For over 50 years, the National Workshop on Christian Unity has been gathering each year at a different city throughout the United States to bring together all those involved in the work of Christian Unity, welcoming delegates of church judicatories and ecumenists from all churches who share one faith, one baptism in Jesus Christ. We discover that there is so much more that we share than the focus on differences which has kept us separated far too long.

The National Workshop on Christian Unity is the only national gathering of its kind in the world, intending to equip those given the responsibility of seeking unity with ongoing formation with excellent plenaries and seminars, opportunities throughout the week to join together in prayer, and provide a context for fellowship from which friendships can develop, friendships that are the starting place and cornerstone of any work of unity in the Body of Christ.

This year we gather in Charlotte, North Carolina at the Omni Hotel, in Uptown downtown (yes, that’s right). The hotel is a quick $2 shuttle ride from airport to hotel door, and the hotel is surrounded with dozens of good restaurants for any budget level. Several churches are within blocks, where we will gather for worship, and the neighborhood is where you also will find many theaters and art galleries. Charlotte is a beautiful city.

Registration this year is easier than ever before. Online registration at www.nwcu.org combines both national and network registration with just one payment. If you need to pay by check and register through conventional mail, you can download the registration form from the website for your particular network and mail it in.

Do not forget to make room reservations for yourself in addition to registration - by calling the Omni Charlotte Hotel at 888-444-OMNI and ask for the special NWCU rate.

Please note: the deadline for registration is April 1, (Wednesday of Holy Week), so that you can be assured of your registration and meals.

“IF YOU KNEW ME YOU WOULD ASK FOR LIVING WATER.” JOHN 4:10
Opening Worship Preacher
BISHOP GEORGE EDWARD BATTLE, Jr.

George E. Battle, Jr., a native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, earned a Doctor of Ministry from Howard University in Washington, DC. He has also received numerous honorary doctorate degrees. He was elected a Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1992, 84th in the line of succession. He presently serves the Piedmont Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Bishop Battle has many professional achievements and has worked diligently serving his community, representing Boards on the state and national level for church organizations, health care systems and institutions of higher learning, including the Executive Board of the World Methodist Council, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Board; member, Board of Directors for Carolinas Healthcare System and Foundation.

Tuesday Morning Plenary
SANDRA TOEINES KEATING
“Nostra Aetate and Christian Witness: What 50 Years Has Taught Us about Visible Unity”
Sponsored by Graymoor Ecumenical Institute

Nostra Aetate expresses the conviction that Catholics share: that all human beings are created by God to seek God, and thus, that we share a bond should draw us together in dialogue. Christ’s command to be present in the world and to make disciples calls his followers to be signposts for others in that search, even as we continue on the journey ourselves. But the lack of visible unity, as well as conflicts among Christians themselves, are often the greatest obstacle to effective Christian witness in the world.

Dr. Sandra Keating has published numerous articles and a book on relations between Muslims and Christians in the Middle East. She is a frequent speaker on various aspects of Muslim-Catholic relations, especially on the theology and historical background to contemporary issues in dialogue. She is a member of the USCCB Catholic-Muslim dialogue group, and serves as a Consultant on the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with Muslims.

Wednesday Plenary Luncheon
AMY-JILL LEVINE
“Jesus, Judaism, and Jewish-Christian Relations”

Jesus of Nazareth followed the Torah of Moses, found inspiration in the Prophets of Israel, and offered a teaching that some Jewish men and women found compelling. Yet too often Christians and Jews incorrectly regard Jesus as rejecting Judaism. Understanding Jesus in his Jewish context brings recovering the power and provocation of his parables, his politics, and his piety, and it offers as well a new path for Jewish-Christian relations.

Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, and Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences. Holding a Ph.D. from Duke University and honorary doctorates from Christian Theological Seminary, Drury University, the University of Richmond, the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, and the University of South Carolina-Upstate, Professor Levine has been awarded grants from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies. She has held office in the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Biblical Association, and the Association for Jewish Studies. Her books include The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus (HarperOne), the edited collection, The Historical Jesus in Context (Princeton), and the thirteen-volume edited series, Feminist Companions to the New Testament and Early Christian Writings (Continuum).

