



**2009 General Assembly  
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA  
Church World Service**



The National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and Church World Service are pleased to annually present at the General Assembly the J. Irwin Miller Award, the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Award, The Eugene Carson Blake Award for Ecumenism, and Awards of Excellence. These awards shall be given to an individual, group, or organization that provides significant leadership or action in ecumenical relations thereby effecting understanding, respect, and cooperation within the faith community.

The awards will be presented at the 2009 General Assembly of the NCC and CWS.

The following list of criteria shall be used as guidelines in making selections.

- a. nominee(s) must be related to the NCC/CWS or one of its member communions
- b. promotes the ecumenical vision – must be an ecumenical venture rather than a cooperative or civic enterprise
- c. functions as a catalyst in its area

The following guidelines may be useful in determining whom to nominate for these awards:

#### **J. Irwin Miller Award**

This annual award to be given to lay person who has been a witness, through action in the world, to justice and other values affirmed by Christian faith, and who has demonstrated a commitment to church unity. The award is a tribute to the memory of J. Irwin Miller who worked tirelessly to support the ecumenical movement in the United States and around the world, and who contributed greatly to racial justice and civil rights for all.

#### **Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Award**

This annual award is given to a clergy person whose life and work have significantly advanced the cause of unity among the churches in the U.S.A. and internationally by:

- Fostering dialogue and understanding among the Christian churches;
- Demonstrating a commitment to other churches for common service, witness, worship, and study;
- Challenging churches to give visible witness to their covenant with one another to manifest ever more fully the unity of the church;
- Offering a strong prophetic voice to the Christian community.

## **Eugene Carson Blake Award for Ecumenism**

Given for the first time on the Centennial of Dr. Blake's birth this award commemorates this leading ecumenist. As President of the National Council of Churches (1954), founder of the Consultation of Church Union (1960) and General Secretary of the World Council of Churches he exemplified modern ecumenism. This award is given to an individual or organization that has demonstrated:

- Welcoming outreach to those beyond the common bounds of ecumenism.
- A profound commitment to the Gospel's justice
- The establishment of ecumenical understandings, agencies or activities that deepen the kinship of Christians of every race and nation.

## **Award of Excellence**

These awards are given annually by the NCC and CWS to recognize individuals whose life and work demonstrate extraordinary achievement in furthering the ecumenical movement, meeting human needs, advocating for peace and justice, and/or providing a strong prophetic voice in the Christian community.