

Ideas for a New Relationship

CUIC does not mandate how member-churches and their local congregations will work together. Member churches have, however, committed to finding new ways to relate to one another.

The new CUIC relationship may mean that we worship differently because we share and incorporate gifts of the other churches into our worship. It could have an impact on the ways we think about missions. And there is a special responsibility for the CUIC members to join together to take on the issue of racism.

The actions of local congregations may be as varied and unique as their own imaginations. But below are some ideas for ways the CUIC relationship could be lived out in local churches.

- Pray for nearby CUIC congregations by name. Make their joys and sufferings your own
- Include representatives of neighboring CUIC congregations in your baptisms, ordinations and installations
- Celebrate the Lord's Supper with other CUIC congregations in your area, at least on special occasions
- Undertake mission projects with CUIC partners on a regular basis, especially projects aimed at overcoming racism
- Invite a member of a neighboring CUIC congregation to serve on a board or committee of your church
- Invite other congregations to participate in your special events, from worship service to ice cream socials
- Organize shared youth retreats or adult education courses. Teach about the other churches in your own education program
- Add the words, "Member of Churches Uniting in Christ" to your church signboard

How can your congregation be involved in the January 20, 2002 inauguration event?

Before the inauguration:

- Pray for God to bless this effort to manifest our unity in Christ
- Tell others about Churches Uniting in Christ

On inauguration day:

- Pray for those gathering in Memphis, Tennessee as they inaugurate this new relationship
- Read in worship a pastoral letter from the heads of the nine churches expressing a commitment to oppose racism together

After the inauguration:

- Celebrate the inauguration of CUIC with other participating congregations in your area
- Take the initiative to promote the kinds of activities listed above

Other ideas:

If your church or congregation finds its own way of expressing the commitments of CUIC, please share it with others. We invite your ideas and will post the best of them on www.cuicinfo.org. You can contact your church's ecumenical officer; Robert K. Welsh at rwelsh@ccu.disciples.org or Carolyn Roper-Fowlkes at carolyn@ccu.disciples.org.