



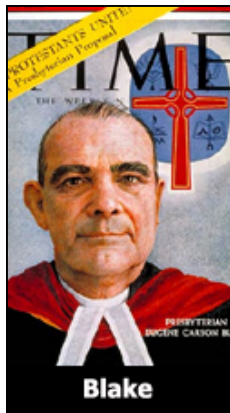
# National Council of Churches USA

**"Our first purpose is evangelistic: to present the truth of God as made known to us in Christ to 70,000,000 people in our country who profess no religious faith."** — Samuel McCrea Cavert on the role of the National Council of Churches, May 1951

The National Council of Churches is a community of Christian communions which, in response to the gospel as revealed in scripture, confess Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God, as Savior and Lord. These communions covenant with one another to manifest ever more fully the unity of the Church. Relying upon the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, the communions come together as the Council in common mission, serving in all creation to the glory of God. *(From the preamble of the NCC Constitution.)*



Cavert



Blake



Randall



McClurg



Thompson



Rhee

## Presbyterians set a model for Christian unity

Since the first American Presbytery was organized in Philadelphia in 1706, Presbyterians have demonstrated an orderliness and organization that permits individual Christians and congregations to work together to spread the Good News wider and more efficiently.

That's pretty much the way it works in the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Just as each of the Presbyterian Church's 10,000 congregations remains the basic unit of mission but works in cooperation with synods, Presbyteries and other denominations, each of the 35 member communions of the NCC retains its own polity, traditions and leadership styles as it works with others on common ministries for the good of all.

Presbyterian leaders played a major role in the formation and development of the NCC, foremost among them the **Rev. Dr. Samuel McCrea**

**Cavert**, the NCC's first general secretary, who presided over the massive job of organizing the new Council in 1951 and was instrumental in the development and publication of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. **The Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake**, another icon of ecumenism, is synonymous with all the causes in which Presbyterians were key leaders, including peace, justice and civil rights. Presbyterians like **Claire Randall**, NCC General Secretary, 1974-1984, and **the Rev. Patricia McClurg, Dr. William Thompson** and **the Rev. Syngman Rhee**, presided over the National Council of Churches with deftness and insight.

Each of these leaders and many more responded powerfully to the prayer of Jesus that we all be one, and helped Create the model of ecumenism that the NCC strives to be.

## Who we are

The National Council of Churches was founded in 1950 by Protestant, Orthodox and African-American faith groups. It is the largest inter-denominational religious movement in North America. The NCC has headquarters in New York City and a Capitol Hill office in Washington. It is governed by an annual General Assembly, with delegates from member churches.

## Programs

- Education and Church Leadership, with 15 areas of emphasis, by age and interest.
- Scripture translation. The NCC owns the copyright of the NRSV and RSV Bibles.
- Interfaith Relations.
- Environmental Concerns.
- Faith and Order
- Public Policy and Advocacy.
- Mobilization to reduce poverty.
- Research, including the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.
- Communication: advocacy for access to and integrity of media.

## Leaders

The President of the NCC is **Archbishop Vicken Aykazian** of the Armenian Orthodox Church of America. The General Secretary is the **Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon** of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



*Presbyterians have been essential members of the staff of the National Council of Churches, most notably **the Rev. Dr. Eileen W. Lindner** who served the Council in a variety of positions for over three decades.*

## Member Communion

African Methodist Episcopal Church  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
Alliance of Baptists  
American Baptist Churches in the USA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
Church of the Brethren  
Coptic Orthodox Church in North America  
The Episcopal Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Friends United Meeting  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Hungarian Reformed Church in America  
International Council of Community Churches  
Korean Presbyterian Church in America  
Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church  
Mar Thoma Church  
Moravian Church in America, Northern and Southern Provinces  
National Baptist Convention of America  
National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.  
National Missionary Baptist Convention of America  
Orthodox Church in America  
Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the USA  
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
Polish National Catholic Church of America  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.  
Reformed Church in America  
Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada  
The Swedenborgian Church  
Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America  
United Church of Christ  
The United Methodist Church

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