

Ecumenical Connection

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

Volume 3, Issue 2

Summer 2008

Come to Our Annual Assembly in Champaign!

The Illinois Conference of Churches teams are anticipating with great joy and excitement our upcoming Annual Assembly on Friday, September 26, 2008. The Annual Assembly will be held at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Champaign and will run from 9:00 am—3:30 pm.

The preacher for our Opening Worship Service will be our new ICC Co-Chair, Bishop Gary Wollersheim of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Northern Illinois Synod. His sermon will flow from the 2008 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

We're particularly excited about our forum this year as we've adjusted the format to

your recommendations from last year's Assembly evaluations. The theme is "Who is Jesus Christ for Us Today?" The forum presenters include Rev. Terry Weavil of the Moravian tradition; Rev. Don Jones of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion tradition; Rev. Dr. Desmond C. Francis of the Episcopal Church tradition; and Rev. Ruth Clendenin of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) tradition.

Each presenter will speak to the theme for approximately ten minutes. Then conversations about those presentations will move to individual tables around which ICC members from various faith traditions will be seated. We've scheduled 45 minutes for those conversations. Each table will have one person

assigned as the Scribe who, after lunch, will report any questions and insights from the table conversations to the entire Assembly. Responses to those questions and insights may come from either Presenters or Assembly participants and will last for thirty minutes.

Our intention with this format is to hear from pastors of various traditions, but also to ensure that each participant experiences "an honest sharing and understanding of both our common and divergent theological convictions" as is highlighted in the ICC mission statement.

Following the Forum we will proceed with ICC Business which includes the following:

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The Public Policy Team in Swing

On June 3, 2008 the Public Policy Team (PPT) held its second annual joint meeting with the ICC Leadership Team at the First Christian Church in Springfield. The members of the PPT who attended the meeting were Bob Gilligan, Pastor Dan Schwick, E. Garnet Fay, Rev. Gary McCants (Chair) and

and Rev. Kevin Laughery who also met with the ICER team. Other members of the PPT include Beth Noble, Rev. Terry Weavil, Rev. Chris Pierson, and Nancy Tegmeier. It is guided by the portion of ICC's mission statement that urges the ICC, "to make public, prophetic witness to Christ's love for all

people, and to address in particular, issues of poverty and racism."

The PPT discussed several strategies to engage our grassroots in the establishment of public policy at the state, and to a degree, at the federal level.

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Our Mission

We seek to be an inclusive community of churches that celebrates and makes visible our sacred bonds of unity in Christ. We will do this by:

- ❖ Promoting an honest sharing and understanding of both our common and divergent theological convictions; and
- ❖ Making public, prophetic witness to Christ's love for all people, particularly by addressing poverty and racism.

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To View Bills of Interest to the ICC

Log onto our website at:

www.ilconfchurches.org

Click on:

1. ICC Teams
2. Public Policy Team
3. My Legislation

Enter the following email

address and password:

legislative@ilconfchurches.org

Illinois

Click "View" and then

"Preview"

The Public Policy Team...continued

Our goal is to ensure that public policy makers are apprised of the specific concerns of the ICC and its member Judicatories on key public policy matters of conscience.

During the meeting the PPT discussed the preliminary 2008 and 2009 public policy agenda for the ICC, including plans for the members of the PPT and the Leadership Team to meet with the Governor and legislative leaders periodically to ensure these state officials remain apprised of ICC concerns. We plan to work closely with ICER— Illinois Christians Encountering Racism more specifically on the issues that impact race and our anti-racism training program. Moreover, we must engage all of our judicatories, local ecumenical organizations and their grassroots organizations to ensure that we speak with one voice on issues to the extent possible.

The PPT recommended the ICC continue to support expanded health care options for all of our citizens and remain active with the Campaign for Better Health Care (CBHC), despite recent legis-

lative failures at health care reform. As such, members of the ICC continue their active service on the CBHC's Steering Committee of the Health Care Justice Faith Caucus.

The ICC has hired a Policy Coordinator whose responsibility is to serve as the liaison between the Illinois General Assembly and the ICC member judicatories, to educate and mobilize the prophetic witness of the ICC, while staffing the PPT. See the article below to learn more about her.

