



Committee on Family Ministries and Human Sexuality

Chair: Position Vacant

Staff: Garland F. Pierce

Program Mission/Purpose:

The committee undertakes study, research and advocacy. The committee develops programs and resources to assist congregations in:

- Nurturing family growth and involvement in faith community.
- Offering occasions for life-long learning for families across generations.
- Strengthening the character, configuration and resilience of families within a full-range of diverse expression.
- Fostering informed, healthy and responsible sexual expression and identity throughout the life cycle.

1. What specific actions has the program ministry committee taken or plans to take to follow through with the work on cultural proficiency begun in the January 2005 ELMC meeting?

In keeping with the first part (2005—*Valuing Families*) of a two-part family resource, the 2006 family resource, *Family Values: A Tapestry of Choices*, has as one of its primary operating assumptions the affirmation of all people as made in the image of God and worthy of respect.

2. What actions has the program ministry committee taken to strengthen its relations to:

a. Other ELMC program ministry committees: We continue to meet jointly with the Committee on Justice for Children and their Families to share in continuing education and to work collaboratively on joint projects. With this sister committee, we produced an interpretive and study resource for the NCCC's Church and Children Policy Statement.

b. NCCC member communions not represented at the table: The committee continues to make efforts to contact, primarily by phone and email, denominational representatives who have not been active recently in the shared work of the committee in order to identify and address barriers to participation.

c. Other communions and/or agencies? There are a number of non-NCCC communions and other agencies that affiliate with the committee and share in this ministry. Two representatives from agencies and one representative from a non-NCCC communion are a part of the committee's current smaller leadership team, which does strategic planning and setting priorities for the committee. This model and makeup of shared leadership is intentional and is an operating principle of the committee.

Like the Committee on Black Congregational Ministries, CFMHS has had some input into the African American Churches Breaking the Silence for the Good of All Families project of the Justice and Advocacy Commission.

3. How does the work of your program ministry committee make ELMC a stronger witness to the unity of the church?

We tend to the strengths, needs and realities of families at various ages and stages. The resources we provide nurture faith expression in formal and daily communities. The participating communions pool their financial and human resources to develop an ecumenical resource that families and congregations can use. Persons and congregations even beyond the USA and Canada have used the online family resource. In partnering with the Committee on Justice for Children and their Families, we provide a voice and proactive conscience for inclusive and full-service of ministry.

4. What work of this program ministry committee was carried forward between meetings of the committee and how was it done?

A smaller production team finalized the 2006 resource via conference calls and email correspondences. Much of the committee's normal interim activity was diminished this year because of a number of staff transitions and reductions affecting negatively the membership and leadership of the committee.

5. What resources/products/services does the program ministry offer to denominations/congregations/the public?

The CFMHS continues to add to its library of electronic resources to inform and inspire a lifestyle that's Christ's style. We are referring to them as Family E-Resources and offering them as a product for gift or purchase to give equal access to all homes and communions. The committee is in the process of developing an online bibliography of resources for families and family ministries and on issues related to spirituality and sexuality. As mentioned before, CFMHS partnered with the Committee on Justice for Children and their Families to produce a study guide to the NCCC's Church and Children Policy Statement.

6. What recommendations do you want to make to the Education and Leadership Ministries Commission? To the NCCCUSA?

We encourage the other committees and commissions of the NCCCUSA to consider us as viable partners in ministry initiatives to issues of families and/or human sexuality.



Membership:

Raymon E. Hunt
Kaye S. Edwards
Carmichael L. Crutchfield
Robert B. Blake
Arthur Kelly
Anne L. Tuohy
Josselyn Bennett
Miriam Campbell
Jeffrey S. Schubert
Terry Graver
Judy Hockenberry
Jeffrey Japinga
Jackie Harper
Carolyn Landers-Pettigrew
Ann L. Hanson
Mary Jane Pierce Norton

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Church of the Brethren
Church of God (Anderson)
The Episcopal Church USA
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Mennonite Church, General Conference
Presbyterian Church USA
Reformed Church in America
The United Church of Canada
United Church of Christ
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church

Agencies

Michael Popkin
Reneé Colclough Hinson
Aubra Love
Patsy White
Jon Singletary
Thelma B. Burgonio-Watson
Ann E. Zimmerman
Kay Gudmestad
James and Kathleen McGinnis
Jamie Curtis

Active Parenting
Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment
The Black Church and Domestic Violence Institute
The Black Church and Domestic Violence Institute
The Center for Family and Community Ministries
Faith Trust Institute
On Eagle's Wings
MELD
Parenting for Peace and Justice Network
Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc.

Observers

Barbara Anderson
Willie Oliver

National Conference of Catholic Bishops
Seventh Day Adventist Church