

2009 General Assembly

*Rejoice Always,
Pray without ceasing,
Give thanks in all circumstances...*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NRSV)



National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA
Church World Service
November 10-12, 2009, Minneapolis, Minnesota



ANNIVERSARIES

... if one is honored all rejoice together with it... I CORINTHIANS 12:26 (NRSV)



In the spirit of Christian unity we celebrate the milestones in the lives of each member communion. With great thanksgiving to God for the blessing represented by the Christians recalled below, we acknowledge steadfastness of service and witness here represented.

500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN CALVIN

John Calvin, the key figure in Reformed Theology, was born in Noyon, France in 1509.

400th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAPTIST MOVEMENT

John Smyth and his congregation practiced baptism by immersion for the first time in Amsterdam in 1609.

200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE “DECLARATION & ADDRESS”

Dated 1809, the “Declaration and Address” was the seminal text in the Stone-Campbell Movement that includes the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLY SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE & ITS ENCYCLICAL, “UNTO THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST EVERYWHERE”

This letter, written in 1919, is a landmark in the early history of ecumenism.

10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION

This theological agreement between the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation, since also affirmed by the World Methodist Council, addresses a key issue of the Protestant Reformation and is an ecumenical milestone.

10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTHRONEMENT OF HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II, SUPREME PATRIARCH AND CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS



40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

With the unification of The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968 The United Methodist Church came into being.

(Our apologies for missing this anniversary in last year's edition)



National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA
Church World Service
General Assembly
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1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NRSV)

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Member Churches

African Methodist Episcopal Church
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Alliance of Baptists
American Baptist Churches, USA
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Church of the Brethren
Coptic Orthodox Church in North America
Diocese of the Armenian Church of 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 (General Assembly of the)
Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church
Mar Thoma Syrian Church of India
Moravian Church in America (Northern Province, Southern Province)
National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.
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 North and South America
The Swedenborgian Church (The General convention of the New Jerusalem)
Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America
United Church of Christ
The United Methodist Church



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Officers of the General Assembly

Co-Moderator of the General Assembly

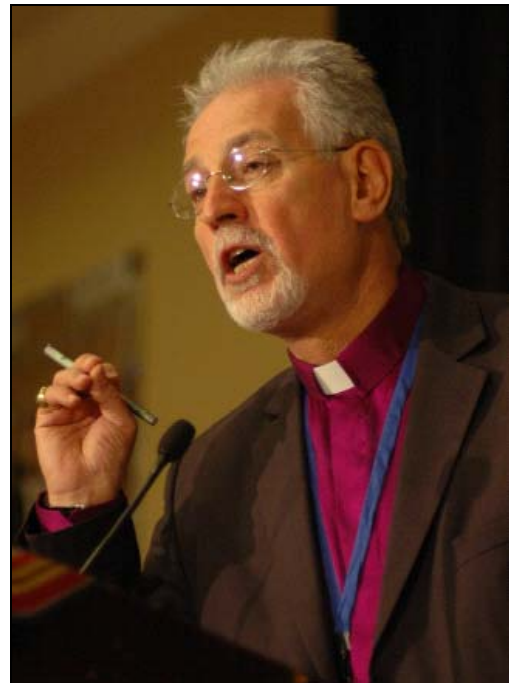
H.E. Archbishop Vicken Aykazian
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
President, NCCCUSA Governing Board

Co-Moderator of the General Assembly

The Rt. Rev. Johncy Itty
The Episcopal Church
Chairperson, CWS Board of Directors

The Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon
NCCCUSA General Secretary

The Rev. John McCullough
CWS Executive Director/CEO



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Officers

NCCCUSA GOVERNING BOARD

H.E. Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, President
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

Peg Chamberlin, President-elect
Moravian Church in America

Raymon E. Hunt, Vice President
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Cheryl Wade, Vice President
American Baptist Churches, USA

Rt. Rev. Johncy Itty, Vice President
The Episcopal Church

Stanley J. Noffsinger, Vice President
Church of the Brethren

José Luis Casal, Secretary
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Michael E. Livingston, Immediate Past President
International Council of Community Churches

CWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rt. Rev. Johncy Itty, Chairperson
The Episcopal Church

Mr. John Paterakis, 1st Vice-Chairperson
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Rev. Canon Benjamin Musoke-Lubega, 2nd Vice-Chairperson
The Episcopal Church

Rev. Jennifer Riggs, Secretary
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Treasurer
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Mrs. Betty Voskuil, Past President
Reformed Church in America



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General Information

General Assembly Office

The General Assembly Office, located in **ORCHARD** will maintain a message board for the convenience of Assembly participants, as well as a "Lost and Found." Staff and Stewards will be available to answer your questions and to offer special assistance where needed.