It was suggested that the ICC has little choice but to continue its efforts against the death penalty. It was recommended that the ICC urge our membership and others to join the call for abolition of the death penalty in Illinois. There currently is a growing number of organizations, individuals and newspapers calling for abolition and we do not want to be on the outside of this debate. In addition, the ICC should inform our members of related matters such as the Interfaith Summit on Criminal Justice Reform and the United Methodist Church's immigration

and anti-racism events both scheduled for this October.

Members of the PPT felt the ICC should become a lead voice and key organizer among other religious voices in favor of an Illinois Human Care Agenda, including housing, education, and social services issues. The PPT will raise awareness about these issues, particularly around the unmet needs and the inadequacy of current funding for programs in each area.

The PPT suggested that the ICC make a concerted effort to support legislative efforts to increase access of religious organizations to inmates in the prison system in Illinois and in local jails. Lastly, the Team urges public policy leaders in each judicatory to contact the ICC office with any ideas about how the ICC may improve our grassroots lobbying efforts and better engage in the public policy debate in Illinois and on the federal level.

Report submitted by Rev. Gary McCants, Chair of the ICC Public Policy Team.

Welcome ICC's New Public Policy Coordinator!

The Illinois Conference of Churches is proud and excited to announce that Rev. Linda Harrod is our new Public Policy Coordinator.

Linda was born and raised in Decatur, Illinois. She completed her undergraduate studies at Eastern Illinois Uni-

versity. Linda taught school in the Danville, Illinois public school system and served the balance of her secular vocation in Illinois state government.

Linda was called to ordained ministry in 1998 and began the United Methodist ministry program in 2000. Linda graduated in May 2007

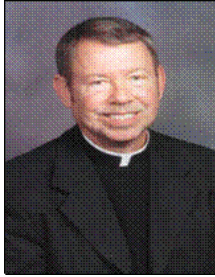
from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary with a Masters degree in Spiritual Formation and Evangelism. In June of 2007, Linda was commissioned as a Deacon in the United Methodist Church at the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. Presently Linda serves as the

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Rev. Gary McCants, Chair of ICC's Public Policy Team and Rev. Linda Harrod, ICC's new Public Policy Coordinator

Ecumenical Connection



The Very Reverend Robert B. Flannery, ICC Co-Chair and Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer for the Catholic Diocese of Belleville

A Month of Ecumenical Experiences in Europe

This summer I was able to make a mini-sabbatical in Europe and take part in three international opportunities which I would highly recommend for all those involved with the ecumenical and inter-religious ministry. The first part of my four and a half week program was to visit The World Council of Churches offices in Geneva, Switzerland. I had contacted the visitor center several months ahead to arrange for my visit to the Ecumenical Centre. I was asked by the visitor coordinator for my areas of interest, and she arranged a schedule for me to meet with four different offices and their personnel. I was also aided in this task by Rev. Lydia Veliko, national ecumenical officer for the United Church of Christ in the United States. I know Lydia through our common work with Christian Churches Together- USA, and the National Planning Committee for the National Workshop on Christian Unity. Lydia and her colleagues at the National Council of Churches in Christ, USA alerted a number of their associates of my trip and were extremely gracious

with their time and help regarding my visit.

Upon my arrival, I was given a tour of the Centre and was there at noon time when a prayer service was being held for the extremely precarious situation in Zimbabwe—a very appropriate concern for all of the world, but especially for the WCC since the 8th General Assembly took place in Harrare in 1998. The WCC chapel is magnificent and has artwork from various Christian traditions around the world. I also made a visit to the Lutheran World Federation Headquarters which is part of the same ecumenical complex. The WCC General Secretary, Dr. Samuel Kolbe, was away on a visitation, so one of the vice-presidents was able to meet with me, a Nigerian Catholic layman who is in charge of finances and development with the WCC. I also met with an individual who is part of the Joint Working Group between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches. He gave me a book, the most recent publication of the JWG, reporting the findings about the number

of Councils of Churches in countries around the world. I hope to share this information with our Leadership Team and the other Teams and membership of the Illinois Conference of Churches.

