



Witnesses of These Things: Ecumenical Engagement in a New Era

**2010 Centennial Ecumenical Gathering and General Assembly of the
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA
and Church World Service**

September 3, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are pleased to invite you to attend the Centennial Ecumenical Gathering and General Assembly of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA and Church World Service taking place at the Marriott New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana from November 9 – 11, 2010. As we mark the 100th anniversary of the Edinburgh World Mission Conference, an event that is often regarded as the symbolic beginning of the modern ecumenical movement, the boards of the National Council of Churches and Church World Service decided to make the 2010 General Assembly a gathering and celebration of this movement as well as an assembly of these two organizations.

The theme for the Centennial Gathering will be “Witnesses of These Things: Ecumenical Engagement in a New Era.” The theme is taken from Luke 24:48 which is the scriptural theme text for the 2010 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – an additional reminder that there is one, multi-faceted ecumenical movement. In one sense, this event will be a “celebration” of modern ecumenism, but also a time for assessing the churches’ failure to receive God’s gift of unity, for anticipating new directions for ecumenism in the 21st Century, and for recommitting ourselves and our churches to the ecumenical calling.

To register for the meeting and to help you prepare for your travel to New Orleans, Louisiana and your stay there, please see the enclosed documents.

As a participant, we need your spirit, your energy, and your perspective on the ecumenical calling in the 21st century.

Blessings to you in your ministries as they unfold in the weeks ahead. May the arrival of September define the beginning of a new season of hope.

Sincerely,

Rt. Rev. Johncy Itty
Co-Moderator

Rev. Peg Chamberlin
Co-Moderator

Rev. Peg Chamberlin
Moravian Church in America
Co-Moderator of the General
Assembly
President, NCC

Rt. Rev. Johncy Itty
The Episcopal Church
Co-Moderator of the General
Assembly
Chairperson, CWS Board
of Directors

Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America
President-Elect, NCC

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

Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon
Genereral Secretary, NCC

Rev. John L. McCullough
Executive Director & CEO, CWS