

CHURCH COUNCIL BULLETIN

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Winter 2012

North Carolina Council of Churches

A Strong Finish in 2011, Big Plans for 2012

In 2011, the North Carolina Council of Churches continued its work in ministries that touch the heart of prophetic social justice. From immigration to health, care of creation to peace, the Council made progress in some areas and held ground against a mounting political tide in others, but the constant driving force in all situations is the belief in the Biblical call to serve the least of these. For a summary of some of the Council's accomplishments, please turn to page 3. For in-depth information, please visit www.nccouncilofchurches.org.

As important as this work continues to be, the efforts of the Council's supporters at the end of 2011 deserve special acknowledgement. Individual donors along with some congregations met the challenge of helping the NCCC keep programs running and staffing levels undiminished with an outpouring of financial support in the last three months of the year. As some of the Council's judicatory members dealt with their own financial shortfalls, generosity from other sources had never been more crucial. Many of you who value the work of the Council recognized that need, and we are profoundly grateful.

Thank you.

Looking ahead to 2012, the work of the Council continues to grow in importance and urgency.

Already in the first weeks of the year, North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light has spearheaded efforts to bring Transition Congregation Training to the Triangle and to help people of faith throughout the state become involved in the national Preach-In on Global Warming. Meanwhile, Partners in Health and Wholeness has been chosen to have its story told as part of the Inspired campaign of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation. And the Christian Unity Committee sponsors its Fourth Annual Conference on the Common Good in Raleigh on Feb. 20.

The lead up to April and May will be particularly a busy time for the Council. The 2012 Critical Issues Seminar takes place April 19 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem. The theme this year is "Eating Well: For Ourselves, For Our Neighbors, For Our Planet" and takes as its focus the social justice implications of our food, where it comes from, how it's grown and by whom. The day's complete program is linked below.

In addition, the Council is part of a coalition of organizations working to oppose the marriage amendment that goes before state voters on May 8. In 2004, the NC Council of Churches went on record in opposition to a constitutional amendment defining marriage, noting that discrimination has no place in our state or federal constitution. For that reason, the Council has joined with other in the Coalition to Protect All NC Families to work against Amendment One.

Even more is planned in 2012. We look forward to sharing it with you.

Look Inside for:

A list of donors, p. 2

A look at program successes in 2011, p. 3

[Registration for the 2012 Critical Issues Seminar](#)

Council Grateful for Donor Support

Financial support from our **member bodies** makes up the largest part of the Council's core budget. We are grateful for member support in 2011 from the NC judicatories of the Alliance of Baptists, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, General Baptist State Convention, Mennonite Church USA, Metropolitan Community Churches, Moravian Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Religious Society of Friends, Roman Catholic Church, Unity Fellowship Church Movement, United Methodist Church, seven Baptist congregations — Binkley Memorial, Knollwood, Mars Hill, Myers Park, Pullen Memorial, Wake Forest, Watts Street — and The Congregation at Duke Chapel.

In addition, the Council, its programs, and the Sister Evelyn Mattern Fund received donations from **individuals** in 2011. They include: Jim & Diane Abbott, Joanne Abel, Allen Adams, Mike & Catherine Aiken, Teresa Aldahondo, Bob & Isa Allen, Jane Almon, George Alwon, William & Sarah Anderson, Bobbie & Bob Armstrong, John & Mary-Scott Arnold, Rebecca Askew & Nell Summerlin, William Austin, Ann Baker & Michael Lienesch, Clea Baker, Stephanie Bass & Bill Holman, James & Laura Bazan, John Becton & Nancy Tannenbaum, John Bell & Judy Whisnant, Josephine Bell, Susie Bell, Sarah Benbow, Arnetta Beverly, Debbie & David Biesack, Bob & Carol Bilbro, Bill & Annette Bingham, Veronica Bitting, Anna Neal Blanchard, Dennis & Kathy Boos, Henry & Sory Bowers, George Brine, Andrew Brown Jr., Jeffrey Brown, Bob & Loven Bruhn, Marisa Bryant, Nancy C. Bryant, Sally Buckner, John & Viola Bullock, Joe & Linda Burton, Margaret & Rupert Burton, César Carhuachín, Sharon Castleberry, John Causey, Daisy Chambers, Kathy Chambers, Jean Chapman, Joe & Eva Clontz, Ran Coble & Jane Kendall, Mike Cogsdale, Brian Cole, Michael & Amelia Collins, Joyce Corbett, Stanley & Colette Corwin, Jimmy Creech & Chris Weedy, Kay Crum, Anne Dahle, Clifton Daniel III, Claude & Elizabeth Deal, John & Julia Denham, Leah & Joe Devlin, Francis & Ann DiGiano, Erlinda Dobson, Anne & Jim Drennan, Elsie Eads, Marjorie Eckels, Ginger & Ed Eckermann, Clyde & Kristina Edgerton, Steve & Sylvia Edwards, Elizabeth Ellerbee, Julia Elsee, Robert Estill, Holly Fairbairn, Marie Felder, Ione Ferguson, Jim & Doris Ferree, Dan & Deanna Figgins, Sue Fitzgerald, David Forbes, Deborah Fox, Susan Frantz & Verla Viera, and Mildred Fry.