After spending the morning and afternoon at the WCC, I took the thirty-minute train and bus trip to the nearby Ecumenical Institute of Bossey which is the main on-site educational and formational instrument of the World Council of Churches. The spectacular setting of a beautiful Swiss chateau perfectly situated with Lake Geneva and the Swiss Alps in the background is simply breathtaking! Here students, ordained and lay, from around the world study for periods of one, two or more semesters and work on masters or doctoral degrees in ecumenical studies. Several seminars, one or two weeks in length, are also offered each year on various present-day issues. I was pleased to learn that the Vatican has always had representation on the faculty of Bossey and presently has a priest from India who had

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To contact Rev. Linda Harrod you may call the ICC Office or email her at lharrod@ilconfchurches.org

ICC's New Public Policy Coordinator...continued

Associate Pastor at Woodside UMC in Springfield, Illinois. Her parents are retired and all her friends and family members work and reside in the Decatur, Illinois area. Linda currently lives in Springfield, Illinois.

About working with the ICC,

Linda states, "I look forward to serving the Illinois Conference of Churches as we minister together in unity and witness Christ's love for all people. Our work together fulfills the deacon's servant ministry in the world connecting the most needy, neglected and marginalized among the children of God."

Please join us at this year's Annual Assembly in Champaign, Illinois to meet and welcome Rev. Linda Harrod into the Illinois Conference of Churches as well as to consider how the ICC can fulfill its mission through the Public Policy Team and our new Public Policy Coordinator.

Ecumenical Connection

A Month of Ecumenical Experiences...continued

A Call for Articles

We want to hear about your ecumenical experiences. Have you shared a service with another faith community? Do you minister to others alongside other faith communities?

Our hope is to spread the word among our members of how we practically live out ecumenism in our lives.

The Ecumenical Connection is a quarterly newsletter. We welcome article submissions and suggestions at any time throughout the year.

taught scripture at the Gregorian University in Rome before his arrival at the Institute.

I was able to spend three days at Bossey. While there, I spent a number of hours in the excellent ecumenical library; met with the Director of the Institute, a Romanian Orthodox priest and informed him about the Illinois Conference of Churches and the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers for which I serve as president; attended the closing prayer service and banquet honoring the departing graduates; spent time walking in the meadows and woods, and was able to meet the various residents who represent various Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and Catholic traditions. The food at the Institute is extraordinary: gourmet and yet reasonably priced.

On the last day of my visit to Bossey, I accompanied two of the residents, a former Unitarian minister and a Greek Orthodox monk, on a trip into Geneva where we visited the various churches of the Refor-

mation, the striking Russian Orthodox church, and scenic areas of Lake Geneva, and the new and old city. After our tour of the churches and city, we learned that we coincidentally had made our excursion on the first day of the beginning of Summer and its annual festival. We enjoyed the various booths and the great variety of ethnic foods and beverages. I tried the Sri Lankan cuisine and loved it. And being a true ecumenist, I also sampled the popular local beverage, Calvinus beer! I attended Mass that evening in the French speaking Church of Saint Anthony. My days of high school and college French were helpful, but the familiar liturgy assured me I was at home in my faith tradition.

From Switzerland I flew to Rome, Italy where I attended the three-week Institute for Ecumenical and Interreligious at the Centro Pro Unione. This annual summer institute is sponsored by the Friars of the Atonement, the Roman Catholic Religious Congregation that also coordinates and prints the materials for The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and as well as pub-

lishes the monthly periodical, *Ecumenical Trends*. The location of the Centro Pro Unione is the beautiful and historic Piazza Navonna which is located in the heart of Rome. The fifteen clergy and lay, male and female participants came from Ireland, Spain, Mexico, Brazil, Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Italy, Canada, and the United States. Usually the make-up of the group is of a more ecumenical nature, but this year we had a wide international representation which made for great sharing and the comparison of ecumenical matters in various parts of the world.

The first week our curriculum centered around the scriptural and fundamental background for ecumenism delving into all of the historical developments in terms of church division. In the second week, we looked at the various ecumenical dialogues going on in the church today: Anglican, Reformed, Lutheran, Methodist, Orthodox, Baptist, Disciples, Pentecostal, Evangelical, and the Peace Churches. The third week

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National Workshop on Christian Unity—2008

People who are interested in the unity of Christians are not afraid to think. The National Workshop on Christian Unity effectively encourages the thinking that is required of all of us as we consider the tremendous treasures of the Christian tradition and our duty to share them.

