

Approved 05/01/08

**CHRISTIAN CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE USA**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**January 8 – 11, 2008**  
**Baltimore, MD/Washington DC**

**Tuesday, January 8, 2008**

The 2008 Annual Meeting of *Christian Churches Together* began with dinner at the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute of Technology in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Discernment Session #1**

Following dinner, the Annual Meeting attendees (CCT participants, observers and visitors) gathered in small groups, mixed for family diversity, for Discernment Session #1, *Sharing our Spiritual Journeys*.

**Opening Worship**

The opening worship was led by members of the historic Protestant family. Rev. Dr. Cliff Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church USA, brought the sermon. Representatives of the seven new participant churches and organizations were invited to come forward for a Service of Reception. The new participant churches and organizations include: the American Bible Society, the Church of the Brethren, Elim Fellowship, Habitat for Humanity, the Mennonite Church USA, the Polish National Catholic Church, and The Vineyard USA. This brings to 43 the number of CCT participants. Rev. Dr. Richard “Dick” L. Hamm was commissioned as the first full-time Executive Administrator of Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A. Dick is a Disciples of Christ pastor who served from 1993-2003 as head of his communion. Father Leonid Kishkovsky was commissioned as the new Moderator. Father Kishkovsky has been a part of the CCT conversation from the beginning and is the Orthodox CCT President. He is the Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations of the Orthodox Church in America and serves a parish in Seacliff (Long Island), New York. Father Kishkovsky expressed appreciation to the outgoing Moderator, Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson, for his service as Moderator in this formative year and he also acknowledged him for his engagement in the five years of conversations across old denominational and theological boundaries that led to the development of Christian Churches Together. Father Kishkovsky presented Wes with a gift of icons that can easily be carried while traveling. Wes serves as the General Secretary of the Reformed Church in America and is the historic Protestant CCT President.

**Wednesday, January 9, 2008 – Seminarian’s Day in Washington D.C.**

**Morning Worship**

Following breakfast, the attendees boarded two motor coach buses and traveled to Washington D.C. for the day, beginning at Bread for the World where they were joined by 18 seminarians. The morning worship was led by the historic Racial/Ethnic family with Dr. William Shaw bringing the sermon. Dr. Shaw serves as President of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., and is the historic Racial/Ethnic CCT President.

**Site Visits**

The entire group boarded two buses and toured S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat – a local ministry to the hungry and poor in Washington D.C.) and CCT participant organization, Sojourners (a 34-year old Christian organization that integrates spiritual renewal with social justice), where they listened to presentations by Rev. Jim Wallis, President & Executive Director, and Mr. Adam Taylor, Director of Campaigns and Organizing.

**Plenary Session – Poverty Presentations**

Upon returning to Bread for the World, box lunches were catered by New Course Catering, whose mission is to train homeless and chronically unemployed men and women for a future in the food service industry by providing hands-on culinary arts training. Following lunch, attendees and seminarians heard about the anti-poverty work of the following CCT participant organizations: Bread for the World (David Beckmann, President, and Ms. Asma Lateef, Director of Bread for the World Institute, presenting), Habitat for Humanity (Rev. Raafat Zaki, Director of Church Relations, presenting), and World Vision (Mr. Richard Stearns, President, presenting).

A representative of each CCT family made a presentation on “*What we have learned in our work on poverty and what we have to offer to the initiative that is unique.*” These representatives were as follows: Rev. John Thomas, historic Protestant family; Mr. Nicholas Chakos, Orthodox family; Rev. Jeff Farmer, Evangelical/Pentecostal family; Rev. Dr. Stephen Thurston, historic Racial/Ethnic family; and, Mr. John Carr, Catholic family.

## **Discernment Session #2**

The attendees gathered in mixed, small groups, including the seminarians that visited for the day, for Discernment Session #2 and they discussed the following questions: “*What call does our Statement on Poverty make on us personally in our own lives and ministries?*”; and, “*How will we live and work differently in the light of this statement/initiative?*” The attendees had dinner in small groups in surrounding eateries. The seminarians had dinner together in the Bread for the World Board Room to discuss what they had heard and seen.

## **Seminarian’s Presentation**

Following dinner, the seminarians presented their collective feedback to the group which was facilitated by Kate Kooyman, a Western Theological Seminary student from the Reformed Church in America. They appreciated the opportunity to be involved and many remarked upon the openness and humanness of these national church leaders. Likewise, the representatives were impressed with the quality of the seminarians and it was decided to enlarge this component of future annual meetings.