Also, Burhan & Manar Ghanayem, Ed & Lois Gibbon, Gary & Judy Gloster, Carol & David Goehring, Elise Goldman, Jean Gordon, Robert & Barbara Gosney, Christopher Graebe, Dorothy Graham, William & Mallie Graham, Bill Gramley, Elizabeth Grant, Ferrel & Kathleen Guillory, Rose & Michael Gurkin, Norm & Nancy Gustaveson, Alberta Hairston, Jim & Mary Beth Hall, Mary Lee Hall, Steve & Marcy Halsted, Mary Elizabeth & Matt Hanchey, Bett & Bud Hargrave, Tom & Polly Harris, Carlisle Harvard, Charles & Faith Hawes, Mary Herr, Kristin Herzog, Linda Hiatt & Peter Reichard, Steve & Peggy Hickle, Donna Hicks, Hilda Highfill, Dennis & Diane Hill, John & Margaret Hilpert, Joe Hoffman & Noel Hickle, Joe & Betsy Holsopple, Bonita Hooper, John Howard Sr., Frances Huetter, E. W. & Janet Hutchins, Sandy & Deane Irving, Sam Isley, Carolyn Jaramillo, Terri & Michael Jarina, Charles & Dorothy Jeffress, Bill & Joanne Jeffries, Ann Jennings, Bridget Brown Johnson & Jeff Johnson, Cureton Johnson, Elmer & Phyllis Johnson, L. Merritt & Mrs. L. Merritt Jones Jr., Ross & Gwinn Jones, Belton & Louise Joyner, David Kaylor, Beth

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Also, Rod & Sylvia O'Connor, Judy Occhetti-Klohr & Leo Klohr, Lucy Oliver & Tom Rightmyer, John & Nancy Paar, Enrique Gomez Palacio, J. Robert & Carol Passmore, Mary Patton, Aleta Payne & Neil McClenney, Owen & Mary Peeler, Joan Pennell, Toddie Peters & Jeffrey Hatcher, Ruth Petersen, Gail & Bob Phares, Bob Phillips & Anne Winfield, Paul & Cynthia Phillips, Jim & Susan Pike, Reggie & Carrie Ponder, Joan & Jack Preiss, Steven Preissler, David & Lisa Price, Conrad Pridgen, Kenny & Joan Purcell, Alice Ratliff, Perry & Carol Lawson, Daniel Read, George Reed & Susan Evans Reed, Lynn Rhoades, Graham & Sybil Rights, John D. & Mary Rights, Jill & Austin Rios, Tibbie Roberts, Jean & Charlie Rodenbough, Tom & Tish Rokoske, Harold & Gladys Rose, Art & Jan Ross, Ben & Jeanne Rouse, Marc Rudow & Deborah Miles, Rollin & Betsy Russell, Julia & Robert Sandercock, Alan & Debra Sasser, Clarence & Lucile Schmidt, Judy Schneider, Pam Seamans & Ben Feldman, Bob & Pearl Seymour, Jihad Shawwa, Norma Shepard, Carolyn Shinn, Steve Shore, David Shumate, Carl & Emilie Sigel, George & Mary Simmons, Bill & Winnie Smith, Charles & Barbara Smith, Erich & Laura Smith, Gary & Jane Smith, Laura Bell Smith, Richard & Alice Smith, Steve & Rachel Smith, Laura & Tom Spangler, Nancy Carol Stahl, Lynn Stall, Willona Stallings, Rufus & Betty Lou Stark, Judy Starnes, Ruth Harper Stevens, Jeanette Stokes, Brenda Summers, Linda & Dan Textoris, Sydnor & Harriette Thompson, Bill Tiemann & Rachel Haynes, David Tilley, Nori Torbert, Bill & Betsy Towe, Rose Marie Tresp, Hannah Vaughan, Isaac & Katie Villegas, Andrea Vizoso & Andrew Short, Barbara & Richard Volk, Geoffrey & Margaret Wainwright, R.A.L. "Bud" Walker, Al & Miriam Ward, Hope Morgan Ward & Mike Ward, Lois & Robert Ward, Donald & Grace Washington, Janet Watrous & Bob Kochersberger, J.O. & Catherine Watson, Mary Watson, Patricia Watts, Walter Weathers, Nelson & Elaine Weller, Laura Wells, Bill Wells Jr., Judith West, Elbert & Lois Wethington, Mark Wethington, Nancy Whisnant, Scott Whisnant & Celia Riverbank Whisnant, Gordon Whitaker, Brooks Wicker, Tony Wike, Joy Williams, Lynice Williams, Douglas & Carol Wingeier, Ellen & Dewey Yarborough, Doris Yeattes, and Tyanna Yonkers.

