

Ecumenical Connection

A publication of the Illinois Conference of Churches

ISSUE
05
OCTOBER
2010

inside this issue

Annual Assembly Recap	2
Sister Helen Prejean	3
Spotlight on Denominations	3
Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering	4
Rev. Donald E Mason Award	5
Upcoming Events	7

It's Barrow, as in wheel...

Reverend Robin Barrow

Reverend Robin Barrow has been involved with the Illinois Conference of Churches (ICC) for a number of years and in a number of capacities. She began her affiliation with the ICC as a representative of a member organization, Church Women United. More recently, Robin accepted the invitation to chair the Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER) Team and serves on the Leadership Team as well.

Robin was born and raised in upstate New York. She comes from a family that includes two sisters and four brothers. Robin was raised in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

She has been the wife of Neil F. Barrow for 29 years. She is the mother of four and grandmother of three. But first and foremost she is a "Child of the Most High God."

Robin made her debut in the midwest in 1984. While raising her children, she worked in several businesses in Champaign-Urbana and Bloomington, Illinois. She is a graduate of Parkland College and the University of Illinois, with a degree in Sociology.

While at the University of Illinois, Robin served in Ameri-cops, working with homeless women and their children. An advocate at heart, after graduation, Robin continued her work in the non-profit sector.

Robin answered her call to the ministry in 2003 at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Champaign. She has worked in several different ministry capacities since being ordained. After a brief stay in Homestead, Florida, Robin returned to Central Illinois and served as an Associate Minister at St. Peter's A.M.E. Church in Decatur, Illinois.

Robin is currently serving as a staff minister and Sunday School Superintendent at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Champaign.

Since becoming ordained, Robin has also served in leadership roles inside and outside of the church. She currently serves on the Board of Church Women United as the Central East Area Chair, and is currently attending Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, Ohio.



Reverend Robin Barrow, AME Church and Church Women United

2010 Annual Assembly

On September 23, 2010, members of the Illinois Conference of Churches (ICC) gathered together at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Illinois to share fellowship and set the agenda for the upcoming 2011 calendar year. Representatives were present from the following denominations: African Methodist Episcopal, American Baptist Church - USA, Anglican Church in North America, Catholic Church (Archdiocese of Chicago and Dioceses of Belleville, Joliet, Rockford, and Springfield), Catholic Conference of Illinois, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Lutheran Social Services, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Central/Southern, Metropolitan Chicago, and Northern Illinois Synods), Episcopal Church (Diocese of Springfield), Moravian Church, Presbyterian Church, The United Methodist Church (Illinois Great Rivers and Northern Illinois Conferences), United Church of Christ (Illinois and Illinois South Conferences), and Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church.

The Assembly began with an ecumenical Taize' prayer service. The Taize' prayer service team was comprised of Madonna Jones, Director of Music for St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church, Linda Younkin, Director of Music, Christ the King Catholic Church, Sister Francis Mary Philipp, Director of Music, St. Agnes Catholic Church, Paul Johnson, Director of Music, St. Joseph Catholic Church, and consultant Nichol Delgiorno, Director of Music, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Choirs from St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church, Christ the King Catholic Church, and St. Agnes Catholic Church gathered together to present a glorious worship service full of song and prayer.



Reverend Scott Anderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches and President of the National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff presented information at the Forum. Scott provided a look at the new statistics of information and the use of technology in our society. He posed many questions for discussion at the event, including the culture of misinformation and what it all means when we are growing our churches.

He also posed the question of should we be growing membership in our churches, or should we be cultivating disciples and sending them out into the world. The Forum met for an hour, broke for lunch, and resumed for another hour of stimulating discussion and collaboration.

The Business portion of the Assembly began at 1:30 p.m. The individual teams of the Illinois Conference of Churches presented information relevant to their missions. The Leadership Team, Public Policy Team, Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering Missions Team, and the Illinois Christians Encountering Racism Team were all represented at the event.



Rev. Scott Anderson

The Assembly went on to approve the 2011 budget, where additional measures have been taken to eliminate unnecessary spending and decrease the bottom line. The By-Laws were amended and the 2010-2011 members of the Leadership Team were elected.

