

# CHURCH COUNCIL BULLETIN

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North Carolina Council of Churches

## Council's Work Continues to Grow

When progressive North Carolinians came together in 2013 to demand just and compassionate state leadership, the Council of Churches was there.

Over the course of a year marked by painfully regressive legislation, and throughout a summer of Moral Mondays, the NCCC was part of a prophetic groundswell of people and organizations demanding voting rights, adequate funding for public schools, Medicaid expansion, the extension of unemployment benefits and a host of other measures. While the Governor and General Assembly didn't necessarily listen, the Moral Monday movement sparked national attention and has served as a model for action in other states where social justice advocates see their states losing ground. The weekly assemblies resume in May for 2014.

Last spring, about 200 grassroots activists attended the Council's Legislative Seminar, hosted at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Raleigh. Longtime Council board member Sydnor Thompson and former board president Barbara Volk received the Distinguished Service Awards. Gene Nichol, of the UNC Law School and the Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity, was recognized with the Faith Active in Public Life Award.

The Council saw success in its programs. Partners in Health and Wholeness has provided more than \$170,000 in mini-grants to health ministries and churches and 234 free automated external defibrillators with CPR training in all 100 counties. The NC Religious Coalition for Justice for

Immigrants drew several hundred to events across the state, including clergy breakfasts, a statewide conference, and press events like "Ruth's Journey: Highlighting the Stories of Immigrant Women."

North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light conducted more than 100 presentations, including 15 energy audits of congregational facilities. And the Farmworker Ministry and Rural Life committees hosted more than 600 attendees at three Come To the Table Conferences, working with people of faith to relieve hunger and sustain local agriculture.

In Legislative Advocacy, the Council coordinated a network of grassroots activists through the "Raleigh Report" newsletter which began featuring commentary by Steve Ford, retired editorial page editor of the News and Observer of Raleigh. The Council also did substantial work to help North Carolinians understand and enroll in the Affordable Care Act.

The Council and its friends mourned the withdrawal from membership of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh and Diocese of Charlotte in 2013 but Council and Diocesan leaders have pledged to work together in areas of mutual concern.

Upcoming events for the Council include a Critical Issues Seminar on Public Education on June 16 in Chapel Hill and a Faith and Health Summit on October 10 in Winston-Salem. Information about the Seminar can be found on page 4 or visit [www.ncchurches.org](http://www.ncchurches.org) to learn more.

## Welcome to New Governing Board Members

The Council welcomed new board members in late 2013 and at the start of 2014. They are Joseph C. Brown, Sr. of Fayetteville, a former Council president, representing the Eastern Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church; Bob Hudak of Greenville, representing the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina; and Rush Otey of Charlotte, representing the Presbytery of Charlotte.

Also David Guthrie of Winston-Salem, representing the Moravian Church — Southern Province; Lee Hull Moses of Greensboro, representing the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Scott Wagoner of High Point, representing the NC Yearly Meeting (Friends); and Whitney Wilkinson of Cameron, representing the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.

The Council thanked outgoing board members. They are Carlos Arce of Raleigh, representing the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh; Gene Carpenter of Goldsboro, representing the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina; Judy Haughee-Bartlett of Summerfield, representing the NC Yearly Meeting (Friends); Bill Martyn of Raleigh, representing the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh; John Richardson of Wilson, representing the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); John D. Rights of Winston-Salem, representing the Moravian Church — Southern Province; and Hannah Vaughan of Wilmington, representing the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.

# Donor Support Vital to the Council's Work

A crucial source of support for the North Carolina Council of Churches is its **member bodies**. In 2013, those member bodies are the NC judicatories of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Alliance of Baptists, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, General Baptist State Convention, Mennonite Church USA, Metropolitan Community Churches, Moravian Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, Religious Society of Friends, Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, Unity Fellowship Church Movement, 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 congregations, organizations, and individuals in 2013.

**Congregations and organizations** include: Beth Meyer Synagogue, Raleigh; Chapel Hill Friends Meeting; Church of the Brethren Virlina District; Church Women United in NC; Church Women United in Raleigh; Congregational United Church of Christ, Greensboro; Covenant Community Church, Raleigh; Eastern Association of the Southern Conference United Church of Christ; Elon Community Church; First Congregational United Church of Christ, Asheville; First Reformed Church of Cary; Glenn School Road Baptist Church, Durham; InSight Fund; Justice for Immigrants Ministry, Hendersonville; Macclesfield Christian Church; New Garden Friends Meeting, Greensboro; Parkway United Church of Christ, Winston-Salem; Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Durham; Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South; Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church, Charlotte; St. James Episcopal Church, Lenoir; St. Julia AME Zion Church, Jacksonville; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Greenville; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem; St. Therese Catholic Church, Wrightsville Beach; Unitarian Coastal Fellowship, Morehead City; Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Raleigh; United Church of Chapel Hill; United Methodist Women Western NC; Westminster Presbyterian Church, Durham; and Wilmington Friends Meeting.

