

From the President

All Volunteer Ecumenism?

Yesterday I was privileged to offer the keynote address to the annual meeting of the Illinois Conference of Churches in Springfield. Many of us thought that the ICC was ready to close its doors after its full time Executive Director was laid-off several years ago. We were wrong!

I was pleased to see that there is new life in the ICC. A highly committed all volunteer leadership team has energy and vision, and a talented administrative coordinator keeps the trains running on time. Several judicatory leaders are at the table, including the Catholics, and there is a renewed focus on poverty and racism, two issues that are at the top of all of our agendas.

While the ICC faces many of the same issues all of us are struggling with (diminishing resources and judicatory participation), I left Springfield wondering if the ICC is developing a new model for conciliar ecumenism, one that is volunteer (as opposed to staff) driven, and which functions more like a loose network of relationships as opposed to a constellation of top-down projects and programs.

The tendency these days is when the state ecumenical organization can no longer afford an Executive Director to gather the leaders past and present for the funeral service. The folks in Illinois deserve a lot of credit for proving that new life is possible without executive leadership.

-Scott Anderson

NAEIS President



Scott Anderson
Executive Director
Wisconsin Council of Churches

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2011 NAEIS Annual Gathering

**"Welcoming One Another:
The Promise of Community"**

Feb. 4-7, 2011

**Oblate Renewal Center
San Antonio, Texas**

- Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
- Welcoming Young Adults
- Immigration Reform
- And more...

More information to
come.

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Your Vision for the Future of Local and Regional Ecumenism

You are invited to participate in the visioning process which will lead up to and flow from the visioning consultation on local and regional ecumenism on Nov. 11-12 in New Orleans. This futuring work will guide the local and regional ecumenical community in the coming years

The consultation will include a panel on the Future of Ecumenism, brief presentations from local and regional ecumenical leaders, and a creative small group visioning process which will engage all of the 100+ participants who are expected to attend the gathering. More information and online registration is at <http://www.nccusa.org/lre/visioning.html>. Register by October 21 to get the hotel discount.

Whether or not you can attend the consultation, please [complete a brief visioning survey](#), which will help to set priorities, elicit new ideas, and give everyone a chance to articulate their vision for the future of ecumenism in local and regional communities.

Find NAEIS on Facebook!

To join the NAEIS Facebook group, simply:

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

NAEIS Contact Info



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Please send the survey link to others engaged with Christian unity and common service and witness in local and regional communities:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/lre-vision-survey>.

Call to Action on Comprehensive Immigration Reform

The Governing Board of the National Council of Churches passed a [call to action on comprehensive immigration reform](#) on Sept. 21 which calls all Christians to "actively engage national, state and local legislators to insist on comprehensive immigration reform at every level," to voice opposition to the anti-immigrant law in Arizona and similar laws proposed in more than 22 other states, and to make a New Year's resolution to call legislators weekly in the 2011 urging them to work for comprehensive immigration reform. *Local and regional councils are invited to spread the word among their members.*

Special thanks go to David Leslie, Executive Director of [Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon](#), Jan Olav Flaaten, Executive Director of the [Arizona Ecumenical Council](#), and Jen Smyers of [Church World Service](#) for their leadership in helping the churches work for immigration justice in the local, state, and national arenas.

Update on NCC Local and Regional Ecumenism Committee

The Governing Board of the National Council of Churches formally created a permanent Local and Regional Ecumenism Committee on September 20, 2010. Twelve persons who are representative of the diverse voices of local and regional ecumenism will be selected by a nominations task force in the coming weeks. You may nominate yourself or others for the committee through October 15. The first meeting of this new committee will be February 3-4 in San Antonio, TX, prior to the NAEIS Annual Gathering. [More Information and Call for Nominations.](#)

Local and Regional Ecumenism Visioning 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

More information at
www.nccusa.org/lre .

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.

[Register Online](#)

For information or
assistance, contact
Ammon Ripple at
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or call 212-870-3417.

Live Online Panel: How America's Religious Leaders Can Bring Healing to the Nation

Auburn Theological Seminary in New York City is offering a live stream option to participate in an online panel titled "Take the Bully Out of the Pulpit: How America's Religious Leaders Can Bring Healing to the Nation." The discussion among significant interfaith leaders about how faith communities can prepare for next year's 10th anniversary of 9/11 will take place Wed., Oct. 6 from 6:45-8:45 p.m. Registration is free and required by Oct. 1 if attending in person. You do not need to register for the live stream online option. [More information.](#)

Materials Available for 2011 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Worship resources and promotional materials for the 2011 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are now available at the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute site at www.geii.org. The theme for 2011 is *One in the Apostles' Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of the Bread, and Prayer*, based on Acts 2:42. The theme was chosen by Christians in Jerusalem who seek to promote a spirit of ecumenism grounded in the experience of the early church.

Sign Up for EcuLink from NCC

The National Council of Churches has resurrected the EcuLink newsletter as a monthly electronic news magazine with feature stories reflecting the life and work of NCC member communions as well as state and local ecumenical groups. Go to www.eculink.org to subscribe. Use the 'Contact Us' link to communicate with editorial staff about submitting stories from your community.

Obituary - Clint McCoy

Clint McCoy, President of the Board of the New York State Council of Churches and Executive for Partnerships of the Synod of the Northeast of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), died suddenly on September 12, 2010 of a heart attack. Please keep Clint's family, friends, and his church families in your prayers. [Full Obituary from the Presbyterian News Service.](#)

Faith in Action - Events and Resources Around the Nation

From Associated Ministries in Tacoma-Pierce County, WA:

Mental Illness and Families of Faith

In observance of Mental Illness Awareness Week, Oct. 3-10, the AM news page lifts up this [congregational resource guide](#) and a link the Mental Health Ministries site where other resources, including a DVD program are available.

From Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon:

Health Care Resources

Download two health resources developed and made available by EMO and partners: [Religion & Health Care: An Interfaith Study on Religious Values and Health Policy](#) and the [Congregational Health Index](#) and other congregational wellness resources.

From the Wisconsin Council of Churches:

Voter Education Guide

Dr. Peter Bakken, Public Policy Coordinator for the Wisconsin Council of Churches has produced a [Voter Education Guide](#) which may be used or adapted in other settings--please keep any adaptations nonpartisan. The guide lifts up Christian principles to consider during elections and some practical steps congregations can take

to be engaged in the electoral process. Contact Peter at bakken@wichurches.org for a Word version of the document.

From the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis:

Churches' Week of Action on Food

The Church Federation lifts up the [Churches' Week of Action on Food](#), sponsored by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, from October 10-17. This is an opportunity for churches to focus on justice concerns related to food producers, with a special focus on women in 2010. A [resource guide](#) is available on the EAA site.

From the NCC Eco-Justice Program:

Seeking God's Grace for the Gulf

Download [worship resources, bulletin inserts, and educational materials](#) for *Seeking God's Grace for the Gulf: A Day of Worship, Reflection, and Healing*, to be observed on October 3, 2010.

From the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington:

Interfaith Dialogue on Interfaith Tensions

The IFCMW hosts [The Challenges and Opportunities of Interfaith Tension: An Interfaith Dialogue](#) with Dr. Sayyid Muhammad Syeed of the Islamic Society of North America and Dr. Avelino Gonzalez, of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations office of the Archdiocese of Washington on Tuesday Oct. 12 at 7:30 p.m.