

## Letter from the President of CUIC

Dear Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC) Friends:

Our January 11-14, 2008 Plenary resulted in several important decisions and initiatives.

First, the Plenary affirmed as a priority the continued work of the CUIC churches toward reconciliation with the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, both of whom were absent from the Plenary. The Plenary empowered the Heads of Communion to guide this process and encouraged their vigorous participation in the life and leadership of CUIC. Immediately following the Plenary, the Heads of Communion sent a letter with their signatures to the leaders of the AME and AME Zion Churches seeking a meeting to clarify how the journey together could be renewed.

Second, the Plenary asked that a high level group of representatives from our communions be named to examine the efficacy of CUIC's current governance and programmatic structure for mission, to design a consultative process on the ways racism impacts the reconciliation of our ordained ministries, and to recommend strategic steps to move forward on the 1999 Call to Christian Commitment and Action to Combat Racism. The Plenary committed to forming this group in ways that invite the participation of the AME and AME Zion Churches as they feel prepared to do so. The high level group began its work in a conference call on May 13. Those serving on this group are:

- Christian Methodist Episcopal Church: Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt, Bishop Ronald M. Cunningham
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): The Rev. Dr. Timothy James
- The Episcopal Church: The Rev. C.B. Baker
- International Council of Community Churches: The Rev. Michael Livingston
- Moravian Church Northern Province: The Rev. Gary Harke
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): The Rev. Robina Winbush
- United Church of Christ: The Rev. Dr. John Thomas, convener
- United Methodist Church: Bishop Fritz Mutti
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Dr. Mark Wilhelm

The AME and AME Zion Churches were urged to name representatives to participate in this group as they feel prepared to do so.

Third, the Plenary placed a moratorium on the work of CUIC's current task forces and programmatic structure during this time of seeking reconciliation and beginning the work of the high level group. Due to the suspension of the work of the three CUIC task forces (Local and Regional, Ministry, and Racial Justice) and a significantly reduced budget, the Coordinating Council voted to eliminate the position of Director as of May 31.

On behalf of CUIC I wish to express deep gratitude to The Rev. Patrice Rosner for the work accomplished under her leadership as Director. Clearly, we had no idea that two years after she began her ministry with us that CUIC would be at a program moratorium. Rev. Rosner's last day in the office will be Friday, May 30th. Letters of thanksgiving and appreciation for her work will be forwarded to her.

The Coordinating Council designed a new position of Administrative Assistant to assist the leadership of CUIC during this discernment period as well as to maintain the needs of CUIC as a not-for-profit institution. The CUIC office will remain at Eden Theological Seminary:

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During this time of moratorium the Coordinating Council requested the current CUIC officers to continue in modified leadership roles. Each officer expresses a willingness to attend to any concerns you might have.

President: The Rev. Dr. Suzanne Webb (Disciples)

Vice President: Bishop Ronald M. Cunningham (CME)

Secretary: Mr. Abraham Wright (ICCC)

Treasurer: Elder James Tse (PCUSA)

With sincere hopefulness for our continued relationship in the work of the Church of Jesus Christ,

Suzanne Webb

President