

CHURCH COUNCIL BULLETIN

Volume 69, No. 2

Spring 2011

North Carolina Council of Churches

Legislative Seminar 2011: Information and Honors

Faced with a difficult legislative session, progressive grassroots activists from around the state came to Raleigh in April to hear from experts at the North Carolina Council of Churches' Legislative Seminar.

Meeting at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, they worshipped and workshopped, gathering information to help them as advocates on faith-based social justice issues. Topics for sessions included People of Faith and the Common Good, led by Fr. David McBriar of Raleigh's St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and Finding Narratives of Hope in Discouraging Times, led by Jack McKinney, former pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh.

In addition to opening worship, led by Rev. Arnetta Beverly of Greensboro's St. Matthew United Methodist Church, and closing worship, led by St. Mark's rector, Lorraine Ljunggren, the day included the presentation of four awards given to those whose life and work exemplify the Council's call.

Charles Smith, who chaired the Council's Personnel Committee for almost two decades, received the Distinguished Service Award. State Representatives Rick Glazier, Fayetteville, and Jennifer Weiss, Cary, and State Senator Bill Purcell, Laurinburg, received the Faith Active in Public Life Award.

"In chairing the Personnel Committee, Charles played an instrumental role in the work of the Council as most of those currently on our staff were hired under his leadership. The continuing success of their work is a reflection on him," said Executive Director. George Reed. "And Representatives Glazier and Weiss along with Senator Purcell have dedicated their political careers to doing what is right and best for the state's most vulnerable people, those for whom the Council advocates."

Join the Circle of Support

The NC Council of Churches' spring appeal is underway with an emphasis on encouraging donations on a monthly or quarterly basis. While all support is welcome, ongoing donations provide the most reliable stream of income possible. By joining the Council's Circle of Support, donors pledge a regular contribution and, by doing so, help in budget planning.

Two Circle of Support members who have added their voices to the campaign are Belton Joyner, who wrote this year's appeal letter, and Bobbie Armstrong, who appears in a video on the Council's website explaining her reason for donating monthly. Both emphasized their commitment to the Council's work.

Ways to join in the Circle of Support include:

- By setting up a regular contribution through Network for Good on the Council's website.
- By setting up a bank draft through your bank or credit union.
- By sending a personal check on a monthly or quarterly basis.

More information on the spring appeal and the Circle of Support can be found at www.nccouncilofchurches.org/donate.

STICKER WITH US!

The NC Council of Churches needs your creativity. We're calling on our volunteers and activists to help us come up with a clever but BRIEF slogan — eight words or less — that spreads the Council's message. It will be printed on bumper stickers to be distributed statewide.

E-mail ideas to apayne@nccouncilofchurches.org, subject line Bumper Sticker, no later than May 23, 2011. The winner chosen by the Council staff will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card and 10 bumper stickers.

Honor and Memorial Gifts for 2010

The NC Council of Churches appreciates the many donations made in 2010 that honored individuals while also supporting the Council's work.

Gifts were given in honor of Emily Barrow by Mary Wayne Watson; Chris Liu Beers by Karlene Knebel; Sally Buckner by Anne Dahle; Barbara Campbell Davis by Shalotte Presbyterian Church & John Causey; Julia Elsee by George & Susan Reed; Emmett Floyd by Isabelle Powell; James Ferree by Andrew Brown Jr.; Collins Kilburn by Linda and Dan Textoris; Cy & Carolyn King by Ed & Elizabeth King; Helen Latour by Tom & Tish Rokoske; Linda Leith by June & Matt Highfill; Greg & Donna Murphy by Laura & Tom Spangler; NC Council Staff by George Reed; Sue Phillips by Sarah McCracken Cobb & Kenneth Cobb; Joan & Jack Preiss by John & Nancy Paar; George Reed by Joyce Corbett, Patricia Gates, Lois & Ed Gibbon, Charles & Dorothy Jeffress, Jane Kendall & Ran Coble, Richard McBride, Susan Reed, Marga-

ret & Geoffrey Wainwright; Gene & Peggy Ruble by Peggy & Grover Mims; Rollin Russell by Kelly & Jane Clark, Isabelle Powell; Bill & Winnie Smith by Fay Coker Walker, Isabelle Powell; Willona Stallings by Steven & Darlene Shore; and Elbert & Lois Wethington by Mark Wethington.

Gifts were given in memory of Eugene Benbow by Sarah Benbow; Frank Connolly by Tom & Tish Rokoske; Frederick Herzog by Kristin Herzog; George Lea Harper Jr. by Ruth Harper Stevens; Bertha "B" Holt by Barbara Volk; Evelyn Mattern by Isa & Bob Allen; Charles Mulholland by George Kloster; Jeanette & Robert Sevin by Timothy & Roberta Lane; Peggy Shaw by Linda Shaw; H. Shelton Smith by Elon University; Emma Whitesell by Linda Shaw; Sam Wiley by N. Russell and Ruth Roberson; and John Yeattes Jr. by Doris Yeattes.

Peace Activities Take Place Across the State

The Council's work on peace continues to expand under a new template that accents local and regional points of conflict as well as international issues. Peace Associate David LaMotte has been working with various organizations, including the Abrahamic Initiative on the Middle East (AIME) and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

LaMotte spoke at an Asheville event, Speaking Truth to Power, examining the current state of perpetual war, and met with pastors and faith leaders from Western North Carolina to talk strategy and support each other in efforts toward community building and social justice. He has also been leading conversations with church groups on social justice issues, including a four-part series on privilege and baptismal vows with

the Episcopal Campus Ministry in Raleigh.