Hours: Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 am – 10:00 pm
Wednesday, November 11, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Thursday, November 12, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Important Emergency Information

Police/Fire/Ambulance: 911

Hospital: Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital -- (952-993-5000)
6500 Excelsior Blvd.
St.Louis Park, MN 55426

Pharmacy: Rainbow Pharmacy -- (952-546-1665)
5370 16th Street
St.Louis Park, MN

Registration

Location: **Outside ORCHARD.**

Hours: Tuesday, November 10, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Wednesday, November 11, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Thursday, November 12, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Exhibits and General Assembly Bookstore

Be sure to visit:

The Northwestern Books Bookstore and the SERRV store with fair trade crafts in **TERRACE 1**; and the exhibits located in the **PARK FOYER**, where you will find displays from the NCCCUSA, CWS, several of our member communions, and local ecumenical associations.

Hours: Tuesday, November 10, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Wednesday, November 11, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Thursday, November 12, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm



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General Assembly Highlights

Celebration & Welcome Luncheon for All Delegates & Registered Guests

All General Assembly participants are asked to attend this luncheon on Tuesday from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm in **Park**. Led by Dr. Raymon Hunt and the General Assembly Co-Moderators, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian and Bishop Johncy Itty, and others, the discussion will cover all major items coming before the assembly. This session will enhance participation and understanding of all delegates, both those who are continuing and those attending for the first time.

Morning Worship

Public worship is the means by which God's people join together to glorify God through adoration and praise. It is a celebration of the conviction that Christ is in the midst of God's people. Following our tradition of asking member communions and ecumenical partners to lead us in worship, our opening worship will be led in the Methodist Tradition. The young adults from the pre-assembly event, *New Fire: Young Adult Ecumenical Days*, will close Tuesday's session with worship. Our worship on Wednesday will be led in the Taizé Tradition. Members of the Eastern Orthodox Tradition will lead us in our worship on Thursday. Worship equips and empowers us to act as agents of God's transformation, and sets the framework for our work as the people of God in community responding to God's gift of unity through Jesus Christ.

Keynote Speaker

We are honored to welcome Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer who is the Professor of New Testament and Chair of Biblical Studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. She will speak on our theme from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 5: 16-18: *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances....*

Bible Study

This will be a time in the General Assembly for the delegates to encounter and be encountered by the Word of God. The study will be led by Rev. Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali, who is the Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor for Justice & Christian Community and Director of Islamic Studies at Luther Seminary. This study, sponsored by a generous gift from the American Bible Society, will provide an opportunity to hear the text afresh. Dr. Amjad Ali will interweave other scriptural texts that complement the Thessalonians theme into his Bible study. Through such ecumenical study we encounter one another and God through scripture. Be sure to bring your Bible with you.

Awards of Excellence Banquet, Wednesday Evening

The Awards Banquet will honor persons and organizations that have provided significant leadership and action in the ecumenical movement. During this time, we will be recognizing individuals and groups with commitment to the ecumenical vision of church unity, common service and witness, and peace and justice. This will be a wonderful time of celebration as we together pay tribute to those among us who have furthered the ecumenical movement in the United States and around the world.



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Justice for Women Working Group – Open Breakfast, Thursday Morning

All voting members and registered visitors are welcome to attend this breakfast to discuss how our member communions can effectively connect with the *Justice for Women Working Group*. We will briefly discuss past and current accomplishments of the working group and then strategize new ways to effectively work together in these changing times to seek gender justice and full participation of women in church and society. There is no additional cost to registered participants at the General Assembly.

Banquet, and Closing Worship/Installation Service, Thursday Evening

Following the banquet at the hotel, we will travel to the beautiful St. Mark's Cathedral for a service of worship and installation. As a community, we will celebrate our ecumenical life together and install The Rev. Peg Chamberlin as the NCCC President for 2010-2011.

New Fire: Young Adult Ecumenical Days 2009

This event preceded the General Assembly during which the New Fire participants participated in an inclusive and interactive program that seeks to connect ecumenically engaged young adults who value the work of Christian unity through education, worship and leadership training. Participants were introduced to the history and tradition of Christian ecumenism, and worked together to identify the strengths and challenges of the current young adult ecumenical movement in the US. Significant time was given to experiential and inclusive worship, devotions and common prayer, as well as leadership training for young adults to practice ecumenism in their local contexts. Intentional time was set aside for small group discussion, and participants were encouraged to reflect creatively on their experience through media and social online networking. It is hoped that all participants found their experience spiritually enriching and intellectually challenging, and have come away from New Fire with new friends in Christ, committed to furthering the purpose and goals of New Fire for the good of Christian unity now, and well into the future.

Special Screenings & Discussion with Producer of *A Walk to Beautiful*

The Emmy Award Winning Feature Documentary "*A Walk to Beautiful*" will be shown at two separate screenings on Tuesday, November 10th from 9:30 am to 11:30 am; and Wednesday, November 11th from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm in **TERRACE 3 & 4**. Engel Entertainment produced this documentary about five Ethiopian women whose lives have been devastated by fistula and embark on a journey to reclaim their lost dignity. Information about the NCC's *Fistula Stories* Curriculum (www.fistulastories.org) and the United Methodist Fistula project will be available. NCC Women's Ministries Fistula Project Coordinator, Meagan Manas, will facilitate the discussion at both screenings between the audience and Susan K. Lee, Director of Special Projects for Engel Entertainment.