Wednesday and Thursday Morning Bible Study
AMY-JILL LEVINE
“Hearing the Parables Anew”

Hearing the parables through first-century Jewish ears allows us to recover their original provocation and punch, and so to understand better what they might say to twenty-first century listeners from various religious traditions.
What can we say together about the Church of the Triune God in order to grow in communion, to struggle together for justice and peace in the world, and to overcome together our past and present divisions? In 2013, The Church: Towards a Common Vision was a remarkable answer to this question and asks all Christians to respond in discussion and dialogue. Msgr. McPartlan explores how the document addresses first the Church’s mission, unity, and its being in the Trinitarian life of God. Does it address our growth in communion – in apostolic faith, sacramental life, and ministry – as churches called to live in and for the world?

Paul McPartlan is a priest of the Archdiocese of Westminster (UK) and Carl J. Peter Professor of Systematic Theology and Ecumenism at The Catholic University of America. Having studied Philosophy and Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, he was ordained a priest by Cardinal Basil Hume in 1984. He gained his doctorate from Oxford, and then served for four years in a London parish. After holding a post-doctoral research fellowship at St. Edmund’s College, Cambridge, from 1993-1995, he was appointed as a papal chaplain by Pope Benedict XVI in 2005. He is a member of the International Theological Commission and of the International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox church, and has participated in international Anglican-Roman Catholic and Roman Catholic-Methodist dialogue as well. He was appointed as a papal chaplain by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008.

The network panelists responding to the Wednesday plenary are:
Glenn Messer (Methodist);
Cheryl Meese Peterson (Lutheran);
John Armstrong (Evangelical), and
Ellen Wondra (Episcopalian).

Closing Plenary
D. Stephen Long
“"The Younger Generation’s Hunger for Ecumenism"

Most ecumenists recognize that movements toward church unity have stalled. The “Joint Declaration” between Lutherans and Catholics on justification by faith, which was signed by other Churches as well, had little impact. One of the major reasons for the “enigmatic cleft” between Catholics and Protestants was supposedly resolved, but nothing changed. Return ecumenism returned with a hardening of confessional identities. But this is not the whole story. Although it is less represented among official ecclesial agencies, a movement among dissatisfied evangelicals led many on the Canterbury trail, to cross the Tiber or to join the Orthodox. While this movement resembles return ecumenism, it also has something more profound at its core – the recognition that Christianity must be resourced by sacraments, liturgy and tradition. They are reading theologians such as Henri de Lubac and Alexander Schmemann and crossing boundaries creating hybrid Christian communities. This presentation sets forth the potential this movement has for a fresh movement toward ecclesial unity.

D. Stephen Long (Ph.D., Duke University, 1991), [Theology/Ethics], is professor of Systematic Theology at Marquette University. Previously he worked at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, St. Joseph’s University and Duke Divinity School. He is an ordained United Methodist and served churches in Honduras and North Carolina. He has published eleven books. Steve was baptized by the Anabaptists, educated by the evangelicals, ordained and pastorally formed by the Methodists and given his first position as professor of theology by the Jesuits, which makes him either ecumenically inclined or theologically confused.
The Rev. Dr. TEX SAMPLE
“The Church of the Poor: The Talk and Practices of Poor People”

Session one: “Getting the Talk Right”
Session two: “Don’t Drop the Meat!”

These two sessions address the material practices of the poor, especially those of talk and those of other concrete activities. The lectures raise questions about the formation necessary to work in a church of the poor.

Tex Sample is the Robert B. And Kathleen Rogers Professor Emeritus of Church and Society at The Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri, where he taught for 32 years. He holds a B.A. degree from Millsaps College, an M.Div. from the Boston University School of Theology, a Ph.D. from the Boston University Graduate School, and a D.D. As from Coe College.

Now living in Phoenix Arizona, he is a freelance lecturer and speaker in North America and overseas. He has published 11 books. His book, Blue Collar Ministry, was named a “Judson Classic” by the Judson Press, and his book U. S. Lifestyles and Mainline Churches was the bestseller for Westminster/John Knox Press for over two years. He is also the author of articles in academic journals, magazines, and books.

Sample has been active throughout his career in both the church and in the community. Presently, he is actively involved in the Asbury United Methodist Church in Phoenix where he is the volunteer minister to the community. In that capacity he is heavily involved in the Valley Interfaith Project, a community organizing effort associated with the Industrial Areas Foundation. He is also active in the Arizona Interfaith Movement, an interfaith group that includes 25 different faith traditions.

