERGING PLENARY NEWS

In its 40+ year history, the Consultation on Church Union (COCU), the predecessor body to CUIC, convened 18 plenaries that confronted tough, but cardinal goals of one ministry, one baptism, and one table and the thorny issue of the ordained ministry; defined a vision and mission in relationship to the blatant racism in American society; lived through the withdrawal and return of a member communion; and, faced new dynamics in American Christianity just to name a few issues. Central to the agenda of each plenary were biblical studies led by distinguished scholars and a commitment to solid theological and ecclesiological reflection.

As CUIC holds its first plenary January 11-14, 2008 at the Sheraton St. Louis City

Center in St. Louis, MO, we will stand solidly on our heritage by having a biblical theologian lead Bible study each day, a forceful keynote presenter to open the Plenary, and dedicated small group discussions of theological issues particularly related to the mutual recognition and reconciliation of ministries.

The team planning the Plenary stresses that dismantling racism will be an underlying rubric for the Plenary from beginning to end, including the planning process, building the agenda, inviting the participants, and recruiting leadership.

Worship will be a keystone. There will be a daily service of Eucharist. On Friday evening, Jan. 11, Washington Metropolitan AMEZ Church

will host a community-wide CUIC service of Eucharist. On Sunday morning, Jan. 12, Heads of Communion and Ecumenical Officers will be guest preachers in congregations across metropolitan St. Louis.

Each communion will be represented by a seven-member delegation, including the Head of Communion and the Ecumenical Officer.



Washington Metropolitan AMEZ Church, St. Louis, MO

## 2007 CALENDAR

- May 27: Pentecost
- Jun. 22-26: UCC General Synod, Hartford, CT
- Jun. 24-26: AME General Board and Bishop's Council, Columbus, OH
- Jul. 2-6: 39th Annual Union of Black Episcopalians Conference, Houston, TX
- Jul. 11-14: PCUSA National Black Presbyterians Caucus Celebration, Philadelphia, PA
- Jul. 22-25: Disciples General Assembly, Ft. Worth, TX
- Jul. 29-Aug. 2: ICCA Annual Conference, Nashville, TN
- Aug. 6-11: 10th Biennial Church-wide Assembly, ELCA, Chicago, IL
- Aug. 10-12: 550th Anniversary Celebration of the MCNP, New Philadelphia, OH
- Sept. 18-21: Annual CME Convocation, Las Vegas, NV
- Sept. 20-25: Episcopal House of Bishops, New Orleans, LA

We are on the web

[www.cuicinfo.org](http://www.cuicinfo.org)

### CHURCHES UNITING IN CHRIST

475 E. Lockwood Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63119

Phone: 314-252-3160

Fax: 314-252-3162

E-mail: [prosner@eden.edu](mailto:prosner@eden.edu)



" THAT THEY ALL MAY BE  
ONE " ( JOHN 17 : 21 )