



## Update from President of CCU January, 2009

Dear Friends of Christian Unity,

This past week I sent an email to members of my Board of Directors to share some reflections about the work of the Council on Christian Unity this past year, and to begin to anticipate the year ahead. In that report I highlighted several major “successes” in the life of the CCU that I feel we ought to celebrate and build upon as we look to the future.

I want to share four of these “successes” today for your information and for follow-up in relation to your congregational programming and involvement:

**First**, the Council on Christian Unity gave leadership to a significant church-wide Consultation on “**Becoming a Multicultural and Inclusive Church**” last March 27-29. I anticipate that follow-up to this Consultation will be a major item on the agenda of the CCU and our whole church for several years to come.

- *To read the report of that Consultation, go to:*  
<http://www.disciples.org/ccu/PDF/Report%20on%20the%20March%202008%20Consultation.pdf>

**Second**, there has been deepening of encounter within the **Stone-Campbell family** of churches. We are putting a special emphasis on the “**Great Communion Celebration**” this coming October 4, 2009, to honor and highlight the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the *Declaration and Address*, one of the common founding documents of our movement.

- *To obtain information on the Great Communion Celebration resources, go to:*  
<http://www.greatcommunion.org/>

**Third**, we have continued to make advances in the area of **interfaith dialogue and encounter**. A new “**Interfaith Toolkit**” has been developed in partnership with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ that provides “easy to use” resources to engage in local interfaith encounter and study.

- *To obtain a copy of the Interfaith Toolkit, go to:*  
<https://www.pcusa.org/interfaith/toolkit/index.htm> and  
<http://www.disciples.org/ccu/PDF/2006InterfaithStudyGuide.pdf>

**Fourth**, the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (January 18-25) continues to be a significant occasion for promoting local involvement in celebrating our given unity in Christ. This year’s Week of Prayer focuses upon the theme, “That they may become one in your hand,” based upon *Ezekiel 37:15-19, 22-24a*.

- *For information and resources on the 2009 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, go to:* [http://www.geii.org/wpcu\\_index.htm](http://www.geii.org/wpcu_index.htm)

**Concluding word at the beginning of the New Year:** I give thanks to God for the opportunity to continue to serve in this vital ministry of our church that I believe stands as the heart and soul of who we are as Disciples: to seek unity, wholeness and reconciliation within the Church and within our broken and fragmented world. Surely, surely, this witness is desperately needed in our society and our world today!

With all best wishes to each of you for a joyous and blessed year ahead,

Robert