Imam ABDUL MALIK MUJAHID
“The Council for a Parliament of World’s Religions’ Global Interfaith Movement: People working together for harmony and peace,”

Abdul Malik Mujahid is an Imam, an award-winning author, and a producer with a focus on contemporary interfaith, public policy, and Islam-West relations. He has been selected four times as one of the 500 most influential Muslims in the world.

Imam Mujahid serves as the Board Chair of the Parliament of the World’s Religions. The Parliament is considered the world’s first interfaith organization, tracing its roots to the 1893 Parliament held at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Imam Mujahid founded the Sound Vision Foundation in 2005–2008 he served as Chairman of the Council of American Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago.

Imam Mujahid has authored more than 400 articles on Islamic living and public policy. He is a blogger at Huffington Post. His book on political sociology was the winner of an Outstanding Academic Book of the Year Award by American Library Association in 1990. He is a graduate of a traditional Madrasah in Pakistan.

Imam Mujahid has conceived and led several successful public policy initiatives culminating in legislation, including getting rape declared a war crime; rights to charity without fear, and healthcare for all children in the state of Illinois. He has developed and worked with 20-plus coalitions at the city, regional, and national level from civil rights, human rights, peace and justice issues, to civic participation.


In 2010, nearly 40 national Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and interfaith leaders came together for an emergency interfaith summit to publicly stand in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters in the US, who are faced with increasing anti-Muslim sentiment and prejudice. The campaign works at both the national and local levels to engage religious leaders and communities in the collective fight against anti-Muslim sentiment.

This workshop will include both lecture and small group discussions. Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign Director Catherine Orsborn will share information about trends in anti-Muslim sentiment in the US and the current ways faith organizations are working to stand alongside American Muslims in upholding our mutual values of religious freedom and human dignity. Small groups will talk about their own experiences with this issue and think collectively about how they might engage this important work on the local level.

Catherine Orsborn is the Campaign Director for the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, an interreligious organization co-founded by the Islamic Society of North America to address anti-Muslim sentiment in the United States. This campaign helps to amplify the voices of a diverse array of religious leaders in speaking out against the discrimination of and bigotry against Muslims in the US.

Catherine received her MA degree in Religious Studies from the University of Denver and is currently a doctoral candidate in the Religion and Social Change program through the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology. She focuses in her academic work on the interactions between religion and conflict, peacebuilding and pluralism. Catherine is originally from Lexington, Kentucky, and spent time living in Egypt, Uganda, and Colorado, before relocating in 2014 to Washington, D.C.
The Rev. CHRIS THORE

“An Affair of the Heart: In Essentials, Unity; in Non-essentials, Liberty; in all Things, Charity” The Moravian Church, or Unitas Fratrum

This workshop is designed to give a general look at the beginnings of the Unitas Fratrum (Renewed Moravian Church), starting with its formation in Heren hut Germany (1727), its initial movement to the cane fields of the West Indies, and its settlements in North America through the current age. We will focus on its historical impact in Christian practice through mission and ministry. Additionally we will discuss how this model was largely framed by what those early leaders believed about ecumenism and how this ecumenical spirit has served as a center to what it means to be a Moravian.

In addition to being the founding and Senior Pastor of New Beginnings Moravian Church in Huntersville, NC, Reverend Thore also serves on various outreach and mission teams locally and regionally. He has served as an ecumenical liaison on behalf of the leadership of the Moravian Church where he is currently an elected member of the Provincial Elders Conference serving as Vice-President to the Southern Province. Reverend Thore received a Certificate of Theological Studies from Moravian Seminary, Bethlehem, PA in 2000, and a Master of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Seminary, Charlotte, NC in 2000. In 2007 was the recipient of the Lilly Endowment Grant for Clergy Renewal – one of 133 pastors nationwide (the first Moravian pastor) who received this award.

Reverend Thore is married with three grown children and recently is enjoying the delight of His first grandchild.

ROSS CHAPMAN

“Praying Interreligiously”

The Reverend Dr. Gwynne Guibord

“The Guibord Center – Religion Inside Out,” has created this center as the culmination of nearly two decades of working shoulder-to-shoulder with leaders of many faith practices and traditions to explore and uphold the experience and presence of the Holy that transforms the world.