Last April's Workshop, held in Chicago, provided such opportunities as these:

-- A report on Orthodox-Anglican dialogues, including discussions on the Blessed Trinity understood as a "personist communion" as well as on the existence of female clergy in the Anglican Communion;

-- a survey by Fr. Tom Baima of reception of Christian teaching as it is experienced historically (especially in the past fifty years);

-- a presentation by Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos on the incarnational character of the spirituality of the Christian

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Ecumenical Connection



Ecumenism

After 30 years of ecumenical dialogue, On April 29, 2008, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC) approved an agreement for full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). It is the first such understanding for the UMC outside of the Methodist tradition and a true hallmark in ecumenical life.

This new relationship between these major Protestant denominations is not a merger but a recognition of each other's ministry and mission. Full communion recognizes that each church has "the one, holy, catholic and apostolic faith" expressed in the Scriptures and confessed in historic creeds and the core teachings of each denomination.

The two churches also recognize the authenticity of each other's baptism and eucharist and the full interchangeability of all ordained ministers.

And so, this July 6, I was invited to preach and cele-

brate the eucharist at Epiphany Lutheran Church, Elmhurst Illinois. It was one of the highest points in my 43 years of ordained ministry, a moment of true grace and great emotion for me.

As Christians it is essential that we take every opportunity to express our true unity in Christ. Since the Conference on Faith and Order in 1952, this challenge has been adapted in many forms as the Lund principle, "that we should not do separately what conscience permits us to do together". This principle is affirmed in the 1995 papal encyclical *Ut Unum Sint*.

Out of my experience come two suggestions. First, that clergy, particularly retired or those not assigned a parish, make themselves available to participate in the sacramental and liturgical life of other communions when and where possible. Second, the receiving congregation should provide liturgical assistance for the visiting clergy as they did for me at Epiphany.

Bishop Hanson (ELCA) told the General Conference (UMC) at the joint eucharist, "This is why we, as the ELCA, and you, as The United Methodist Church, vote on full communion - because we believe together we might more imaginatively, evangelically, prophetically and abundantly bear fruit for the sake of the Gospel and the life of the world.... I am the vine, you are the branches.... I have loved you the way my Father has loved me. You didn't choose me, remember: I chose you. ...Lives rooted in Christ the vine will bear fruit." So let it be.

This is the fourth in a series of articles which will highlight the perspective of different traditions on Ecumenism.

If you have an interest in contributing to this particular series, please contact Andrea Wilson at: awilson@ilconfchurches.org

“AS CHRISTIANS IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR TRUE UNITY IN CHRIST.”

ICER's Team Report to the Joint Teams of the ICC

Breaking Through Our Barriers to Become One in Christ is our slogan. It is ICER's objective to work toward making us one in Christ—making erasing racism within our society a reality.

Since the last meeting of the ICC Leadership Team in December 2007, we have established a fee structure for conducting anti-racism train-

ing workshops. We conducted two workshops:

—First Presbyterian Church on May 29, 2008 for the YWCA of Pekin

—Forest Hill Methodist Church on May 30, 2008 attended by eight people from the Christian community.

ICER's goal through these training efforts is to be self-sustaining.

We will continue to publish articles in the newsletter and report our activities to the ICC. **What we need now, however, is each and every Judicatory member to sponsor and promote the availability of ICER's training to all their communities.**

There are brochures available for distribution with contact information on each.

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Breaking Through Our Barriers to Become One in Christ

Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (ICADP)

ICADP Mission Statement:

Believing that the death penalty is morally wrong and is an ineffective, unnecessary and discriminatory response to the problem of crime, we seek to abolish it by the development and maintenance of programs that will:

educate the public about the death penalty; provide information and assistance to lawyers in capital cases and others interested in the issue; monitor legislation affecting this issue; and provide support for the men and women on death row as well as their families.

Visit ICADP's website:

<http://www.icadp.org>

There you will also find remarks from Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos as he accepted the 2007 Cunningham-Carey Award this past November.