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*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.*

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Gifts were given in memory of Emily Barrow by Mary Wayne Watson; Eugene Benbow by Sarah Benbow; Hazel Bissonette by Shirley and Don Johnston; Jack Crum by Vernon and Martha Tyson; Marge Eckels by Elsie Eads, Mac and Peggy Hulslander, and George and Susan Reed; Emmett Floyd by George and Susan Reed; Hazel Forbes by David Forbes; Steve Gerhard by Barbara Gerhard; Joseph Gossman by Daniel Read; Mary Beth Hall by Jim Hall; Frederick Herzog by Kristin Herzog; Audrey Hornaday by Rose and Michael

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Gifts were given in honor of Melissa Acres by Macclesfield Christian Church; Bill and Annette Bingham by Priscilla Durkin; Don and Shirley Birt by Edith and Richard Sylla; Church Women United in NC by Brenda and Charles Wills; Julia Elsee by Sharon Castleberry, and George and Susan Reed; Ione Ferguson by Joe and Ann Mann; Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Foust by Steve and Gearlene Hoffman; Dorothy Hyde by Brenda Rogers; Bridget Johnson by Gay Bowman; Joan Jurski by Teresa Aldahondo; Collins Kilburn by Allen Adams, Cy King, Jerry and Nancy Murray, Cally and Frank Rogers-Witte, and Linda and Dan Textoris; Cy King Sr. by Ed and Elizabeth King; George Kloster by Francis O'Rourke, and Rufus and Betty Lou Stark; In-Yong Lee by Laura Wells; Bill Leonard by John D. Rights; Chris Liu-Beers by Mary Bolton; Estella McFadden by Tom and Laura Spangler; Joe Mann by Ran Coble and Jane Kendall; Gordon Meyers by David and Sally Sloop; NC Council of Churches staff by Susannah Tuttle; Judy Ochetti-Klohr by Marguerite Robinson; Moral Monday volunteers by Janet Watrous and Bob Kochersberger; George Reed by Sharon Castleberry, Don Frey, Ed and Lois Gibson, Ferrel and Kathleen Guillory, Charles and Dorothy Jeffress, Susan Evans Reed, Art and Jan Ross, St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Winston-Salem, Barbara and Dick Volk, and Hope and Mike Ward; Susan and George Reed by Anne Dahle; Carol Ann and Bunny Ros by William and Cassandra Mangum; Cally Rogers-Witte by Rollin and Besty Russell; Betsy and Rollin Russell by Andy Short and Andrea Vizoso; Rollin Russell by Isabelle Powell; Clyde Sudderth by Sally Aycock; Joe Vetter by Doran Carter and Rita Searce; and Neil Walls by John D. Rights.

## Council Welcomes Two New Hires

Two new members have joined the Council staff, one to work on a new program through Partners in Health and Wholeness and another to take on work that the Council has been doing almost since its beginning.

Marnie Cooper Priest is Project Director for PHW's Breastfeeding Collaborative. The effort, funded by the John Rex Endowment, will provide education in low-resource congregations in Wake County about the benefits of breastfeeding and provide those congregations with resources to create breastfeeding-friendly spaces for new mothers. Marnie is a graduate of Goddard College with a BA in Health and Life Sciences and from Duke University with a Master of Science in Global Health. She is also a Certified Professional Midwife.

Jennie Wilburn begins work in mid-May as the new Pro-

gram Associate for Immigrant and Farmworker Rights after she graduates with a Master of Divinity from Duke and a Master of Social Work from UNC-Chapel Hill. During this dual-degree program, she interned with the Farmworker Advocacy Network and Student Action with Farmworkers, Durham C.A.N., and churches in Winston-Salem and Mexico City. She is fluent in Spanish and conversant in Yucatec Maya.

Jennie fills the position formerly held by Chris Liu-Beers. After seven years of bolstering the Council's efforts in many areas, Chris is expanding his website development company, Tomatillo Designs. The NCCC's work with farmworker and immigration issues dates back to its efforts for safer living and working conditions on behalf of migrant workers.

**THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

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**Critical Issues Seminar 2014  
On Public Education  
June 16, 9-3:45  
(check-in begins at 8:15)  
United Church of Chapel Hill**



Join us for a day of workshops and discussion for people of faith interested in a progressive vision of our public schools, pre-K through college.

Opening worship led by Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, NC Conference of the United Methodist Church

•

Plenary session led by Mike Ward, former NC Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction

•

Roundtable discussion featuring Scott Ralls, President of the NC Community College System; Rebecca Garland, Chief Academic Officer for the NC DPI; and Drew Moretz, the UNC System's Vice President for Governmental Relations.

The Seminar will end in time for those interested to attend Moral Monday in Raleigh  
Details and registration are available on the Council's website, [www.ncchurches.org](http://www.ncchurches.org).