CUIC Institute on Ecumenism

Agenda: 2026-2027

Session 1 (Sept. 11): What is this training process and how will it work?

What is ecumenism? Scriptural and theological foundations (introduction of ministry action plans), Leaders –**Rev. Dr. Jean Hawxhurst and Rev. Erin Betz Shank**

Readings:

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "The Confessing Church and the Ecumenical Movement" is available in John de Gruchy, ed., *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: witness to Jesus Christ*, The Making of Modern Theology Series. Minneapolis: Fortress Press Edition 1991, pp. 134-148.
- "Unto the Churches of Christ Everywhere," Encyclical of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, 1920 (handout)
- *Decree on Ecumenism* (*Redintegratio Unitas*), Second Vatican Council, 1964 (handout)
- *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*, World Council of Churches Commission on Faith and Order, Lima, 1982 (handout
- *The Church: Towards a Common Vision*, World Council of Churches Commission on Faith and Order, 2013 (link below)
    - ouvrage Church 2013 2 colonne.indd (oikoumene.org)

In-Person (Oct. 18-20): Washington, DC area

- Introductions and faith stories, the process, creating a covenant and owning leadership (discuss leadership training book)
- Meet local ecumenical leaders
- Meet local denominational justice leaders
- Begin discussions on MAPs and the required projects.

Session 2 (Nov. 6): The CUIC churches and how they engage in ecumenical/interreligious relationships, Leader – **Rev. Hawxhurst**

Readings:

- "When You Do This, Remember Me – Renewing the Vision and Mission of Churches Uniting in Christ," Keith Watkins
- 'We Have Come This Far By Faith – Reflections on Where We Have Been and Where We Are Headed as Churches Uniting in Christ," Dr. Michael Kinnamon
- CUIC Timeline – Rev. Dr. Jean Hawxhurst

Session 4 (Dec. 5): Bi-lateral and Multi-lateral dialogue, Leader – **Dr. Tom Best**

1 Check out your own denomination's website to see what ecumenical dialogues you are involved in. Who is it with? What are you talking about with your partner(s), and why?

2 Look at the following 3 Websites in Bold Type, focusing on the suggested pages or paragraphs

A) Bilaterals/Multilaterals (United/Uniting Churches)

https://archive.org/details/wccfops2.210/mode/2up?q=Faith+and+Order+Paper+No.+203

"Survey of Church Union Negotiations 2003-2006", Thomas F Best and Church Union Correspondents. Focus on:

Introduction: Pp. 1-4

Overview: Appendix I, pp. 67-69

List of United/Uniting Churches: Appendix II, pp. 70-73

B) Bilaterals/Multilaterals (Other Understandings of "Unity")

https://resources.elca.org/wp-content/uploads/Joint_Declaration_on_the_Doctrine_of_Justification.pdf

"Lutheran / Roman Catholic Dialogue : Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ)". Focus on:

§§14-18, §§40-44

https://www.disciplescuim.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/5th-Agreed-Statement_2020_DECC.pdf

"Disciples / Roman Catholic 5th Phase of Dialogue": Focus on:

§§1-5, §§55-61

Session 5 (Jan. 8): Dialogue as Vocation
History of the Interreligious Movement - February 6, Leader – **Rev. Rock Fremont**

This session traces the emergence of the modern interreligious movement, from early encounters shaped by mission and coexistence to contemporary practices rooted in mutuality, humility, and shared witness. Together we will explore key historical moments, theological shifts, and spiritual movements—particularly those that reframed dialogue not as a strategy, but as a vocation flowing from faith itself.

Our session will move beyond history to consider the pastoral theology of interreligious engagement: how dialogue takes shape in congregations, neighborhoods, and daily ministry. Participants will be invited to reflect on practical questions of presence, relationship, and

leadership at the local level, discerning how interreligious work can be lived faithfully as an expression of calling, hospitality, and public witness.

Swami Vivekananda 1893 Speech at Chicago
https://youtu.be/vPDQOB7pRRM

Session 6 (Feb. 5): Ecumenical/Interreligious Dialogue and Advocacy/Anti-Racism Ministries Leader – **TBD**

Session 7 (March 5): Issues in the contemporary ecumenical/interreligious landscape and new ways of engaging (receptive ecumenism, lived ecumenism, etc.), Leader – **Rev. Dr. Kirsten Guidero**

Session 8 (April 2): Topic selected by the cohort, Leaders – **TBD**

In-Person (May 23-25): Location, TBD. Ministry Action Plans reviewed, Leaders – **Rev. Betz Shank, Rev. Hawxhurst**

Session 10 (June 4): Summaries, conclusions and thankfulness, Leaders – **Rev. Hawxhurst and Rev. Betz Shank**

***Note: All On-line sessions will take place from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Eastern Time.**