

Why Christian Unity?

According to Scripture...

"...that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." ~John 17:23 (NRSV)

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." ~Romans 15:5-6 (NIV)

and our Disciples founders...

"Let unity be our polar star." ~Barton W. Stone

"the Church of Christ upon earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one." ~Thomas Campbell in his Declaration and Address

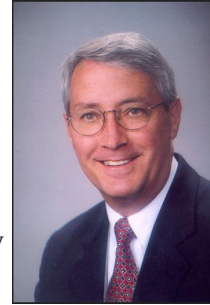
Christian unity calls us to live into the wholeness of God.

As the current "Statement of Identity" for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) affirms,

"We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."

Dear Friends in Christ,

As part of my ministry, I am deeply honored to serve as President of the Council on Christian Unity and to represent Disciples of Christ in a rich variety of ecumenical involvements and arenas. As a member of Allisonville Christian Church in Indianapolis, I know how important it is to maintain a vital link between the congregation and our church's witness to God's gift of oneness in Christ.



I stand ready to be of help to you and your congregation in this journey of faith. Please feel free to contact me by mail, email or by phone.

Yours in Christ,



Dr. Robert Welsh

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The Nature of the Unity We Seek:

Our unity is in Jesus Christ, not in structures or theological agreement, but in the love of God offered to us and to the world in Jesus Christ.

Christian unity is not for its own sake; it is for the sake of bringing hope, justice, and reconciliation to the world.

Unity begins at the Table where we are made one in Christ. Unity, at its core, is sacramental.

Unity is not uniformity: not in theology, not in belief, not in practice. Unity means seeking oneness in Christ.

Unity calls us to relationships. Christian unity finds its life and reality in relationships as we serve together, as we engage in mission together, and as we worship and pray together, especially as we share in the Lord's Supper together.

The **Council on Christian Unity (CCU)** is a general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), working with congregations, regions, colleges, seminaries, and other general ministries to encourage their partnership in our church's efforts in the movement for unity of all Christians as a sign of God's love for the world.

CCU's Vision Statement

In 'mapping' Christian unity for the 21st century, the CCU returned to where we began as Disciples: to an "open Table" -- where Christ continues the healing work of reconciliation. Communion is a reminder of and witness to the oneness that God intends for the whole human family.

In pursuing this vision, the CCU identified three frontiers for our future life and program:

- Becoming a multi-cultural and inclusive church
- Developing a deeper and more dynamic ecumenical spirituality
- Understanding what it means to live in the changing landscape of an interfaith context and interreligious world

How are we pursuing this vision?

Local and Regional Initiatives in common witness and mission.

Dialogues and Partnerships with the Stone-Campbell family, the United Church of Christ, Alliance of Baptists, Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT), and the Global Christian Forum.

Overseeing participation in Councils of Churches, including the World Council, the National Council (USA), and the Canadian Council of Churches.

International Dialogues with the Roman Catholic Church and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

Interfaith Engagement, linking together existing efforts on the local level and seeking to understand what it means to live in an inter-religious context and world.

Leadership Formation and Education, especially for youth, young adults, and seminarians.

Publications and Lectureships on Christian unity.