From 2003 through 2009 she served as The Officer of Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns for The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. She has served as president of The Interreligious Council of Southern California, The California Council of Churches, and The National Board of The Interfaith Alliance.

Interreligious dialogues initiated by Dr. Gwynne Guibord in Southern California include those with the Hindu Community, the Sikh Community, and the Buddhist Community. She is the co-founder and co-convener of The Christian–Muslim Consultative Group of Southern California, and has served as Vice-Chair of The National Muslim–Christian Initiative Dialogue on behalf of The National Council of Churches in Christ USA. She also represented The Episcopal Church USA for the NCCC’s Christian–Jewish Dialogue.

The Rev. Dr. Gwynne Guibord

She is the recipient of many awards and recognitions, including The Muslim Peace Award from The Islamic Center of Southern California, and The Mahatma Gandhi Award for the Advancement of Religious Pluralism from The Hindu American Foundation. Until recently Dr. Guibord served as The Consultant for Interreligious Relations for The Episcopal Church USA.

JOHN ARMSTRONG, DAVID HICKMAN and ROSS CHAPMAN

“CharlotteONE: Reaching Millennials with the Good News”

CharlotteONE is a collaborative ministry model among local churches in Charlotte, NC to reach Millennials with the Gospel and connect them to a local church. Founded in 2006 by local pastors, CharlotteONE was an effective experiment in living out the missional ecumenism Jesus prayed for in John 17:23. Over the last nine years, more than 65 local churches have been involved and approximately 25,000 people have attended a Tuesday night gathering where they heard Christ’s Gospel and the Church’s love for them.

John Armstrong is the president and founder of ACT 3 Network, a mission for empowering leaders and churches for unity in Christ’s mission. He is a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America and an adjunct professor of mission at Wheaton College Graduate School. John is the author/editor of thirteen books and is deeply engaged in public and private ecumenical activity for the purpose of helping the church pursue the mission of Jesus. He serves in a number of mission partnerships including the role of Lausanne Committee Liaison to Roman Catholic–Evangelical Conversation. His blogs are published at www.johnarmstrong.com.

David Hickman is the founder CharlotteONE which empowers local churches to reach 20-30somethings together. After receiving Christ at age 18, David was deeply impacted by the prayer of Jesus in John 17:21-23 for His Church to be ONE so that the world may know the love of God. In 2006, David (alongside of other local pastors in Charlotte, NC) established a multi-church outreach service for 20-30somethings called “CharlotteONE.” David holds a B.A. in Bible and Religion from Montreat College and an M.Div from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. His published works include “Inciting Incidents” (Moody Press, 2013) and “Closer Than Close: Awakening to Your Union with God” (NavPress, Early 2015). David is also a contributor to various online publications as well as an avid blogger (www.davidhickmanblog.com). David currently lives in Charlotte, NC with his wife Monica and three sons, Ryan (7), Cole (6), and Jack (1).

Ross Chapman became CharlotteONE’s second Executive Director on September 1, 2013. Previously, Ross served as the Director of Operations and the Director of Connections and Church Development. His role allows three of his strongest passions—unity, the local church, and Millennials—to collide constantly. As Executive Director, he provides the overall leadership and strategic planning for the organization. He earned his Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago and his B.A. in Christian Educational Ministries and Business Management from Taylor University in Indiana. He and his wife, Candace, live in Uptown Charlotte with their son, William (1).
MONDAY, 20 APRIL

7:15am
Breakfast, sponsored by Graymoor

Workshop/Network Registration
Opens 8:30am

9:30am—10:15am: PLENARY
Dr. Sandra Keating, sponsored by Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute

10:30—11:45am: SEMINAR 1
Church for the Poor - Sample
Moravians - Thore
Shoulder to Shoulder - Orsborn
Praying Interreligiously - Guibord

Noon—1:30pm: PLENARY LUNCHEON
Amy-Jill Levine
Special Presentations

2—3:15pm: SEMINAR 2
Church for the Poor - Sample
Parliament/World’s Religions - Mujahid
Shoulder to Shoulder - Orsborn
Moravians - Thore

3:30—5pm
Network Gatherings:
CADEIO/LEIRN: Reform, Reformations
EDEIO: Racism
all invited to either gathering