A full recap of the event is available in the minutes on the Illinois Conference of Churches website at www.ilconfchurches.org.



The Very Reverend Stanley A. Orlikiewicz, age 83, passed away Friday, August 13, 2010. Fater Orlikiewicz was born in Chicago on June 3, 1927. In 1985, Fater was named Rector of Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet where he served until his retirement in 2002 to St. John Vianney Villa in Naperville. In addition to his pastoral responsibilities, Fater Orlikiewicz served as Diocesan Director of Ecumenism for the Diocese of Joliet beginning in 1986. During that time, Fater Orlikiewicz was an active member of the Illinois Conference of Churches. May he rest in the peace of Christ.



ICC Visits with Sister Helen Prejean in Jacksonville, Illinois

For well over 20 years, Sister Helen Prejean has been a leading advocate for the abolition of the death penalty in the United States. She began in prison ministry in 1981 when she dedicated her life to the poor in New Orleans. While living in the St. Thomas housing project, she became pen pals with Patrick Sonnier, the convicted killer of two teenagers, who was sentenced to death. She visited Sonnier in prison and agreed to be his spiritual advisor in the months leading up to his execution. This experience gave Sister Helen greater insight in the process of executions and she began speaking out against capital punishment.

Dead Man Walking is Sister Helen's autobiographical account of her relationship with Sonnier and other inmates on death row, which was made into a major motion picture by the same name starring Susan Sarandon. It was on the New York Times Best Seller List for 31 weeks. Her second book, The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions, was also critically acclaimed. Her long awaited third book is currently in publication.

On Monday, September 13, 2011, Rev. Terry Clark, Illinois Conference of Churches Co-Chair, and Pamela Tackett, Administrative Coordinator, had the opportunity to meet with Sister Prejean and discuss the abolition of the death penalty movement in Illinois. Following the meet and greet, Sister Prejean addressed Illinois College students about her inspiring lifelong work to end the death penalty.



Spotlight on Denominations Catholic Church - Diocese of Belleville

Bishop Edward Braxton

Email: ebraxton@diobelle.org

Web: <http://diobelle.org/>

The largest single body of Christians in the United States, the Catholic Church is under the spiritual leadership of His Holiness the Pope. Its establishment in America dates back to the priests who accompanied Columbus on his second voyage to the New World. A settlement, later discontinued, was made in 1565 at St. Augustine, Florida. The continuous history of this Church in the colonies began at St. Mary's in Maryland, in 1634.

Information taken from Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, 2009.

The Catholic Church is the Church established by Christ on the foundation of the Apostles, possessing the fullness of the means of salvation which He has willed: correct and complete confession of faith, full sacramental life, and ordained ministry in apostolic succession. The Church is catholic or universal both because she possesses the fullness of Christ's presence and the means of salvation, and because she has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the whole of the human race.

(Source: Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1997)



Save the Date - National Workshop on Christian Unity is May 9-12, 2011

The Sheraton on Station Square, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sharon Zimmerman Rader, Opening Prayer Service
Robert Welsh, Keynote Address
Mark Alan Powell, Bible Study Leader
Jeffrey Gros, Closing Luncheon Speaker

Additional information is available online at
<http://www.nwcu.org/>

Seeing with New Eyes:

the Changing Faces of Poverty and the new challenges of ministry

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 11, 2011
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Saturday, March 12, 2011

Which of these children goes to bed hungry each night?



There are over 535,000 Illinois children living in poverty. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey)

Over half of all poor children experience food insecurity, meaning they don't always have access to enough food.

(Nord, M., Andrews, M., & Carlson, S. (2009, November). Household food security in the United States, 2008. (Economic Research Report Number 83). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service.)