A complete list of our congregational, organizational and foundation donors will be included in our Spring CCB along with honor and memory gifts.

Every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of this list. Please alert us to any omissions or misspellings so that we might correct them.

The Council's Work in 2011

It is impossible to briefly summarize a year's work by all the Council's programs on one page, so we encourage you to visit our website, www.nccouncilofchurches.org, for additional information and to subscribe to the Council's weekly *e-news* by e-mailing nccoafc@nccouncilofchurches.org. Meanwhile, here is a sample of what was accomplished:

IMMIGRATION

- Produced an original full-length Bible study entitled "Becoming the Church Together: Immigration, the Bible, and Our New Neighbors." This compelling resource has already been used in churches across the state.
- Convened a first-of-its-kind ecumenical Statewide Summit on Immigration that featured more than 15 workshops and connected immigration experts with faith leaders who minister with immigrant congregations and allies.
- Sponsored a series of "immigration conversations" at seminaries across the state. Events were held at or near Campbell, Duke, Hood, Shaw and Wake Forest that brought together students, faculty, local faith leaders and NC Council of Churches staff to discuss how immigration is affecting our communities and our congregations.
- Advocated for progressive legislation on immigration issues at the state and national levels.

FARMWORKERS

- Worked with nonprofits and grassroots leaders to help coordinate the Building Hope Project. Volunteers built chicken coops with farmworker families to help provide an affordable source of nutrition.
- Continued our collaboration with the Farmworker Advocacy Network, helping to raise awareness and working to improve farmworker conditions through the "Harvest of Dignity" campaign.

RURAL LIFE COMMITTEE

- Issued a strong statement supporting North Carolina's current ban on hydraulic fracturing (or "fracking").

PARTNERS In HEALTH & WHOLENESS

- Certified twenty-two new congregations, representing more than 5,000 people of faith across the state, that are demonstrating their commitment to health and wholeness.
- Launched an updated version of the PHW website, www.healthandwholeness.org, with new tools and resources for congregational health promoters, health advocates and clergy.
- Educated people of faith during 14 trainings, workshops or lectures about a number of different issues, ranging from how to buy organic produce on a budget to the possible health effects of church potlucks, through their online blog.
- Represented people of faith on important statewide committees aimed at improving the health of all North Carolinians, including the NC Alliance for Health's Executive Committee, Department of Health and Human Services' Faithful Families Advisory Board, Governor's Task Force for Healthy Carolinians, NC Institute of Medicine's Child Obesity Prevention Task Force, Institute for Emerging Issues' Health Council, and NC FoodCorps Advisory Team.

NORTH CAROLINA INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT

- Conducted 10 energy audits and generated momentum to expand the program in 2012.
- Held 72 outreach events and had almost 3,000 people in attendance at NC IPL events or co-sponsored events over the course of the year.
- Completed a full year of Earth Sabbath Celebrations which are now being expanded beyond Raleigh to Durham, Chapel Hill and Asheville.
- Represented at hearings on the merger of Duke Power and Progress Energy in September and at the rate hearings in November.

PEACE

- Co-sponsored two unique events — the Wild Goose Festival in June and Abraham Jam in November.
- Co-sponsored an anti-torture conference in March and the Third National Restorative Justice Conference in June.
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CHRISTIAN UNITY

- Held the annual Conference on the Common Good in February.
- Continued to support and provide resources for the North Carolina Interfaith Dialogue Project.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

- Broadened NCCC efforts to include the budget deficit and other federal issues posing a threat to the most vulnerable.
- Advocated against the dismantling of the Affordable Care Act.
- Collected signatures from more than 125 clergy and faith leaders calling on Congress to balance the budget fairly, not on the backs of the poor.
- Monitored legislation about a Health Benefits Exchange and advocated for consumer protection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

- Distributed Raleigh Report to some 2,000 grass-roots, faith-based advocates across the state. Issues included: adequate funding for education, human services, and environmental care; photo IDs and other voter suppression bills; the Racial Justice Act; harsh anti-immigrant bills; and the so-called “defense of marriage” amendment. These were not popular positions with the current legislative majorities, and our “victories” were measured mostly in terms of things that did not turn out as badly as they could have. We were grateful to Gov. Bev Perdue for her courageous vetoes of some of the most harmful legislation, though several of her vetoes were overridden, including her veto of the state budget.
- Sponsored the 2011 Legislative Seminar at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Raleigh. Faith Active in Public Life Awards were presented to Rep. Jennifer Weiss, Rep. Rick Glazier, and Sen. Bill Purcell.