## **Evening Worship**

The evening worship was a homily given by Rev. David Beckmann, President of Bread for the World, with the music being provided by Bishop Don diXon Williams, the Racial/Ethnic Outreach Associate of Bread for the World.

Following worship, the attendees boarded the two motor coach buses and returned to the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute and the seminarians departed.

## **Thursday, January 10, 2008**

### **Family Meetings**

Following breakfast, the attendees met in their family groups where they had discussion on the evangelism focus, addressing the question, “*In light of the 2007 evangelism presentations, are there any other thoughts regarding evangelism that this family wishes to share with the wider group?*” Their responses to this question were shared by each family member in their mixed, small groups during Discernment Session #4 that afternoon. They also discussed the CCT poverty initiative, addressing the question, “*What might be the next steps in the CCT poverty initiative?*”; giving consideration to the four objectives listed in the *CCT Statement on Poverty*: a) to strengthen families and communities – because they are essential bulwarks against poverty; b) to reduce child poverty – we seek to cut child poverty by 50 percent in the next ten years; c) to make work work – by combating racism and guaranteeing that full-time work offers a realistic escape from poverty and access to good health care; and, d) to strengthen the educational system in our country with particular attention to the public schools – because access to quality education offers perhaps the best way out of poverty. Their responses to this question were shared by each family member in Discernment Session #3 later that morning.

Each family had an election of one Steering Committee member. The Steering Committee member in each family who was elected for a term ending in 2007 was: 1) re-elected for a three-year term; or, 2) replaced by the election of another person for a three-year term. The following Steering Committee members that were completing their term with this meeting and were up for re-election were: E/P – Rev. Jeff Farmer; HP – Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson; O – Archbishop Cyril Karim; C – Cardinal William Keeler; R/E – Dr. Stephen Thurston. Only CCT participants (churches or organizations) voted and each participant had only one vote. Observers had voice, but no vote. The results of these elections were presented during the Friday morning plenary session.

### **Discernment Session #3**

The attendees gathered in mixed, small groups for Discernment Session #3. The group read the handout, *Notes from the Steering Committee*, and responded to the following, “*In the light of all we saw and heard yesterday, and seeking the leadership of the Holy Spirit, discuss the following questions, with each person responding: a) What are the next steps we are called to take in regard to the CCT poverty initiative?; b) What insights, ideas, or*

*suggestions have you discerned for consideration?; and, c) What concerns or cautions do you have for the Steering Committee and the Poverty Committee to consider?”* Each group developed a consensus regarding what was reported from their group and turned these notes in to Dick Hamm. These notes were compiled and used by the CCT Poverty Committee to determine CCT’s next steps in the poverty initiative.

### **Morning Worship**

The morning worship was lead by the Evangelical/Pentecostal family with Major Gary Miller, National Secretary for Programs of The Salvation Army National Headquarters, bringing the sermon. A 12 piece Salvation Army brass ensemble provided the music.

### **Plenary Session on Evangelism**

Following lunch, the Rev. Lydia Veliko, CCT Evangelism Committee Chair, reported to the plenary that the Evangelism Committee had met during lunch. After reviewing the results of the Discernment session #3 in which many expressed the desire to maintain the focus on poverty in next year’s annual meeting, and after consulting with Dick Hamm and the five CCT presidents, the Evangelism Committee decided to combine the afternoon discernment sessions on evangelism. All then gathered in mixed, small groups for Discernment Session #4 and they responded to the following questions, “*What are the things that our families want to share with the wider group and what do we need to continue to explore together regarding evangelism?*” and, “*What one thing would we like to say about evangelism as we move forward together as CCT?*” Each group developed a consensus report from their group and turned these notes in to be compiled and used by the CCT Evangelism Committee to determine CCT’s next steps in regard to evangelism.

### **Sharing of possibilities/challenges within the CCT family**

Following dinner, Bishop Leggett, CCT President, led the group in a delightful time of sharing of possibilities, challenges, and testimonies.

### **Evening Worship**

The Orthodox family led the evening worship. The Very Rev. Theodore Boback, Jr. of St. Andrew’s Church, a Baltimore parish of the Orthodox Church in America, brought Great Vespers of Theophany (Epiphany) and the St. Andrew’s Church choir provided the music.