Young Adult Stewards

Since the reinstatement of the program this is the seventh consecutive year that Young Adult Stewards have been included as an important component of the General Assembly. Applications for the program were distributed widely through denominational offices, the Education and Leadership Ministries Commission (ELMC) program ministries, and the NCC and CWS websites. Eight of the ten stewards in this year's program were selected based on their applications and letters of recommendation. The two senior stewards were selected from the 2008 class of stewards to assist in carrying out this year's program.

The stewards' work – assisting with hospitality, registration, audio-visual and technology, communications, and logistics – will be complemented by their interactions with national church leaders and their experience of the Assembly's rich ecumenical environment. During the Assembly, each steward will interview Assembly participants with particular expertise – for example, interfaith relations or education ministries – and will write a 500-word essay on his or her experiences as a steward.

The following young adults are serving as the 2009 Young Adult Stewards:

- Sylvia Bull, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Gregory Griffey, Alliance of Baptists/United Church of Christ, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
- Marcus Harden, Church of the Brethren, Tallahassee, Florida
- Michael Heller, Presbyterian Church (USA), Omaha, Nebraska
- Orenthious Hill, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Tallahassee, Florida
- Ali Holness, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Washington, DC
- William Miller, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Madison, New Jersey
- Tracey Pérez, The United Methodist Church, Alamo, Texas

The senior stewards, returning from last year's class of stewards, are:

- Rebekah Houff, Church of the Brethren, Elgin, Illinois
- Andrew Hudson, Church of God (Cleveland, TN), Statesville, North Carolina



2008 Stewards

General Assembly Caucuses

Delegates to the General Assembly have received information about Assembly business in mailings sent out before the Assembly. All participants should note, however, that the General Assembly is an open-meeting organization, which means that visitors may observe its sessions, unless the body should go into executive session. The Constitution and Standing Rules specifies conditions under which the Assembly may close its session.

The Daily Schedule also includes the following caucus meetings:

Women's Caucus

For more than thirty (30) years the Women's Caucus, a group that meets only during each General Assembly, has been by and for women. The caucus is a time for all women at the Assembly, both delegates, staff from denominational and ecumenical agencies, and local and state ecumenical or interfaith council representatives, to gather to explore matters of particular interest and concern in the context of this ecumenical gathering.

The caucus on Tuesday evening at 8:30 pm in **TERRACE 2 & 3** is a time to get acquainted and briefly review the key matters coming before this Assembly. It is a time to share concerns and strategies among women who are ecumenical and denominational leaders. This gathering gives the women an opportunity to create networks of communication and support during the General Assembly.

Racial/Ethnic Caucus Breakfast

(The breakfast is open to all men and women who wish to attend by pre-registration.)

This year the annual gathering of the Racial/Ethnic Caucus will be at breakfast on Wednesday from 7:30 am – 9:00 am in **SPRING**. This is an important opportunity for primarily persons of color present at the General Assembly (delegates, visitors, stewards, and staff) to gather for fellowship, networking, and strategizing. Those present will hear of programming and issues that are of particular relevance and interest to communities of color. This year, caucus members will hear about the NCC's revitalized work in the area of racial justice in addition to other ongoing work happening within the NCC, CWS and the one ecumenical movement. Although primarily a time set aside for persons of color, this breakfast is opened to all those interested in attending.

The Claire Randall Women's Leadership Lunch

(The luncheon is open to all men & women who wish to attend by pre-registration.)

The lunch annually recognizes leadership of women in the ecumenical movement. This year on Wednesday at 12:00 noon in **SUMMER** women's leadership in theological education and Bible study will be highlighted as our speaker the Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer presents from *The Beatitudes* using elements of her upcoming 2011 Bible Study available in *Horizons* the highly respected publication of Presbyterian Church Women. *Horizons* magazine provides information, inspiration and education from the perspectives of women who are committed to Christ, the church and faithful discipleship. *Horizons* annual Bible study is produced for individual or small-group study and is written annually by leading theologians and pastors providing contemporary research and background information along with probing questions for what the texts have to say to



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us today. The Bible Study is used ecumenically by several women's organizations. As Associate Professor of New Testament and Chair of Biblical Studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer was the perfect choice as writer for Horizon's 2010 Bible Study and as our speaker for The Claire Randall Women's Leadership Lunch.

The lunch is a great opportunity to learn more about women's ministries, programming and leadership in the National Council of Churches and Church World Service. This year's lunch will also include the launch of the *Circle of Names* campaign which provides the opportunity to name women in the ecumenical movement who have inspired and encouraged our faith. Attend the lunch and learn more about the *Circle of Names* campaign and how you can assist in sustaining women's leadership.



