



NEW FIRE 2009: BUILDING THE NEW FIRE

November 6th-9th, 2009

Double Tree Hotel

Minneapolis, MN

Sponsored by The National Council of Churches, USA, Church World Service, and the US Conference for the World Council of Churches



'New Fire' participants



New Fire 2009 Statement of Purpose

The New Fire gathering is a Christian ecumenical forum for current and future young adult leaders of different communions/denominations and ecumenical initiatives, which establishes a common space for:

- relationship building
- ecumenical education and formation
- leadership training
- sharing of resources and best practices
- strategic planning

New Fire participants are called by Christ into relationships of reconciling prayer and mutual accountability, understanding that our unity in Christ is not the end goal, but the beginning of engagement in the world. New Fire participants are asked to be willing to enter into critical self and group examination regarding our various cultural/theological/religious/racial/class biases; and to open themselves to the different expressions of our common faith through open dialogue and worship together. The a New Fire gathering empowers young adults with the tools to build the capacity and stretch the boundaries of the ecumenical movement in North America. New Fire participants are especially committed to empowering cooperative networks of local, grassroots young adult ecumenical initiatives that can connect to the larger facilitating bodies of the National Council of Churches, Church World Service, World Council of Churches and the World Student Christian Federation. We believe this work is vital to the growth of the ecumenical movement now, and for its sustainability into the future.

New Fire 2009 Goals

1. Connect, and build the relationships between numerous young adult leaders, and the communions/initiatives they represent; considering common resources, and exploring potential partnerships (via strategic planning) into the future.
2. Expand the New Fire movement to include under-represented member communions, as well as previously unconnected initiatives and communions/denominations from outside the NCC/CWS; ensuring ways to maintain these relationships into the future.
3. Engage in critical self and group examination (cultural/theological/religious/racial/class biases) through open dialogue, common prayer, and creative worship; affirming differences, while reconciling participants to their oneness in Christ.

4. Explore existing, as well as potential models of young adult ecumenism on the local level; empowering young adult leadership at the grassroots level.
5. Provide crucial education and formation opportunities for participants to learn the basics of ecumenical history, including its theological/biblical roots; reflecting on ecumenism's past, while envisioning for the future, as well as providing creative worship space in which participants can experience the traditions and expressions of their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.
6. Integrate use of innovative media and social networking to sustain communication and network relations beyond the New Fire gathering; sharing our experience and commitments to ecumenically engaged young adults who were not able to be present at New Fire, and finding ways for them to connect into the young adult ecumenical movement.

Brief Summary of New Fire 2009

New Fire 2009 participants can look forward to an inclusive program that seeks to connect ecumenically engaged young adults who value the work of Christian unity through discussion, worship and leadership training. Participants will be introduced to the history and tradition of Christian ecumenism, and work together to identify the strengths and challenges of the current young adult ecumenical movement in the US. Significant time will be 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 will be set aside for small group discussion, and participants will be encouraged to reflect creatively on their experience through media and social online networking. It is hoped that all participants will find their experience spiritually enriching and intellectually challenging, and will 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 everywhere.

Official New Fire 2009 programming will begin at 9am on Saturday morning, November 7th and will continue through Monday afternoon at 4pm, November 9th. We encourage where possible for participants to stay through the opening day of the NCC/CWS General Assembly for the young adult led worship and New Fire presentation on Tuesday evening, November 10th. Registered participants will be given a more specific schematic of New Fire 2009, as well as numerous preparatory resources a few weeks before the gathering.

General Registration Form

(Please type or clearly print the following information)

Title (Dr., Rev., Ms., Mr., etc.) _____ Full Name: _____
Name as you would like it to appear on a nametag _____
Communion/Denomination: _____
Organization/Sponsor (if any): _____
Address: _____
(Street) (City/State/Zip)
Phone: _____ Email address _____
Please identify any special accessibility and/or dietary needs: _____

Please let us know if you will be attending as a:

- Young Adult Representative of a Communion/Ecumenical Organization
- Steward
- General Assembly young adult delegate
- New Fire participant
- Other _____

Please identify all parts of the meeting you plan to attend:

- Building the New Fire:**
 - New Fire Weekend (Saturday and Sunday)
 - New Fire Monday (until 4pm)
 - Please note time of arrival _____
 - NCC/CWS General Assembly**
 - Tuesday (including New Fire GA report and young adult led worship)
 - Wednesday and Thursday
 - Please note time of departure _____
- Please visit <http://www.nccusa.org/ga2009/links.htm> for more information, and to register for the NCC/CWS General Assembly if staying beyond Tuesday!

Hotel Arrangements

Please note that hotel arrangements will be made for all participants, and that all participants will be assigned a roommate.

Hotel room rates are \$120 (plus taxes) per room, per night. Participants will pay balance upon check out from the hotel.

To reserve your own single room only, please visit <http://www.nccusa.org/ga2009/travelandhotelinfo.pdf>

For roommate coordination purposes, please mark your gender here: _____

If you would like to be with a particular roommate, please indicate his or her name here: _____

For information about the location of the hotel in Minneapolis, and travel information from the airport, visit

<http://www.nccusa.org/ga2009/travelandhotelinfo.pdf>

Registration and Payment

The New Fire 2009: Building the New Fire registration fee will be \$50. This will cover all meals and logistics costs Saturday morning through Monday afternoon

Check One Payment Method Please: All registrations must include payment in order to be processed (All fee payments are to be made payable to the National Council of Churches)

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Credit Card # _____ Expires _____

Signature: _____

Print name: _____

3 Ways for Young Adults to Register!

- 1. Mail:** Complete and mail the Registration Form with payment to: NCC/USA, ATTN: NEW FIRE, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 800, New York, NY 10115-0050.
- 2. Fax:** Send the registration form with your credit card information to 212-870-3112, Attn: New Fire.
- 3. Email:** Fill out the registration form with your credit card information and email to David Fraccaro (dfraccaro@nccusa.org)

. To assist our office with planning, please register early.

Questions?

**Please call David Fraccaro at (212) 870-2192 or Garland Pierce at (212) 870-2267
OR email David at dfraccaro@nccusa.org or Garland at gpierce@nccusa.org**

For financial assistance for New Fire, you are encouraged to speak with your denomination/communion's ecumenical office.
To explore other funding possibilities, please email or call David or Garland, and they will be happy to assist you!

*** The Registration Deadline for New Fire 2009, Building the New Fire is October 23rd, 2009!! ***

Cancellations and requests for refunds must be received in writing no later than October 30th, 2009. Send those requests to NCC/USA, ATTN: NEW FIRE, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 800, New York, NY 10115-0050. Refunds will be issued after the meeting.

Please assist the New Fire 2009 planning team by briefly answering the following questions:

Please briefly describe your experience working with Christians of different communions and denominations on a local, national, and/or international level:

What do you understand the challenges, as well as the benefits to be working and worshipping together as Christians of many traditions for a more just, peaceful, and loving world?

How would you change and/or inspire ecumenical relations in your community? What resources would you need to accomplish these goals?

*Please note that the New Fire 2009 schematic, as well as numerous preparatory resources will be sent to all registered participants by October 23rd! Don't hesitate to contact us with questions. Peace and Unity!