

PUBLIC EDUCATION

North Carolina Council of Churches' 2014 Critical Issues Seminar

Date, Time, Location

Monday, June 16, 2014
8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

United Church of Chapel Hill
1321 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill, NC

Order of Events

Check-In [8:15-9:00]

Opening Plenary Session, Worship & Keynote [9:00-10:30]

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, NC Conference, UMC
Mike Ward, Former State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Presentation of Distinguished Service Award and Short Presentations [10:30-11:00]

Elizabeth Queen, "Why People of Faith Care about Public Education"
Tim Tyson, Moral Mondays and Public Education

Roundtable Discussion [11:15-12:15]

Rebecca Garland, Chief Academic Officer, NC Department of Public Instruction
Scott Ralls, President, NC Community College System
Drew Moretz, Vice President for Governmental Relations, UNC System

Luncheon [12:15-1:00]

Workshop Session I [1:15-2:15]

Workshop Session II [2:25-3:25]

Closing Plenary Session [3:30-3:45]

Revs. Rick and Jill Edens, Pastors, United Church of Chapel Hill

Post-Seminar Activity

Moral Monday

Registration for 2014 Critical Issues Seminar

Name: _____ Church/Org: _____

Address: _____ City, State (ZIP) _____

Phone: Home () _____ Work () _____ E-mail: _____

Workshop sign-ups: Session 1 _____ Session 2 _____

Registration Fees (including lunch): Please check the appropriate options and fill in the registration amount due below.

Regular registration fee (\$25) _____
Student registration fee (\$15) _____
Pre-K – College Educator registration fee (\$15) _____

Meal Options:
Vegetarian _____ Non-vegetarian _____
Vegan _____ Gluten-Free _____

Registration Amount Due: \$ _____

Registration form must be returned with payment by June 9th to guarantee lunch. Please note that we cannot guarantee lunch unless registration form *and* payment are received by this date. Directions to United Church of Chapel Hill will be online at www.nccouncilofchurches.org or check here ___ and we'll send you a map. Make checks payable and mail to NC Council of Churches, 27 Horne Street, Raleigh NC 27607. For additional information, call 919-828-6501; e-mail info@ncchurches.org; or visit www.nccouncilofchurches.org, where you can register and pay online. All of United Church of Chapel Hill's buildings are handicap accessible.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Workshops

SESSION 1

Charter Schools

The original purpose of charter schools and where the charter movement now stands, including pros and cons for public education.

Helen Ladd Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Duke University

Higher Education Issues

Challenges facing the UNC System during a time of budget and political pressures. Also, a college student's perspective on barriers to access and affordability.

Edward Fiske Former Education Editor, The New York Times
Founder and Editor, *Fiske Guide to Colleges*

William Barber III 2013 Graduate, North Carolina Central University

Current Legislative Update

A timely report on education in the state budget and other education-related issues under active consideration at the General Assembly.

Chris Fitzsimon Director, NC Policy Watch
Karey Harwood Executive Director, Public Schools First NC

Standards and the Curriculum

What's at stake in the Common Core debate? How is the state attempting to make sure all public school students learn what they need to know for success in higher education or the workplace?

Rebecca Garland Chief Academic Officer, NC Department of Public Instruction

Students At-Risk of Failure

Poverty as a factor in drop-out and graduation rates, early failure, retention and discipline. Also, strategies to close achievement gaps.

Angella Dunston Former Director of Education and Law Project, NC Justice Center
Member, State Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council

Gene Nichol Director, Center on Poverty, Work, and Opportunity, UNC-Chapel Hill

Early Childhood Education

Surveying the state's efforts to ensure that children come to school ready to learn. Also, discoveries in brain development emphasizing the importance of preschool education.

Pamela Dowdy Executive Director, Wake County Smart Start
James Horton Former Board Member, NC Partnership for Children
Retired Rector, Church of the Advent, Williamston

Diversity in the Schools: Race and Class

Issues related to the presence or absence of socioeconomic diversity in North Carolina's public schools; consequences when schools become polarized by race and class.

Bill McNeal Former Superintendent, Wake County Public School System
Former Executive Director, N.C. Association of School Administrators

Tom Tate Member, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education
Pastor, Plaza Presbyterian Church, Charlotte

SESSION 2

Health in Public Schools

A look at efforts to combat childhood obesity by providing nutritious food for school meals and in vending machines and by increasing time spent in physical activity while at school. Also, nutrition as a factor in academic success.

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| Betsy Vetter | Sr. Government Relations Director, American Heart Association Board Member, NC Alliance for Health |
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Barriers to Immigrant Students

Access to higher education; tuition and fairness issues. Challenges in K-12: language, poverty, transience.

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| Raul Granados Gamez | Migrant Youth Director, Student Action with Farmworkers |
| Yazmin Garcia Rico | National Organizer, Student Action with Farmworkers |

Teaching: A Profession at Risk

Adverse trends affecting the teaching profession in North Carolina; a “snapshot” of the teaching experience in this state’s public schools.

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| Rodney Ellis | President, NC Association of Educators |
| Marcia Timmel | Teacher, North Garner Middle School |
| Malaika Hankin | UNC-CH Student, Education |

Preventing Violence in Schools

What’s being done in our public schools to deter incidents of gun violence? What’s the strategy to prevent bullying?

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| Ben Matthews | Director, Safe and Healthy Schools Support, NC Department of Public Instruction |
| Michele Hedgepeth-Smith | Counselor, Durham Public Schools |

The Voucher Controversy

Examining the status of private education vouchers in North Carolina, including how the “opportunity scholarship” program would work and the potential harm to public schools.

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| Jane Wettach | Clinical Professor of Law Director, Children’s Law Clinic, Duke University |
| Chris Fitzsimon | Director, NC Policy Watch |

School Systems Rich and Poor

The Leandro lawsuit brought a finding by the state Supreme Court that all public school students are entitled to an equal opportunity to obtain a sound basic education. What still must be done to secure that right for students in poor counties and poor neighborhoods?

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| Gerry Hancock | Former State Senator Counsel, Low Wealth Schools Consortium |
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What Churches Can Do

Overview of church-based strategies to support public schools.

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| Pat Litzinger | Coordinator, Congregations for Children, Harbor District (Wilmington), United Methodist Church |
| Kenneth Cooper | Pastor, Christian Faith Baptist Church, Raleigh |
| Joe Brown | Presiding Elder, Dunn-Lillington District, A.M.E. Zion Church |