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Daily Schedule

(Events in italics are not official General Assembly events)

Saturday, November 7

8:00 am – 9:30 pm *New Fire: Young Adult Ecumenical Days* Summer

Sunday, November 8

9:00 am – 1:00 pm *New Fire: Young Adult Ecumenical Days* Church of All Nations
Presbyterian Church, USA

1:00 pm – 10:00 pm *New Fire: Young Adult Ecumenical Days* Summer

8:00 pm - 9:30 pm Young Adult Steward Orientation Hospitality Suite

Monday, November 9

All Day Young Adult Stewards Hospitality Suite

7:00 am - 10:00 pm Office & Press set-up Orchard
Exhibits set up Park Foyer
Bookstore & SERRV shop set-up Terrace 1

8:00 am – 6:00 pm *United Church of Christ Strategic Planning* Courtyard 1
Committee

8:30 am – 6:30 pm Ecumenical Networks Standing Committee Meeting Spring

10:00 am - 6:00 pm *New Fire: Young Adult Ecumenical Days* Summer

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm GA Joint Constitution & Standing Rules Committee Meeting Courtyard 2

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm GA Nominations Committee Meeting Terrace 3

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm GA Committee on Collaboration Meeting Courtyard 2

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm *NCC Executive Committee Dinner/Meeting* Courtyard 6

9:00 pm – 10:00 pm General Assembly Planning Committee Meeting Courtyard 4 & 5

Tuesday, November 10

All Day Young Adult Stewards Hospitality Suite

7:00 am - 10:00 pm Office & Press Room open Orchard

8:00 am - 6:00 pm Registration open outside Orchard
Exhibits open Park Foyer
Bookstore & SERRV shop open Terrace 1

8:00 am – 1:00 pm *United Church of Christ Strategic Planning* Courtyard 1
Committee



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8:00 am – 9:00 am	<i>NCC Governing Board continental breakfast</i> Heads of Communion & Ecumenical Officer breakfast	Courtyard 2 Courtyard 3
9:00 am – 11:30 am	<i>NCC Governing Board Meeting</i>	<i>Courtyard 4</i>
9:30 am – 11:30am	Special Screening & Discussion with the Producer of “A Walk To Beautiful”	Terrace 3 & 4
11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Convening Celebration & Welcome Lunch: All Delegates & Registered Guests	Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Remarks from Co-Moderators • Greetings from NCCCUSA General Secretary & CWS Executive Director/CEO • Presentation by the Chair of the General Assembly Planning Committee 	
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	General Assembly Opening Worship	Terrace 2 to 4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Worship Led in the Methodist Tradition 	
2:45 pm – 4:00pm	General Assembly Plenary	Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, Professor of New Testament & Chair of Biblical Studies at Inter-denominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA • Dialogue/Discussion • Opening Procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Nominations Committee report ➢ Seating of proxies ➢ Appointment of Parliamentarians ➢ Appointment of Committee of Reference • Approval of 2008 General Assembly minutes 	
4:00 pm - 4:15 pm	Break	Park Foyer
4:15 pm - 6:00 pm	General Assembly Plenary	Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer • Report from Executive Director/CEO, CWS & General Secretary, NCCCUSA • Discussion • First Call for New Business • Reflections from <i>New Fire: Young Adult Ecumenical Days</i> • Worship: Young Adults 	Terrace 2 to 4
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Member Communion Dinners (All delegates will meet with their communion)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ African Methodist Episcopal Church ➢ African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Methodist, Episcopal Church, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., National Missionary Baptist Convention of America, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. 	Courtyard 6 Spring



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- American Baptist Churches, USA, Alliance of Baptists, Lower Atrium
Church of the Brethren, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting,
Friends United Meeting
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), United Church of Christ off site
- Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, St. Sahag Armenian Church
Coptic Orthodox Church in North America, Greek
Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church,
Mar Thoma Syrian Church of India, Orthodox Church in America,
Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church, Serbian
Orthodox Church
- The Episcopal Church Courtyard 3
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Summer
- International Council of Community Churches off site
- Korean Presbyterian Church in America off site
- Moravian Church in America off site
- Presbyterian Church (USA) Community Presbyterian Church
- Reformed Church in America Courtyard 2
- The Swedenborgian Church off site
- The United Methodist Church Upper Atrium

8:30 pm GA Committee of Reference Meeting (if needed) Winter

8:30 pm – 9:30 pm Women’s Caucus (open session) Terrace 2 & 3

9:30pm - 10:00 pm General Assembly Planning Committee Meeting Terrace 2 & 3

Wednesday, November 11

All Day Young Adult Stewards Hospitality Suite

7:30 am -9:00 am **Breakfast**

- General Assembly Delegates & Registered Guests continental breakfast Park
- Racial/Ethnic Caucus breakfast** Spring

8:00 am - 6:00 pm Exhibits open Park Foyer
Bookstore & SERRV shop open Terrace 1
Office & Press Room open Orchard

9:00 am – 10:00 am **General Assembly Worship** Terrace 2 to 4
• Worship led in the Taizé Tradition

10:15 am – 12:00 pm **General Assembly Plenary** Park

- Bible Study: Rev. Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali, Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor
For Justice & Christian Community; and Director of Islamic
Studies, Luther Seminary, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Dialogue/Discussion
- Immigration Working Group presentation
- Greetings from Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, Canadian Council of Churches
- Second Call for New Business
- Introduction to Open Forums and “A Walk To Beautiful” Screening