Faith is often a softer voice left unheard in the debate over the death penalty. Yet it may prove to be the most powerful of all voices as Illinois determines whether or not to finally abolish the death penalty.

Ecumenical Connection

A Month of Ecumenical Experiences...continued

was devoted to religions: Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Bahai, Buddhism and other Japanese religions, as well as the New Age religions.

The classes began with morning prayer each day at 8:45 am, and from 9 until until 12:30 pm there were three hour-long presentations with a short break after the first two. In the late afternoon, two or three afternoons a week, we participated in excursions and field trips. We visited the Basilica of Saint Peter, the Basilica of Saint John Lateran (the cathedral of the Bishop of Rome), the Church of Saint Clement where Saint Cyril of the Church of the East is buried, the archeological sites underneath Saint Peter Basilica, the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Wall, the Jewish Synagogue in Rome, the Muslim Mosque in Rome, and a Japanese religious Tea Ceremony. We also paid visits to the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity where we met Cardinal Walter Kasper and the Secretary of the PCPCU, Bishop Brian Farrell. After that session, we went to the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue where one of the associate secretaries, a priest from Nigeria, welcomed us and shared information about the Vatican's numerous relationships with believers of other world religions.

On the first full week-end of the institute was the Opening of the Year of Saint Paul proclaimed by Pope Benedict

XVI for 2008-2009. This year celebrates the 2,000 year anniversary of Saint Paul. I was able to obtain two front section tickets for the event which was held at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls. Joining the Holy Father in commencing this year was the Ecumenical Patriarch from Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I. Both Benedict and Bartholomew sat in identical chairs and presided over the celebration of Evening Prayer or Vespers. An Eastern Rite deacon and a Latin Rite deacon proclaimed the Gospel in Greek and in Latin respectively. The Pope and the Patriarch each gave a brief homily and the general intercessions were given in a variety of languages from around the world. At the end of the liturgy, both sharing the sign of peace, we were given the blessing by both the Holy Father and the Ecumenical Patriarch.

As a group our institute participants attended the Pallium Mass on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul at which the new Catholic archbishops from around the world receive the pallium stole which connects their authority to that of the Holy See. The stole is made of lamb's wool and is worn by the Holy Father as well. The Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch likewise presided and preached at this liturgy and participated in every aspect except for the Communion Rite. Whereas the presence of an Eastern Catholic archbishop designated to receive the

pallium stole was objected to by the previous Ecumenical Patriarch several years ago, it was not a matter of contention this year with the new Patriarch. So we see: ecumenical relations can improve over time-- "Pray Without Ceasing" the theme of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity!

All in all, my experiences in Switzerland and Italy were tremendously grace-filled: a time of study, worship, companionship and relaxation, and new exciting ecumenical opportunities. After my extremely beneficial time in Geneva and Bossey, and in conversation with the Director of the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey, I am hoping to sponsor in the Fall of 2010 an eight or nine day ecumenical trip to be held immediately prior to Reformation Sunday. My hopes would be to visit the World Council of Churches and the Reformation churches in Geneva, the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey for several study and lecture days, and to visit the nearby Ecumenical Community of Taize in France.

In closing, please note that the ecumenical opportunities I have mentioned from my recent summer experience are available to anyone in our Illinois Conference of Churches membership and all others interested in ecumenical and interreligious concerns.

National Workshop...continued

East;

-- Fr. Bob Barron's view of "faith informing culture": that Christians are to draw the world into the Body of Christ and to put love and non-violence on display, as the alternative to both fight and flight. .

All of us who are involved in the search for unity of Christians also have a large place in our mind and heart for deeper understanding be-

tween Christians and people of other religions and no religion. Therefore it was heartening to hear Rabbi Herman Schaalman's words of encouragement: "I don't know whether openness can solve the world's problems, but I know of no better way. Never give up."

This is just a little of what a person can experience at the National Workshop on Christian Unity. One can see that participation in the

Workshop is a stimulant to the mind and a tonic to the heart. The next Workshop is coming up April 27-30, 2009; it will be held in Phoenix.

