



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

Preparing for the Centennial Ecumenical Gathering/General Assembly (October Checklist)

- Reserve the dates on your calendar**, noting carefully when you need to arrive.
- The Opening Plenary, Welcome & Orientation on Tuesday, November 9 begins at 10:30am. Please make your travel arrangements so you can attend this opening session that will begin at this earlier time.**
- Make sure you are pre-registered for the following special and related events if you want to attend** – these are not part of the basic registration fee. If already registered, you can add these options to your registration using the instructions in your confirmation email, or you can contact the registrar at 212-870-3417 or registrar@nccusa.org. **Register by November 1 to be sure you can attend these events.**

The Restoring New Orleans Work Day is scheduled for Monday, November 8, 7:00 am to 4:30 pm. See the online flyer linked from the event site for more information and register for this additional event on the online registration form. The registration fee is \$30. Please join The Rt. Rev. Johnny Itty, CWS Board Chair; Kathryn Lohre, NCC President-Elect; Bishop John White, Chair of the Planning Committee; The Rev. John McCullough, Executive Director of CWS, and others in this act of service and witness.

The New Fire Gathering on Sunday November 7 through Tuesday November 9 offers a common space for relationship building, ecumenical formation, leadership training, and strategic planning for a new generation of ecumenical leaders. Persons of all ages are encouraged to attend. The registration fee is \$50.

The Claire Randall Women's Leadership Lunch on Wednesday November 10 is for all delegates, registered guests, and local visitors. Both men and women are encouraged to attend. Space will be limited and there is an additional fee of \$30 (\$40 for non-registered guests). This event is always well-attended and offers engaging programs related to gender justice as well as an outstanding lunch. The keynote speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Ferris from the

Brookings Institute, will speak on *When Disaster Strikes: Women's Particular Vulnerabilities and Amazing Strengths*. See the online flyer for more details about the program.

The Racial/Ethnic Caucus Breakfast on Thursday, November 11. All delegates and registered guests are encouraged to attend. Space will be limited and there is an additional fee of \$20. The caucus is preparing an engaging experience with a delicious breakfast.

The Local & Regional Ecumenism Consultation on Friday, November 12 is open to all. You are encouraged to stay on to engage more than 100 leaders in crafting a vision for the future of Christian unity in our local and regional communities.

- ❑ **See the online flyer with the Invitation to the Corinthian Cafés** – a continuous series of conversations about the key issues of our day:

“Christian understanding of unity in an age of radical diversity”
“Christian understanding of mission in an age of interfaith relations”
“Christian understanding of creation in an age of environmental crisis”
“Christian understanding of war in an age of terror(ism)”
“Christian understanding of the economy in an age of growing inequality”

These café conversations are a dynamic way to engage these topics, building upon the work done in five corresponding vision papers. These papers will be made available soon to stir your thoughts before we gather. Each participant will be asked to engage one of these topics in the café conversations, and there will also be a time to discuss how all of these issues come into play as we envision the future of the ecumenical movement. See also the online description of these studies, including a brief description of each vision paper. You will receive another communication when the papers are available and will have an opportunity to indicate preferences for the topics you would like to engage.

- ❑ **Pray each week** for the Centennial Ecumenical Gathering, its participants, and its witness in the world.

- ❑ **Go online to register** for the Centennial Ecumenical Gathering/General Assembly at: www.nccusa.org/witnesses2010, click on the “Registration & Hotel box” - click “online registration form” to proceed with the event registration. If unable to use the online form, call 212-870-3417 to give your information by phone. For general assistance, call this number or send email to registrar@nccusa.org.

The registration fee is \$390 for the Gathering which includes meals, materials, name badges and the Centennial Gathering tote bag. Please register by midnight on October 11th to receive a discounted fee of \$350. Payment must be sent by Oct. 18 to qualify for the discount.

- ❑ **Reserve a room** at the Marriott New Orleans Convention Center Hotel: Go to www.nccusa.org/witnesses2010, click on the “Registration & Hotel box” - then click “Reserve a room” to reserve a room online. To reserve a room by phone, call 1-800-305-6342 and use the code 'NCC' or '2010 General Assembly'. To obtain the discounted group rate of \$129 per night the reservation must be made no later than October 21, 2010. The hotel has agreed to offer the group rate for 3 days after the gathering based on availability – call the hotel to inquire about room availability.