**Open to all through pre-registration



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12:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Assembly Delegates & Registered Guests Lower/Upper Atrium • The Claire Randall Women’s Leadership Luncheon (open to all): Summer Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, Speaker 	
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Open Forums (2 sessions, 50 minutes each)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Book of Faith Courtyard 1 • Building Community through Interfaith Relations: Courtyard 2 The Minnesota Model • The White House Office of Faith Based & Neighborhood Courtyard 3 Partnerships • Immigration and A Call for Action Courtyard 4 • Emmy award winning screening & discussion: Terrace 3 & 4 “A Walk To Beautiful” (1 double session <u>only</u>) 	
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Break	Park Foyer
4:30 pm – 9:00 pm	<i>Justice For Women Working Group</i>	<i>Courtyard 5 & 6</i>
4:30 pm – 5:45 pm	General Assembly Plenary	Park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer • Ecumenical Networks Standing Committee Report • Resolution: Nuclear Disarmament: The Time Is Now • Constitution & Standing Rules Committee Report • Greetings from Dick Hamm, Christian Churches Together • Prayer 	
6:15 pm	Reception	Lower Atrium
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Awards of Excellence Banquet	Park Ballroom
9:00 pm	Open Conversation with Michael Kinnamon & John McCullough	Spring
	GA Committee of Reference Meeting (if needed)	Winter
	General Assembly Planning Committee Meeting	Courtyard 4 & 5

Thursday, November 12

All Day	Young Adult Stewards	Hospitality Suite
7:30 am – 9:00 am	<i>Justice For Women Working Group – open breakfast</i>	<i>Spring</i>
8:00 am - 3:00 pm	Exhibits open Bookstore & SERRV shop open Office & Press Room open	Park Foyer Terrace 1 Orchard
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast: Assembly Delegates & Registered Guests	Park
9:00 am - 10:00 am	General Assembly Worship	Terrace 2 to 4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship led in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition 	



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10:15 am – 12:00 pm *Justice For Women Working Group* Courtyard 5 & 6

10:15 am – 12:15 pm **General Assembly Plenary** Park

- Church World Service Presentation
- Constitution & Standing Rules Report
- Greetings from Rev. Dr. Martin Robra, World Council of Churches
- Committee on Collaboration Report
- Resolutions or New Business
- Prayer

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm **Lunch: Assembly Delegates & Registered Guests** Upper/Lower Atrium

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm **General Assembly Plenary** Park

- Prayer
- Gun Violence Presentation & discussion
- Membership & Ecclesial Relations Standing Committee Report
- Special Commission on the Just Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast Report
- Invitation to the Ecumenical Event/Celebration & General Assembly 2010
- Resolutions or New Business
- Closing Prayer – A Reading of the “Charter for Compassion”

5:00 pm Reception Lower Atrium

5:30 pm – 6:45 pm **Installation Banquet** Park

7:30 pm **Closing Worship/Installation Service** St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Preaching

Friday, November 13

Morning Travel home

9:00 am – 4:00 pm *US Conf. for the World Council of Churches Annual Meeting & Expanded Board Meeting* Summer



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WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

1:30 pm

Opening Worship will be led in the Methodist Tradition

Participants: Leaders and members of the Methodist bodies related to the General Assembly from the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and The United Methodist Church.

Message delivered by: The Rt. Rev. Ronald M. Cunningham, Presiding Bishop of the 8th Episcopal District, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

Closing Worship will be led by the Young Adults from *New Fire: Young Adult Ecumenical Days*

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

9:00 am

Worship will be led in the Taizé Tradition

Participants: Today's Morning Prayer is being led by Dr. Dirk Lange, Associate Professor of Worship at Luther Seminary. Dr. Lange was a brother in the Taizé Community in France for twenty years and their chief liturgist, and Dr. Melanie Ohnstad who is the Minister for Music and the Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

The Taizé Cross on the altar at this morning's worship is one of two originals created by Brother Eric. The other one is in the Church of Reconciliation at Taizé in France, where it is used every Friday at Evening Prayers. This one is available to any who ask to use it, traveling to worship services at St. Paul's Monastery, Luther Seminary, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minnehaha Methodist, and many other churches and spirituality centers throughout the region. In so doing, it reflects and embodies the intentional ecumenism of the Taizé Community. Its presence this morning likewise recognizes and embraces the National Council and Church World Services' long and strong emphasis upon ecumenical cooperation.

The Taizé Community (www.taize.fr) was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger, a Swiss Protestant who moved to the small village of Taizé in central France to help Jews escape from Nazi Germany. This community in Taizé, numbering over 100 brothers, comes from Catholic and Protestant traditions. Taizé's ministry is broadly ecumenical and focuses especially on young adults. Every year, over 100,000 Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox young people (and some older adults), from scores of countries, make a pilgrimage to Taizé for a week, to pray in community in the Church of Reconciliation three times each day, and to engage in Bible study, sharing, and communal work. The community's outreach is global: not only by welcoming people to Taizé itself, but through meetings, large and small in cities in Europe, Africa and Asia. The Taizé Community also sends brothers to live in small fraternities among the poor throughout the world.