5:30pm Eucharist - Catholic Rite
at St. Peter Catholic Church

7pm Activity
CharlotteONE
at First United Methodist Church

TUESDAY, 21 APRIL

7:15am
Breakfast, sponsored by Graymoor

Workshop/Network Registration
Opens 8am

8:30am Welcome/Gathering: Prayer and Praise

9am—10:15am: PLENARY
Dr. Sandra Keating, sponsored by Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute

10:30—11:45am: SEMINAR 1
Church for the Poor - Sample
Moravians - Thore
Shoulder to Shoulder - Orsborn
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CharlotteONE
at First United Methodist Church

NWCU2015 Daily Schedule

Cokesbury Bookstore
Hours
Monday, 2—7pm
Tuesday, 8:30am—6:30pm
Wednesday, 8:30am—5:30pm
Thursday, 8:30am—2pm

7pm at Little Rock AME Zion Church:
Procession Participants Gather

7:30pm Opening Worship and Reception
at Little Rock AME Zion Church
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL</strong></th>
<th><strong>THURSDAY, 23 APRIL</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15am Breakfast, sponsored by Networks</td>
<td>8:30am Gathering Prayer: Directed Silent Prayer</td>
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<td>8:30am Gathering Prayer: Taizé</td>
<td>Noon—10:15am: <strong>BIBLE STUDY</strong> Amy-Jill Levine</td>
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<tr>
<td>9am—10:15am: <strong>BIBLE STUDY</strong> Amy-Jill Levine</td>
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<td>Noon—1:30pm: <strong>PLENARY LUNCHEON</strong> Msgr. Paul McPartland, with panel Glenn Messer, Cheryl Peterson, John Armstrong, Ellen Wondra Sponsored by the Order of Saint Lazarus</td>
<td>Noon: <strong>CLOSING LUNCHEON</strong> with 2016 Preview</td>
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<td>2—3:15am: Network Gatherings: AFFEP/CADEIO EDEIO/LEIRN/UMEIT all invited to either gathering</td>
<td>2—4pm: Network Gatherings: AFFEP Executive Committee Meeting CADEIO Board Meeting LEIRN Executive Board Meeting UMEIT Planning Team and OCUIR Staff</td>
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<td>3:30—5pm CADEIO General Assembly</td>
<td>6—8pm National Planning Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15—5pm AFFEP, EDEIO, LEIRN, UMEIT Business Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>6pm <strong>Eucharist - Episcopal Rite</strong> at St. Peter Episcopal Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm <strong>PLENARY</strong> Jim Winkler and Panel</td>
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Our National Chair for the Workshop this year is the Rev. Lisa Lewis-Balboa, Pastor of Lane Tabernacle Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. She extends to all those registering for the Workshop a fresh and friendly welcome and encouragement to be more deeply involved in the Lord’s work of Christian Unity. She leads the committee of representatives of churches who establish the program for the Workshop every year.

One of the perennial mysteries of the National Workshop is the structure of Networks, or church organizations, which have developed over time to help ecumenical and interreligious officers who represent the principal partners seated on the National Planning Committee. These Networks help plan the national program, as well as their own organizational meetings and seminars which also run during the annual gathering of the Workshop. Don’t be dismayed by them, they are here to help minimize confusion!

If you are a member of a church that would be related to one of these Networks historically or by agreement, please register with them. Seminars sponsored by Networks are open to anyone who would like to attend, business meetings are also open but voice and vote is reserved to members according to their individual bylaws.

CADEIO
www.cadeio.org
Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers
Rev. Don Rooney, President
frooney@stmaryfred.org

EDEO
www.edeo.org
Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers
Rev. Daniell Hamby, President
daniell@standrews-yardley.org

LEIRN
Lutheran Ecumenical and Interreligious Representatives Network
Rev. Christopher Olikiwicz, President

UMEIT
http://www.gccuic-umc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=455&Itemid=1
United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Training:
United Methodist Church Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships
http://www.gccuic-umc.org
Catiana McKay, UMEIT President

This year is historic in that we add a new, fifth Network to the National Workshop representing Evangelical churches. Called AFFEP, here is their contact information:

AFFEP
Ancient Future Faith Evangelical Partners
Rev. John Armstrong, Founder

Register today for the National Workshop on Christian Unity. Because of you, Unity will be one step closer.

Register and pay online at www.nwcu.org, or download the registration form particular to your Network and mail your registration and payment to
Rev. James Biegler, Treasurer
NWCU
P. O. Box 8085
Westchester, IL 60154-8085