

Ecumenical Networks Standing Committee
General Assembly of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA
and Church World Service

Final Report to the NCC Governing Board
November 3, 2010
The Rev. David P. Baak, Chair

The Ecumenical Networks Standing Committee (ENSC) concludes its existence and work with this meeting. We celebrate the establishment of the new NCC Local and Regional Ecumenism Committee, reporting to the Governing Board. This committee was created in September by the Board and a nominations process is being finalized in advance of the Nov. 9 Governing Board Meeting when the new committee members will be elected. Some of the ENSC members continue on the new committee and much of the spirit and direction and concerns are the same. However, the new placement of the committee is critical, we believe, for deepening the relationships with and among local/regional ecumenical expressions and between local and regional ecumenism and the larger community of NCC/CWS communions. Communication and accountability with, between, and among us all will be strengthened with this new structure and its leadership.

The first meeting of the new Local Regional Ecumenism Committee will take place in San Antonio, on February 3-4, 2011, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff (NAEIS).

We bring these items to your attention and for your action as indicated:

1. This new committee will be funded based on donations from NCC/CWS member communions, local and regional organizations, and committed individuals. We are making an appeal that each member communion contribute \$500 (or more) each year to a new cognate fund for the Local and Regional Ecumenism Committee. We also appeal to local and regional ecumenical organizations, requesting contributions of \$50-\$300 (or more) each year depending on the size of the organization. Individuals can support this work at any time, specifying 'local and regional ecumenism' with their donation. NCC member communions are represented in all local and regional councils and this national committee will strengthen both the communions and the councils in all geographic arenas. Formal appeals are forthcoming.
2. Members of the ENSC have been actively involved in the planning of "The Promise of Ecumenical Community" consultation on the future of local and regional ecumenism to be held this coming Thursday November 11 (joining the Centennial Gathering) through Friday, November 12, 2010. We are delighted to report that some 90 persons have registered for this discussion, which will include a participatory leadership process as we discern visions for the future of local and regional ecumenism. We urge you to attend, even at this late date, if you are able but not yet planning to do so. You can register until the end of the day Tuesday, November 9.

Finally, I thank you for the opportunity to chair the Ecumenical Networks Standing Committee for this quadrennium. The best parts of such an experience, as you all know, are the relationships with the people we meet along the way—and that has been life-giving for me. I trust that we've also done some good programming and, as well, have demonstrated some of the possibilities inherent in our confession of Christian Unity.

I thank Ammon Ripple, especially, for his staff work; I thank you for the opportunity to present this report.

Respectfully submitted,

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