The Council has supported several events around peace and justice recently, including the Jack Crum Conference on Prophetic Ministry, which this year focused on school diversity issues, and a conference on the Military Industrial Complex at 50 in Greensboro, as well as the Historic Thousands on Jones Street rally in Raleigh. As part of the Council's commitment to working in support of policies that support diversity in North Carolina schools, Tim Tyson and LaMotte penned a sign-on statement in support of those policies, available at www.nccouncilofchurches.org.

LaMotte is working with the Duke Human Rights Center, the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic at the UNC School of Law, and NC Stop Torture Now

on a proposal for a Citizens' Commission of Inquiry into CIA-sponsored extra-judicial kidnappings on Johnston County-based flights. Sign-ons to a statement in support of this effort are welcome at www.accountabilityfortorturenc.org.

Upcoming events include The Wild Goose Festival, co-sponsored by the NCCC, in June. The festival is a new kind of event in the U.S., at the intersection of justice, spirituality, art and music. It takes place in Shakori Hills; for details, go to www.wildgoosefestival.org. Also exciting in June, the National Restorative Justice Conference, co-sponsored by the NCCC, takes place in Raleigh. To learn more, visit

Four Congregations Certified PHW Gold

Sixty-three congregations have achieved some level of certification in the Council's Partners in Health and Wholeness Program, demonstrating their commitment to better health by increasing their physical activity, eating healthily and not using tobacco products.

Four congregations have achieved PHW's highest honor – Gold Certification: Green Street United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, Prospect Presbyterian Church in Mooresville, Woodleaf United Methodist Church in Woodleaf, and Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Eastover. Some of their activities include: hosting Health Awareness Sundays where they talk about the importance of health stewardship (i.e., eating nutritious

foods and being physically active); advocating for long-term solutions to worldwide hunger and industrial air pollution; providing free health clinics once a week for those in need; offering strengthening and balance classes for seniors; and even having their pastors model good health by maintaining a healthy body weight.

PHW is also partnering with other organizations to improve the health of God's people, including working with the American Heart Association to reduce risk factors for stroke, the third leading cause of death in the United States and the leading cause of death for African Americans, by 25%; holding joint trainings with Youth Empowered Solutions to engage faith-based youth groups in health advocacy,

particularly around increasing access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity; partnering with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation to offer small grants to "community sparkplugs" (i.e., individuals who want to help their community and are interested in achieving results); and working with the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle to provide fun, interactive education programs related to nutrition (e.g., healthy cooking classes) to low-income communities.

PHW Program Coordinator Wilona Stallings is available to speak to church or civic groups. Email willona@nccouncilofchurches.org. And learn more about the PHW Certification Program or apply for certification, by visiting

Immigration & Communities of Faith Summit in June

For the first time, the North Carolina Council of Churches will offer training specifically designed for faith leaders who work primarily with immigrant congregations. The statewide Immigration and Communities of Faith Summit takes place June 4 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 520 Summit St. in Winston-Salem.

The event will bring together clergy, laypeople, community leaders, and immigrant allies but especially faith leaders who are themselves immigrants or work with immigrant congregations. The conference is a unique opportunity, said Council Program Associate Chris Liu-Beers.

"We want to help equip faith leaders to deal with the daily challenges faced by their congregations, especially as they relate to their immigration status," he said. "We want to provide a space for networking and to train immigrant rights allies to organize and mobilize around immigration issues."

Among the workshop topics are

- Immigration 101, offering a broad overview of the current system with the goal of helping better explain its complexities and how to get help for legal questions.
- Rights on the Job; Protecting Immigrant Workers, explaining workplace rights for immigrants and what resources are available if they're mistreated.
- Black/Brown Unity Panel Discussion, focusing on how African-American and immigrant communities can work together.

All of the day's content will be available in both Spanish and English with most offered in simultaneous translation. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and childcare will be provided. There is a \$10 registration cost, including lunch and materials, and some scholarships will be available. The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation is providing generous support for the conference. To register or to learn more, visit www.nccouncilofchurches.org.

**THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF
CHURCHES**

27 Horne St.
Raleigh, North Carolina
27607

Phone: 919-828-6501
Fax: 919-828-9697
Email: nccofc@nccouncilofchurches.org

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Raleigh, NC
Permit No. 902

Return Service Requested

A publication of the North Carolina Council of Churches

Mark Ginsberg, NCIPL Outreach Coordinator
Rose Gurkin, Program Associate for Administration
Chris Liu-Beers, Program Associate
Sandy Irving, Volunteer, Health Reform
David LaMotte, Program Associate for Peace
Megan Nerz, Volunteer, Legislative Advocacy
Aleta Payne, Development & Communications
George Reed, Executive Director
Rollin Russell, Volunteer, Christian Unity
Kathy Shea, NCIPL Director
Willona Stallings, Program Associate for Health

Mginsberg@nccouncilofchurches.org
Nccofc@nccouncilofchurches.org
Chris@nccouncilofchurches.org
Sirving@nccouncilofchurches.org
Dlamotte@nccouncilofchurches.org
Mnerz@nccouncilofchurches.org
Apayne@nccouncilofchurches.org
Greed@nccouncilofchurches.org
Kshea@nccouncilofchurches.org
Willona@nccouncilofchurches.org

On the Web at:
www.nccouncilofchurches.org

*We ran short of space in this issue of CCB.
Look in the summer issue for a list of our
Covenant Society Charter Members.*

Follow us on



Help Us Care for Creation

In an effort to honor creation and be more mindful of our resources, the NCCC will be reducing the number of printed *Church Council Bulletins*.

If you are receiving a printed copy of *CCB* and would like to continue doing so, please contact our office by e-mail at nccofc@nccouncilofchurches.org or by phone at 919-828-6501 no later than June 15.

Beginning with the summer issue of *CCB*, we will only send printed copies to those who have requested them.