Who Will Benefit:

- Local congregations
- Leaders in missions, outreach, and social justice
- Clergy and laity
- Denominational mission teams
- Persons wanting ecumenical ministry

What You Will Take From This:

- Tools to implement ministry with persons who are economically distressed in your community
- Biblical grounding of God's care for persons who are economically distressed
- Demographic view of persons who are economically distressed in your community

Illinois Conference of Churches Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering information:

Fee: \$90 including lodging, breakfast, and dinner.
\$55 for commuters who wish to share dinner
\$35 for commuters (does not include lodging or meals)

Register online at the Illinois Conference of Churches website www.ilconfchurches.org. For additional information, contact Pamela Tackett, ICC Administrative Coordinator, at pamela@ilconfchurches.org

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES
2160 SOUTH 6TH STREET, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62703
217.522.7099 WWW.ILCONFCHURCHES.ORG





Bi-Annual Reverend Donald E. Mason Ecumenical Award for Christian Unity and Mission

to be presented at the 2011 Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering Award Banquet,
March 11, 2011, National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, Illinois

The Reverend Donald E. Mason Ecumenical Award for Christian Unity and Mission will be implemented in 2011 to honor an individual or organization who exhibits unusual and outstanding efforts for work in ecumenism; by faithfully carrying out the mission of the Illinois Conference of Churches in “making public, prophetic witness to Christ’s love for all people, particularly by addressing poverty and racism.”

The Bi-Annual award is named for the late Reverend Donald E. Mason. Mason, a native of Waco, TX, who graduated from Hastings College in Nebraska and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He served pastorates in Davis, California, and Palo Alto, California, before moving to Urbana, Illinois, where he pastored First Presbyterian Church for 17 years until his retirement in January 2008. Reverend Mason’s ministry was marked by involvement in international mission and ecumenical and interfaith relations. While in Urbana, his congregation and the Urbana Rotary Club participated in clean water wells efforts the Republic of Malawi in South East Africa. He was active in the Religious Leaders for Community Care and the Champaign-Urbana Ministerial Association organizations, and served as a former president of the Illinois Conference of Churches. Reverend Mason died on July 22, 2009.

Those eligible for this award are persons or organizations who are effective in the development of programs to combat racism and poverty. One or more of the following criteria should be met by the nominee:

- The promotion of an honest sharing and understanding of common and divergent theological convictions;
- Making public, prophetic witness to Christ’s love for all people, particularly by addressing poverty and racism;
- An ecumenical witness and mission expressing the reconciling love of Jesus Christ.

Nominations must be received by December 1, 2010. Please email nominations to pamela@ilconfchurches.org or mail nominations to Pamela Tackett, Illinois Conference of Churches, 2160 South 6th Street, Suite D-2, Springfield, Illinois 62703.

Nomination Form
Reverend Donald E. Mason Ecumenical Award
for Christian Unity and Mission

to be presented at the 2011 Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering Award Banquet, March 11, 2011
National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, Illinois

I. NOMINEE

Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Church/Organization _____

Website: _____

II. Describe the passion of the nominee. Please tell us about the nominee's attitude toward ecumenism and their visions for the future *(please feel free to attach additional pages as needed)*.

III. What difference has the nominee made in the lives of people, the church, and the world beyond in making disciples for Jesus Christ and addressing the issues of poverty and racism? *(please feel free to attach additional pages as needed)*

IV. Additional comments or information that would be helpful during the selection process. *(please feel free to attach additional pages as needed)*

VI. PERSON MAKING THE NOMINATION

Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Church/Organization _____

Nominations must be received by December 1, 2010. Please email nominations to pamela@ilconfchurches.org or mail nominations to Pamela Tackett, Illinois Conference of Churches, 2160 South 6th Street, Suite D-2, Springfield, Illinois 62703.



Upcoming Events

- **October 20, 2010 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering Team Meeting - Catholic Urban Programs, East St. Louis, Illinois
- **November 30, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**
Leadership Team Meeting - Plainfield, Illinois
- **March 11-12, 2011 - Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering**
"Seeing with New Eyes: the Changing Faces of Poverty and the new challenges of ministry"
National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, Illinois.

Article Submissions

If you have information to include in our newsletter, please send an e-mail to: Pamela Tackett, Administrative Coordinator pamela@ilconfchurches.org

Ecumenical Connection, Issue 05 - October, 2010



ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

2160 South 6th Street, Suite D2
Springfield, Illinois 62703
(217) 522-7099
www.ilconfchurches.org