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Taizé is perhaps most widely known for its music, which engages people from across the globe through simple, repetitive chants, which are sung in many languages. These sung prayers, drawn from scripture and set to simple melodies, are sometimes sung as canons. The repetition of these phrases contributes toward deepening the meditation message, instilling prayer and contributing toward a sense of community among those worshipping together.

A special thanks to Alan and Marilyn Youel from the Twin Cities area who coordinated this Taizé-style worship for our General Assembly. The Youels also provided the symbols used in this service.

***Bible Study by Rev. Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali**

The General Assembly Bible Study, led by Rev. the Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali, is planned as a time for the delegates and guests to encounter and be encountered by the Word of God. The Rev. Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali is the Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor for Justice and Christian Community and Director of Islamic Studies at Luther Seminary.

Dr. Amjad-Ali will examine the three imperatives implied in the theme of the conference, namely, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thess. 5:16-18) which emerge in the context and for the strengthening of a persecuted Gentile church. In addition to looking at these three imperative, Amjad-Ali will examine the four imperatives that follow; in his view, understanding these additional imperatives are essential to more fully understanding the theme of the General Assembly. These subsequent imperatives are: "Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thess. 5:19-22). Amjad-Ali will also reflect on these principles in light of recent tragedies, adversities of the Church in Pakistan which provide a living context for the Church at large - toward its survival, nurture, theological formation and pedagogy.

This study, sponsored by a generous gift from the American Bible Society, will provide an opportunity to hear the text afresh. Be sure to bring your Bible with you."

**Thursday, November 12, 2009
9:00 am**

Worship (Matins) will be led in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition

Participants: Leaders and members of Eastern Orthodox bodies related to the General Assembly as worship leaders.



*We wish to extend our thanks to The American Bible Society for their generous sponsorship of the Bible Study at the General Assembly.



Rejoice Always, Pray without ceasing, Give thanks in all circumstances...

Afternoon Plenary

Closing Prayer: A Reading of the “Charter for Compassion”

The “Charter for Compassion” is a worldwide initiative that seeks to bring voices from all cultures and religions together to remind the world that we already share the core principles of compassion. It is based on the “Golden Rule,” a universal religious conviction that, if truly implemented, can lead the world to peace. The Charter will be launched today, November 12, 2009, and our reading of it at the closing prayer signals our partnership in this important global moment.

Closing Worship/Installation Service

7:30 pm

**St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral
Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Preaching**

The celebrative closing worship will include a sermon by Rev. Dr. James Forbes, president of the Healing of the Nations Foundation and former pastor at Riverside Church in New York; Philip Brunelle directing a 70 voice choir with singers from seven downtown churches (the Basilica of St. Mary, Central Lutheran, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist, Plymouth Congregational, St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral, St. Olaf Catholic and Westminster Presbyterian Churches). Canon Musician Raymond Johnston will be the organist and Jearlyn Steele a featured soloist. The closing worship will be followed by a reception at St. Mark’s.

We extend our thanks to Rev. Dr. James Forbes for his generous gift of participation in the installation service.



OPEN FORUMS

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

(2 sessions of 50 minutes each)

TITLE: The Book of Faith

Courtyard 1

Forum Leaders: Dr Diane Jacobson

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shares their program for promoting biblical literacy.

**TITLE: Building Community through Interfaith Relations:
The Minnesota Model**

Courtyard 2

Forum Leaders: Gail Anderson, Director of Unity and Relationships at the Minnesota Council of Churches with Steve Hunegs, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council; Imam Asad Zaman, Muslim American Society of Minnesota; and Brian Rusche, Executive Director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition.

The Minnesota Council of Churches has been involved in interfaith programming for decades. This forum presents an overview of the diverse ways in which Minnesotans are building a stronger community through interfaith understanding, and a more in-depth look at a few successful models, including the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, the interfaith advocacy voice for social justice in Minnesota, Taking Heart which builds relationships among Muslim and non-Muslim neighbors, and the work Jewish Community Relations Council is doing with youth and other constituencies. Other members of the Twin Cities Interfaith Network will be in the audience and available to take questions and share information.

**TITLE: The White House Office of Faith-Based and
Neighborhood Partnerships**

Courtyard 3

Forum Leader: Mara Vanderslice, Coordinator, President's Advisory Council for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships

An overview of President Obama's intentions for the office including:

1. The establishment of the first Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (including NCC leaders, Peg Chamberlin, William Shaw and Sharon Watkins) and task forces (including NCC-CWS leadership, John McCullough, Vicken Aykazian, Martin Shupack, and Cassandra Carmichael);
2. Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships in most Departments and Agencies;
3. Outcomes to date; and
4. The future for partnerships with NCC-CWS.

Immigration and A Call for Action

Courtyard 4

Forum Leader: Mr. David Leslie, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Millions of people are on the move around the world: refugees, immigrants, migrants and victims of trafficking. All desire a better life for themselves and their families. It is time for us as individuals and our churches to speak out. How can each of us, individually and collectively, proactively address the need for immigration reform.



