



“Babel Table” Brings Young Adult Disciples Together to Explore Issues of Mission and Multiculturalism

INDIANAPOLIS, December 6, 2010 – A major initiative, called “*Babel Table: from Tower to Table*,” involving 42 young adult Disciples will explore issues of becoming a truly multicultural and inclusive church while engaging in hands-on mission through work trips to different Disciples mission stations across the United States.

Three “Babel Table experiences” will take place at (a) the Westside Mission in New Orleans on December, 2010; (b) the Romero Center in San Diego on March, 2011; and (c) the Yakama Christian Mission in White Swan, Washington on June, 2011.

Two basic components scheduled for each group experience will be a sessions devoted to anti-racism training and to sharing personal experiences of exclusion based upon one’s cultural or racial background.

An application process resulted in 76 applications received from young adults all across the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with strong representation of our racial/ethnic diversity: 15 African American Disciples, 26 Hispanic Disciples, 6 Pacific/Asian Disciples, and 29 White Disciples.

The make-up of the three groups selected offers an excellent balance of racial and cultural backgrounds; equal numbers of women and men; representation of lay persons, seminarians, and young adult pastors from 15 regions; and, young adults who have been involved already in the life of our church and young adults for whom this will be their first experience in the general expression of our church’s life.

The program has been co-sponsored by several general ministries in the life of our church, including the National Convocation, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD), the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, Disciples Home Mission, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM), Week of Compassion, Reconciliation Ministries, and the Council on Christian Unity (CCU). Funding for this project was provided by a grant from the Oreon E. Scott Foundation, and staff support is being provided by the CCU.

In reflecting on the Babel Table process, Robert Welsh, president of the CCU, shared, “The diversity of the involvements and interests of the applicants, and the quality of their written statements about hopes for their participation in one of the experiences, is an amazingly rich testimony to the quality of young adult Disciples in our church today. It offers great hope for the future.”

(For more information, go to <http://www.disciples.org/ccu/>)

Participants in each event:

New Orleans:

African American:

Philip Garrard
Chona Wright

Hispanic:

Alex Candelaria
Kristina Kurtek
Amanda Martinez
Elizabeth Tellado
Jesus Vega

Pacific/Asian American:

Allison Enari
Mayon Marcelina

White:

Althea Cole
Ben Saunders
Andrew Packman

Leadership:

Daphne Gascot
Eli Rolon

San Diego:

Jessica Phillips
Oscar Banks

Yarlynn Collado
Nancy Cordova
Luis Gierbolini
Normand Rocha

Shema Dizon
Daniel Huff Jung Satterfield

David Baum
Cassie Poncelow
Juliana Nitz
Tyler Whipkey

Daphne Gascot
Brandon Gilvin
Eli Rolon

Yakama:

Jeremy Dewitt
Hillary Duggins
Broderick Greer
Trayce Stewart

Jose Cordova
Tristan Orozco
Janayra Rivera-Laureano
Sammy Robles

Gillian Kuroiwa

Erica Gengenbach
Julie Grubbs
Aaron Jamison

Amber Clarke
Robyn Fickes
Brandon Gilvin
Bekah Krevens