The Reverend Kevin M. Laughery, ICC Public Policy and ICER Teams member, Catholic Diocese of Springfield

ICER's Team Report...continued

In addition, the ICER Team has lost four of its members and is in need of more people to participate on the team. Not only is the team short on numbers, it has now lost members from the UMC, Northern Illinois Conference; PCUSA, Synod of Lincoln Trails; UCC, Illinois South Conference; and the RCC, Belleville Diocese. This is significant because the work of ICER is critically dependent on both its members and their diversity.

If you are interested in the reconciling work of ICER or know someone that is interested, please contact one of the Co-Chairs of ICER:

Teamous Newberne
ccu0963@comcast.net

Rev. Dr. Curt Keller
ckeller@grics.net

Currently ICER has one training scheduled for September. On Saturday, September 13, ICER will provide anti-racism

training for the Catholic Diocese of Springfield.

If you are interested in having a training in your area, please contact one of the Co-Chairs of ICER listed above.

This report was submitted by Mr. Teamous Newberne, Co-Chair of the Illinois Christians Encountering Racism Team (ICER)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity—2009



The 2009 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is January 18-25, 2009. The chosen theme is, "That they may become one in your hand." The theme springs from Ezekiel 37:15-19, 22-24a.

The Church Unity Octave, a forerunner of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, was developed by Father Paul Wattson, SA, at Gray-

moor in Garrison, New York, and was first observed at Graymoor from January 18-25, 1908. Today, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites the whole Christian community throughout the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus "that they all may be one" (*John 17:21*).

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Disaster Relief Funds Available

The ICC has a modest amount of funding available to provide relief for pressing, unmet needs caused by the last floods here in Illinois.

If you know of a specific need, please contact the ICC office and we will work to meet that need.

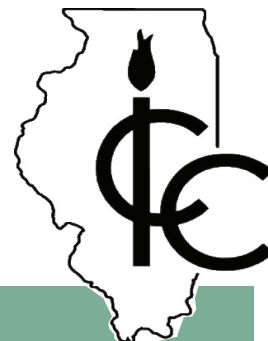
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2009

For more information:

<http://www.geii.org>

Order forms for WPCU 2009 materials will be available at the ICC 2008 Annual Assembly in Champaign, Illinois

In addition the WPCU 2008 Daily Scripture & Prayer Guide, Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God and Prayer Cards will also be available at the Assembly



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Save the Dates!

2008 ICC Annual Assembly, Champaign—September 26, 2008

ICC Leadership Team Meeting, Bloomington—December 2, 2008

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2009—January 18-25, 2009

ICC Joint Team Meeting, Springfield—February 17, 2009

National Workshop for Christian Unity, Phoenix, AZ—April 27-30, 2009

2009 ICC Annual Assembly—September 25, 2009

ICC Publications

on the Web

Public Policy Profiles

ICC Resolution: Abandon the

Death Penalty

ICC Baptism Study

ICC Ecumenical Bible Study

Log onto our website at:

<http://www.ilconfchurches.org>

Click on "Publications"

ICC's Annual Assembly...continued

We will welcome our new Public Policy Coordinator, Rev. Linda Harrod.

We will hear about the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (ICADP) and their continued work toward abolition, as well as how you can help.

We will present a revised pledge formula to the Assembly for approval. At last year's Assembly, members expressed concern over the fairness of our current formula. We took those concerns to heart and believe we have a formula which takes into account a more accurate representation of

our judicatory members.

We will receive a report from ICC's Nominating Committee as to filling vacant positions on our teams.

We will also receive reports from the Leadership, Bi-Annual Statewide Gathering, Public Policy, Forum and Illinois Christians Encountering Racism Teams.

Each portion of our Assembly, from the Hospitality, to the Worship, to the Forum and to the ICC Business is crafted around our mission statement:

We seek to be an inclusive community of churches that celebrates and makes visible

our sacred bonds of unity in Christ. We will do this by:

Promoting an honest sharing and understanding of both our common and divergent theological convictions; and

Making public, prophetic witness to Christ's love for all people, particularly by addressing poverty and racism.

Please join us at the 2008 Annual Assembly, Champaign. We cannot realize the mission without you. Call Andrea at the ICC office or log onto the website for registration information.