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**Special Screening & Discussion with the Producer of
“A Walk to Beautiful”**

Terrace 3&4

This Emmy Award Winning Feature Documentary “A Walk to Beautiful” will be shown in **one session** from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Engel Entertainment produced this documentary about five Ethiopian women whose lives have been devastated by fistula and embark on a journey to reclaim their lost dignity. Information about the NCC’s *Fistula Stories* curriculum (www.fistulastories.org) and United Methodist Fistula project will be available. NCC Women’s Ministries Fistula Project Coordinator, Meagan Manas, will facilitate discussion at this screening between the audience and the film’s producer from Engel Entertainment.



Biographies

Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer is Associate Professor of New Testament and Chair of Biblical Studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA. She is also an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church, USA, serving within the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. Dr. Aymer is the author of *First Pure, Then Peaceable: Frederick Douglass, Darkness and the Epistle of James*, various academic and liturgical articles and resources and the upcoming 2011 *Horizons Bible Study*, tentatively titled *Confessing the Beatitudes*. She also serves as the Chair of the Board of AIDS Alliance for Faith and Health, an Atlanta-based non-profit helping those infected with and affected by HIV to thrive. Dr. Aymer is happily married to Dr. Laurent M. R. G. Oget of France, a software engineer.



Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer

Rev. Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali is the Martin Luther King Jr. Professor for Justice and Christian Community and Director of Islamic Studies at Luther Seminary. Before being appointed to the chair he served the seminary as visiting professor of Christian mission and social justice at the seminary. He has lectured at Princeton, Notre Dame, St. Thomas and Temple Universities and at Union Theological and Princeton seminaries. He also has served on faculties in South Africa, Sweden, England, Germany, Australia, Japan, the Philippines, and his native Pakistan.

Dr. Amjad-Ali earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oxford University and Karachi University; a Master of Divinity degree and the Ph.D. degree in Theology and political theory from Princeton Theological Seminary; and a Post-doctoral certificate in Islamic Law And History from Columbia University.



Rev. Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali

His numerous publications include *Islamophobia* (2006) *Liberation Ethics* (1985) and *Passion for Change* (1989), as well as two books with Christine Amjad-Ali, *And the Spirit Gives Life* (1993) and *History of the Shariah Act, 1991*.



Rejoice Always, Pray without ceasing, Give thanks in all circumstances...

The Rev. Dr. James Alexander

Forbes, Jr. is Senior Minister Emeritus of The Riverside Church, and President of the Healing of the Nations Foundation. Forbes. Who was installed as the fifth Senior Minister of Riverside on June 1, 1989, and retired on June 1,

honorary degrees, as well, having spoken at Harvard, Yale, and the White House.

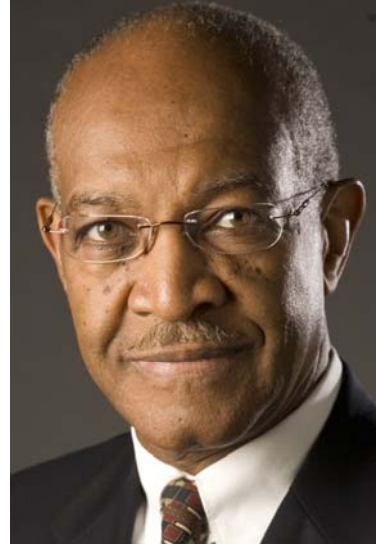
Born in Burgaw, North Carolina, Dr. Forbes is married to Bettye Franks Forbes. They have a son, James A. Forbes III.

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A12%7d&st=DESC](#)

2007, was the first African-American to serve as Senior Minister of this multi-cultural congregation. He is an ordained minister in the American Baptist Church and the Original United Holy Church of America. Prior to that, Dr. Forbes was Professor of Preaching at Union Theological Seminary.

He is known as *the preacher's preacher* because of his extensive career and his charismatic style. In 1995, *Newsweek* recognized him as "one of the 12 most effective preachers in the English-speaking world." Dr. Forbes was featured on Bill Moyers' *Speaking to Power* in 2003 and in 2004, keynoted the *Let Justice Roll* tour sponsored by the NCC. Dr. Forbes addressed the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

He earned his degrees from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Union Theological Seminary, and Howard University, and has been awarded many



Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.





Special Thanks



Many people gave of their time and talent to make this General Assembly a reality. Numerous people on the staffs of the NCCCUSA and CWS work tirelessly behind the scenes to do the mailings, printing, shipment, registration, logistics, record keeping, and other paper work on our behalf.

Among those to whom a debt of gratitude is due are:

NCC/CWS Support Staff

Special thanks to Luis Morant for exceptional assistance in all aspects of General Assembly preparations. Thanks also go to John Backer, Earl Davis, Ollie Frazier, Dee Glover, Mary Hunt, Geraldine Jones, Catherine Manning, Anne Reardon, and Barbara Suarez.

