



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

We welcome you as a participant in the Centennial Ecumenical Gathering and General Assembly hosted by the National Council of Churches and Church World Service. These guidelines may help you prepare for this event in New Orleans, Louisiana November 9-11, 2010:

1. **Reserve** the dates on your calendar. (See the enclosed “Event Summary.”)

Note the following events to plan for:

A Habitat for Humanity Building Project is scheduled for Monday, November 8th, 7:00am to 4:30pm. (See the enclosed Habitat for Humanity Building Project flyer.) Please join us!

The Open Plenary, Welcome & Orientation on Tuesday, November 9th begins at **10:30am**. Make your travel arrangements to attend this opening session that will begin at this earlier time.

The Centennial Gathering will conclude Thursday evening with the Celebration and Commemoration Banquet and Closing Worship to be held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with Bishop Vashti McKenzie of the African Methodist Episcopal Church preaching.

All are invited to stay through Friday afternoon, November 12th for the Local & Regional Ecumenism Consultation: “The Promise of Ecumenical Community: Visioning Our Future.” (See the enclosed flier.)

2. **In the very near future the following vision papers will be sent to you for discussions during the Gathering:**

- “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”

3. **Pray** each week for the Centennial Ecumenical Gathering, its participants, and its witness in the world.
4. **Read** all the material in this mailing.
5. **Go online to register for the Centennial Ecumenical Gathering/General Assembly at:** www.nccusa.org/witnesses2010 , click on the “Registration & Hotel box” and then click “online registration form” to proceed with the event registration.

The registration fee is \$390 for the Gathering which includes meals, materials, name badges and the Centennial Gathering tote bag. **Please register by October 11th and receive a discounted fee of \$350.**

For general assistance or for alternatives if you are unable to complete the online form contact the registrar at registrar@nccusa.org or (212) 870-3417.

For General Assembly Delegates please contact the Ecumenical Officer of your communion regarding how your communion will handle the event’s registration process and hotel registration. Some communions have the individual delegates register themselves. Some communions register the entire delegation together.

6. **Go online to register for the Marriott New Orleans Convention Center Hotel at:** www.nccusa.org/witnesses2010 , click on the “Registration & Hotel box” - then click “Reserve a room” to register for your room nights at the hotel. To obtain the **discounted group rate of \$129** per night the reservation must be made no later than **October 21, 2010**. (For alternative methods to register for the hotel see the enclosed Hotel/Travel sheet)