



CHURCHES UNITING IN CHRIST is not a new structure. It is an officially-sanctioned invitation to live with one another differently. Christians in the pews know that we belong to one another because we all belong to the same Lord. Churches Uniting in Christ is a framework for showing to the world what we truly are — the one body of Christ.

CHURCHES UNITING IN CHRIST

- n Growing in faith together
- n Worshiping God together
- n Combating racism together
- n Proclaiming gospel together
- n Seeking wholeness together
- n Being church together

An Invitation to a New Way of Living Together

THE BIBLICAL MANDATE IS CLEAR: the church should be like a body in which one part cannot say to another, "I have no need of you." History is also clear: the divisions of the church undermine our witness to the good news of God's reconciling love made known in Jesus Christ. But, what does unity look like? And how can we express it without losing the gifts that God has given us in our separate traditions?

For forty years, members of nine U.S. Protestant churches have studied and prayed about these questions together through the Consultation on Church Union (COCU). Now the day is at hand to stop "consulting" and manifest our unity more fully!



On January 20, 2002, the participating churches will inaugurate a new relationship to be called Churches Uniting in Christ. Each church will retain its own identity and decision-making structures, but the churches will pledge, before God, to draw closer in sacred things, including regular sharing of the Lord's Supper (Eucharist) and common mission — especially a shared mission to combat racism in our local communities. The churches will also commit themselves to undertake an intensive dialogue toward the day when our ministers are authorized to serve and lead worship, when needed or invited, in each of the communions.

Who are the Churches Uniting in Christ?

- African Methodist Episcopal Church
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- Episcopal Church
- International Council of Community Churches
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Church

What your congregation can do to prepare for Churches Uniting in Christ

- Pray for the other churches, especially those in your neighborhood, and for God's blessing on this new relationship
- Share news of Churches Uniting in Christ with others in your community
- Plan to celebrate the birth of Churches Uniting in Christ in January 2002
- Visit www.cuicinfo.org