General Assembly Planning Team

Raymon E. Hunt, Chair, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Clare Chapman, NCCCUSA Staff, The United Methodist Church
Peg Chemberlin, President-Elect, Moravian Church in America
Deborah H. DeWinter, NCCCUSA Staff, United Church of Christ
Cheryl Dudley, CWS Staff, American Baptist Churches, USA
George F. Flowers, African Methodist Episcopal Church
Joan Gardner, NCCCUSA Staff, The United Methodist Church
Martha Gardner, The Episcopal Church
Thomas Hampson, CWS Staff, United Church of Christ
Rt. Rev. Johncy Itty, The Episcopal Church
Philip Jenks, NCCCUSA Staff, American Baptist Churches, USA
Michael Kinnamon, NCCCUSA General Secretary, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Antonios Kireopoulos, NCCCUSA Staff, Greek Orthodox Church
Arpi Kouzouian, Armenian Church of America
Dan Krutz, Louisiana Interchurch Conference
John McCullough, CWS Executive Director & CEO, The United Methodist Church
Janet Mitbo, Minneapolis Council of Churches
Garland Pierce, NCCCUSA Staff, African Methodist Episcopal Church
Joanne Rendall, CWS Staff, The United Methodist Church
Joe Roberson, CWS Staff, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Ann Tiemeyer, NCCCUSA Staff, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Arlene C. Tyler, Progressive National Baptist Convention
Ann Walle, CWS Staff, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Young Adult Steward Program Selection Committee

David Fraccaro, NCC Staff, United Church of Christ
Rebekah Houff, Church of the Brethren, Senior Steward
Andrew Hudson, Church of God (Cleveland, TN), Senior Steward
Garland F. Pierce, NCC Staff, African Methodist Episcopal Church
Ann Walle, CWS Staff, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Parliamentarians

Dennis Frado, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Gradye Parsons, Presbyterian Church (USA)

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New Fire Planning Team Members

Reggie Bachus, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.
Jordan Blevins, Church of the Brethren
Stephen Dotson, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Rev. Robyn Fickes, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rebekah Houff, Church of the Brethren
Andrew Hudson, Church of God (Cleveland, TN)
Rachel Madema, Presbyterian Church, USA
Juliana Mecera, Orthodox Church in America
Nickie Moreno, The United Methodist Church
Katrice Noland, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
Ray Ranker, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
Shantha Ready, Catholic Church

New Fire Staff Resources

David Fraccaro - United Church of Christ, Young Adult Ecumenical Formation
Coordinator for the NCCCUSA
Garland Pierce - African Methodist Episcopal Church, Senior Program
Director for Education and Leadership Ministries for the NCCCUSA
Anne Walle, Communications Director, Church World Service

Photographer

The General Assembly gratefully acknowledges the excellent photography and media services provided by Cameron MultiMedia, Inc.

SAVE THE DATE

**“WITNESSES OF THESE THINGS:
ECUMENICAL ENGAGEMENT
IN A NEW ERA”
(Including The General Assembly)**

**NOVEMBER 9 – 11, 2010
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

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THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL MINNEAPOLIS PARK PLACE

Green Practices

- As a member of the Hilton Family of Hotels they participate in the HEAT program, or Hilton Environmental Analysis and Tracking. This program attempts to minimize environmental impact while maintaining guest and employee satisfaction. This program measures comparable data of water and energy efficiency, waste and recycling management, and sustainable purchasing and food and beverage operations – as well as community relations.
- Unoccupied rooms and meeting space have shades drawn, lights turned off, and AC or heat turned off until arrival of guest. Hotel has 65% of its lighting sources currently using florescent.
- Their meeting space has a banquet standard that requires the use of tap water pitchers at each table for their guests.
- All guestrooms are equipped with low-flow shower heads and toilets. The public restrooms have auto-flush low flow toilets, and auto controlled hand washing.
- This hotel has regularly scheduled pick up of recycling products for glass, aluminum, and paper/cardboard with waste receptacles that separate aluminum, glass, and paper are in all guestrooms and meeting space. They receive electronic certification confirming delivery.
- This hotel participates in a water usage reduction with their guest room linen and bath towel program. Each guest receives notification and instructions on the nightstand and on the vanity in the bathroom on instructions on what to do if they would like to participate in this voluntary program of reusing towel and linen during their stay.
- They reuse most of their food in house at the employee cafeteria. All food scraps from any of the sources are sold to the pork farmers which in turn also reduces the amount of weekly garbage. Any left-over turkeys or hams from holiday hand outs to employees are given to the homeless shelters.

Social Programs

- Founded in 2002, Teaching Kids to CARE is a unique adopt-a-school program that has mentored more than 100,000 grade school students in 150 cities with the lesson that when we work together, our individual caring efforts for our communities can make a meaningful difference for our world. The Doubletree Hotel Minneapolis Park Place has adopted the Peter Hobart Elementary School.
- This hotel participates in a company-wide recycling program initiative to include: energy, water, waste – food, plastic, paper, and aluminum.
- Doubletree's past five years of fun-filled initiatives have led to achievements such as the planting of more than 200,000 trees, the symbolic adoption of more than 2,500 endangered animals, the fundraising of \$250,000 to benefit hurricane relief efforts and a lesson in the democratic process resulting in the donation of 250,000 Doubletree cookies.
- This hotel is also involved in: Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Walk, American Red Cross Blood Drive, Coat Drive, Momentum Program, Elementary Reading Program, Teaching Kids to CARE Spring and Fall Programs.

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