The North Carolina Council of Churches’ 85th Anniversary year (2020) came and went in a blur. We held a plethora of stellar online events that year highlighting our work and providing resources to congregations across the state. That event-filled year was capped off with the release of the Council commissioned hymn, “God of the Movements and Martyrs.” Composed by former staff member and accomplished musician, David LaMotte, it definitely ranks among the highlights of that event-filled year.

Before we knew it, we rushed headlong into 2021. Not much had changed. We were still in the midst of a pandemic, still beleaguered by regressive legislation in N.C., and still calling for racial accountability. Other than the pandemic, this has been the story of the Council for its entire history. The work we do today adds to the foundation laid by those who came before us and who showed us hope and dedication, faithfulness and leadership, conviction and courage.

While the issues we address mirror the attitude of most progressive organizations around us, we have a singular starting place. We refract everything through the prophetic witness of the Old Testament and the gospel message of the New Testament. This starting place offers a different tenor to the conversation and leads to conclusions grounded in God’s intention for the flourishing of all creation.

It’s not enough to stand for these issues of human dignity and care for creation without being active in pursuit of their accomplishment. Much of our work involves educating people of faith about the connection between their beliefs and the public policies that bracket their lives. While respecting the separation of church and state, we are keenly aware that Jesus wasn’t crucified for praying too much. He was crucified for naming the connection between faith and public policy. Education about the issues coupled with inspiration gleaned from the scriptures mobilizes us to live into God’s beloved community.

In this review, we invite you to join us in celebrating the past year. We also hope you will look for places you can join us on this faith-filled journey. May God continue to guide and sustain us all.
While continuing our work in renewable energy and climate policy through our NC Interfaith Power & Light (NCIPL) campaign, the Council broadened our climate justice work by creating the Eco-Justice Connection. This larger scope is a multi-faith program focused on environmental & climate justice. We strive to do this work by building relationships with our elected officials, inviting congregations to think differently about food and agriculture, investing in the work of resilience on our coast, empowering youth climate organizers, making climate and human health connections, and through conversations and actions focused on energy use, renewable energy, energy justice, and energy efficiency.
2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

Policy Statements approved by Governing Board

Statement on George Floyd Murder Trial Verdict | April 21, 2020
Resolution: Remove Confederate Symbols Where Justice Is Sought | January 26, 2021
Statement on Systemic Racism | June 2, 2020
Statement on Staying Home | April 24, 2020
Read the full statements: ncchurches.org/issue-statements/

2021 Legislative Seminar

Expert speakers spoke on the following topics: Eco-Justice and Energy Policy, Current Landscape of Gun Laws, Current Immigration Legislation, NC Drug Policy and How it Affects the Overdose Crisis, Voting Rights: The Struggle Continues, Tax & Budget/Finance Reform, Healthcare Policy, Current State of Public Education, Working for a Living Wage. During the Seminar, we presented our Faith Active in Public Life Award to native North Carolinian and newly confirmed Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan, for “Courageous, Dedicated, Faithful And Compassionate Witness In The Public Arena.” View all of the recordings on our YouTube Channel playlist “2021 Legislative Seminar.”

Reparations to Restoration: A Call to Action

Grounded in the Christian principle of confession, repentance, and reconciliation we hope to recast the reparations conversation through the lens of Christian restoration. By focusing on restoration, we leave behind the language of debtors and creditors, victims and perpetrators, givers and takers. We move to a place of restoration by acknowledging the reconciling work that begins with God. Representatives from 10 of the Council’s member denominations are compiling an 8-session resource to help dismantle oppressive systems. Like the Old Testament prophets we offer this truth as a lament that calls all of us to admit the truth—confess—and turn away from this behavior—repent—leading to the Christian call to restore that which has been lost by those harmed by this system.

God of the Movements and Martyrs

“God of the Movements and Martyrs,” the Council’s hymn, was composed in 2020 by former staff member and accomplished musician, David LaMotte. The 8 different versions offer unique sounds that every listener can enjoy. In 2021, the hymn had more than 1,800 views and more than 65 hours of watch time. This hymn has been a major accomplishment moving into 2021! Listen to each of the versions by visiting our Youtube playlist.
CONGREGATION TESTIMONY

Partners in Health and Wholeness presented the inaugural 2021 Willona Stallings Award for Excellence in Community Innovation to Citadel of Faith Christian Fellowship, Inc: "The Black Community in Thomasville, NC needs factual, straight to the point messaging from authentic voices concerning vaccine availability, accountability, and affordability. Our ultimate goal is to encourage Black and Brown people to trust the science and get the vaccine as soon as possible.

We are so proud to be partners with the North Carolina Council of Churches and to be in fellowship with Partners in Health and Wholeness. We are proud to be a part of this growing community
Bishop Dr. George B. Jackson
Citadel of Faith Christian Fellowship, Inc.

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We thank our denominational members for their support:

- Alliance of Baptists
- African Methodist Episcopal Church
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- Christian Methodist Episcopal
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Episcopal Church
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- General Baptist State Convention
- Metropolitan Community Churches
- Mennonite Church USA
- Moravian Church in America
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Reformed Church in America
- Reformed Churches of God in Christ
- International
- Religious Society of Friends
- United Church of Christ
- Unity Fellowship Church Movement
- United Methodist Church

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