

CUIC Local and Regional Task Force Looks Ahead

Columbus, OH, October 20, 2007 - Meeting in Columbus, OH, October 18-20, the Local and Regional Task Force (LRTF) of Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC), affirmed a program in which each of the ten member communions takes leadership in making CUIC visible in one city. CUIC is a relationship among Christians calling on churches to recognize and combat racism in church and society, to recognize the clergy of other Christian groups and share ministers with one another, and celebrate the Eucharist or Lord's Supper together.

The task force met at the offices of the regional Presbyterian governing body, the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. Chairing the meeting was the Rev. Rebecca Tollefson, executive director of the Ohio Council of Churches.

On Thursday evening, October 18, the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Columbus hosted the task force and local pastors and lay persons for dinner and conversation..

On Friday morning, October 19, students and faculty from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Bexley Hall Seminary (Episcopal), and the Methodist Theological School of Delaware, Ohio, met with the CUIC group for worship, lunch, and a time of discussion concerning CUIC and Christian unity.

In its meeting the task force addressed updating CUIC literature and the CUIC website (www.cuicinfo.org). An important component of each task force meeting is hearing reports from member groups in order to build relationships and share resources. The group, along with other CUIC task forces, is preparing for a January 11-14, 2008 Plenary to be held in St. Louis, MO. Member communions will each bring seven delegates, and other communions will be invited as visitors to the Plenary.

Churches Uniting in Christ had its official beginning in 2002, when heads of the member group met at the Lorraine Motel, site of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., to reaffirm their commitment to fight racism. The roots of CUIC are in COCU, the Consultation on Church Union, an effort to bring churches together dating back to 1962.

CUIC member communions include African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, The Episcopal Church, International Council of Community Churches, Moravian Church Northern Province, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Church. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a Partner in Mission and Dialogue, and the Roman Catholic Church is an official Observer.