

## From the President

### Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Many of us in the ecumenical and interreligious communities are actively engaged in the unfolding debate in the U.S. Congress on comprehensive immigration reform (CIR).

While the timing of congressional action seems to change each week (Will it happen this year or next? Will any Republicans in the US Senate sign on to CIR legislation?), it is clear there needs to be a long-term, sustained grassroots effort within our religious communities focused on both education and advocacy, to counter the xenophobia that rears its ugly head during tight economic times.

We should applaud efforts such as those by religious leaders in Arizona who traveled to Washington, DC last week to educate lawmakers about our theologically-rooted, alternative perspective which sees the immigrant and sojourner not as an "illegal" but as neighbor and child of God. Thank you Jan Flatten of the Arizona Ecumenical Council and local judicatory leaders for your faithful witness!

I know many of you are waist-deep in this struggle and will be for some time. If you are not, and want more information, I invite you to visit the Church World Service website at [http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=action\\_wh\\_at\\_assist\\_main](http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=action_wh_at_assist_main) and the National Council of Churches website at <http://www.nccusa.org/immigration/immigmain.html> for more information on comprehensive immigration reform.

If you and your ecumenical or interreligious agency are doing something creative and effective around CIR, please send me the details at [sanderson@wichurches.org](mailto:sanderson@wichurches.org). We will start featuring the work of local and regional groups in subsequent issues of NAEIS News.

-Scott Anderson

## NAEIS President



Scott Anderson  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Council of  
Churches

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### 2011 NAEIS Annual Gathering

Feb. 4-7, 2011

San Antonio, Texas

## Find NAEIS on Facebook!

To join the new NAEIS  
Facebook group,  
simply:

- 1) log in to Facebook;
- 2) search for 'National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff' and select our group; and

## 2011 NAEIS Gathering

**"Welcoming One Another: The Promise of Community"**  
**February 4-7, 2011**  
**San Antonio, Texas**

Our 2011 NAEIS Gathering, at the Oblate Retreat Center in San Antonio, will focus on the theme of immigration reform and the response of our faith communities. We will also discuss how we welcome one another within our own ecumenical and interreligious communities. More information to follow soon.

## MEMBER NEWS



Congratulations to **Rev. Clark Lobenstine**, a 35 year member of NAEIS and Executive Director of the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (DC). He's just celebrated his 31st anniversary in that role and he's been named one of 50 Interfaith Visionaries by the Temple of Understanding based in New York City. That award will take place October 19th in NY City as part of the 50th anniversary of the ToU. Other Interfaith Visionaries who will also be present include Bishop Desmond Tutu and Prince Hassan of Jordan.

## Join the Development Professionals Round Table

There is enough interest to support the formation of a Development Professionals Round Table within NAEIS. This will be a community for those in the ecumenical and interreligious community who have development responsibilities, and will primarily consist of a moderated e-mail distribution list which could be used for collaborative fundraising and professional support. Please contact Scott Anderson at [sanderson@wichurches.org](mailto:sanderson@wichurches.org) if you or someone you know would be interested in joining and/or moderating this group.

## New Fire Local Team

The New Fire Network of young adult ecumenists has formed a Local Ecumenism and Outreach Team. Many New Fire members provide grassroots leadership in their local contexts and there is interest in making connections to local and regional ecumenical organizations when possible. Young adults (35 and under) who are interested in joining the team can contact Ammon Ripple at [aripple@nccusa.org](mailto:aripple@nccusa.org).

3) click on the "Request to Join" button.

All NAEIS members and others who want to relate to NAEIS are more than welcome!

### Receiving this newsletter for the first time?

NAEIS is in the process of updating its national database. In the last four months we have added over 200 new local, regional or national ecumenical/interreligious staff people with e-mail addresses. Welcome to our on-line community!

### Having Trouble Viewing this E-Mail?

A PDF version of the NAEIS newsletter is online at [www.naeis.org](http://www.naeis.org).

### NAEIS Contact Info



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## New NCC Local and Regional Ecumenism Committee

The National Council of Churches Governing Board has enthusiastically approved the formation of a permanent Local and Regional Ecumenism Committee of the NCC which will be formally established in November and will have their first meeting adjacent to the NAEIS gathering in February. This committee is charged with facilitating relationships among and between local, regional, and national expressions of the ecumenical movement.

The committee will represent the following voices: state ecumenical executive; local ecumenical executive; interfaith executive; ecumenical officer from an NCC member communion; NAEIS Board member; and representative from the New Fire local team. Attempts will also be made to include: board members of ecumenical organizations; regional judicatory leaders; congregational leaders; Catholic ecumenical officers; and any others in this community who can help to ensure diversity according to age, race, ethnicity, gender, faith tradition, and other factors. A call for nominations will be made in the coming months.

This development is upon the recommendation of the Ecumenical Networks Standing Committee of the General Assembly, which will be disbanded in November. Many of its members will continue to serve on the new committee. The hope is that this change will help to develop a more representative committee and a more dynamic relationship with NCC and local and regional organizations.

## November 2010 Consultation

### **The Promise of Ecumenical Community: Visioning Our Future**

Thu. Nov. 11, 2010 at 12:00 noon  
through  
Fri. Nov. 12, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.

New Orleans, Louisiana

Organized by  
State Ecumenical Executives,  
NAEIS, and  
the NCC Ecumenical Networks Committee.

Associated with the  
Centennial Ecumenical Gathering  
convened by the

National Council of Churches,  
Nov. 9-11, 2010.

**To sign up for e-mail updates, contact  
Ammon Ripple at [aripple@nccusa.org](mailto:aripple@nccusa.org)  
or call 646-596-4750.**

Flyers are being sent out in the mail about this consultation and are also available online at <http://www.nccusa.org/lre>. Please spread the word among your staff, volunteers, board members and judicatory leaders.

Every effort has been made to keep costs down, but funding is an issue for many. One suggestion to help your organization send a representative is to use these flyers to ask for small contributions from your board members, judicatory leaders, and/or member congregations to help send one person.

This consultation is part of a larger visioning process. There will be a process leading up to the consultation that all can participate in, as well as a process following up on the consultation. More information will be available soon.

**News From NAEIS** is published monthly. News items should be sent to newsletter editor [Scott Anderson](mailto:sanderson@wichurches.org) at [sanderson@wichurches.org](mailto:sanderson@wichurches.org).