## **Friday, January 11, 2008**

### **Morning Worship**

The morning worship was led by the Catholic family. The homily was given by His Eminence Cardinal William H. Keeler, Archbishop Emeritus of Baltimore.

### **Plenary Session on CCT**

Father Leonid Kishkovsky, CCT Moderator, opened the plenary session by stating that the core of what we are about is to be together in fellowship, prayer and sharing; building trust in order to do the business to which God has called CCT.

### **Potential “Friends of CCT”**

Dick Hamm referred to the document in the Annual Meeting binder that begins with the question, “*Do you long for a more credible gospel witness in this country?*” He explained that this form is to be used to identify persons that participants think should be asked to contribute to CCT becoming, *Friends, Partners and Benefactors of CCT*. We need to identify persons who would be interested in contributing financially as well as making a commitment to what CCT is doing in promoting the Body of Christ. The CCT Invitation should be shared with potential *Friends of CCT* as well as asking them to visit the CCT website. There will be a regular e-Newsletter with all of the previous editions archived on the website for viewing. CCT is open to new churches and organizations, but it is unusual for them to take the initiative to apply for participation on their own. We who are already participants must extend invitations to them. If participants have people to suggest, people that the presidents and the executive administrator could call on, they will be contacted in a personal visit. The timeliness of these visits with potential participants is important. We need to continue to grow. CCT participants are the most important persons in making initial contacts with potential participant churches and organizations.

## **Next steps in Poverty Initiative**

Rev. Ron Sider, Chair of the CCT Poverty Committee, reported on the next steps in the CCT Poverty Initiative and distributed the document, *Recommendations from the Poverty Committee*, which was a result of a two hour discussion on Thursday afternoon. The report follows:

### **Recommendations from the Poverty Committee of Christian Churches Together in the USA January 10, 2008**

As we continue to focus on the central question, “*What is the unique contribution that Christian Churches Together leaders can contribute to overcoming poverty in America?*” We recommend the following next steps:

#### 1. Expanded Dialogue and Framework

We recommend that we deepen our understanding of each others’ views on the causes and solutions to poverty and expand our common understanding of a better framework for overcoming poverty by devoting two full days at the 2009 Annual Meeting to this crucial dialogue.

There are significant differences among us about the causes and solutions to poverty. The leadership represented in CCT needs to engage in this dialogue and search for more common ground.

Therefore, we recommend that the Poverty Committee work with the Steering Committee to plan this deeper dialogue and search for expanded common understanding:

- on the causes and solutions to poverty;
- on the fleshing out of our four objectives in more concrete ways.

Only in the course of this honest, in-depth dialogue will we discover how much more we can say together about a comprehensive framework for overcoming poverty. We hope to prepare at next year’s annual meeting a document that will serve as a note of record of our dialogue, as a careful statement of our convergences and differences, and as a guide for renewed action.

#### 2. More Resource Materials

In order to further energize, motivate and mobilize the millions of Christians in our churches and organizations in the struggle to overcome poverty, we recommend that we continue to assemble an array of materials that will help our people understand domestic poverty.

Staff at Bread for the World and Sojourners/Call to Renewal has this past year been working with participant groups to assemble a collection of the best material on domestic poverty that presently exists in our many churches and organizations. This material includes: Biblical/theological foundations; statistical information; best practices; resources for pastors; etc.

We recommend that they expand that compilation and work with our Executive Administrator on the best ways to make that material available to all of our groups.

#### 3. Major Emphasis – Thanksgiving through Lent

We recommend that we covenant together today to have a special emphasis on poverty in our churches and networks sometime between Thanksgiving 2008 and Lent 2009.

Each church and organization should do this in its own way and time. We are not seeking the same activity by all. What we do want is to be able to tell all of our churches and networks that all of the participants in CCT are, each in their own way, making this call together to strengthen and expand the resolve to end poverty in America.

#### 4. Meeting with the President-elect after the November 2008 election.

We recommend that representatives of CCT (including our five Presidents) meet with the President-elect after the November election to convey our strong concern that the nation greatly expand its efforts to overcome domestic poverty.

In the discussion that followed, it was noted that we definitely need an expanded dialogue and frame work. Our “differences” are not negatives; therefore “distinctive” would be a better word. Each family has different ways of approaching poverty and we can learn from each other. There was concern of waiting until January of 2009 to meet with the president-elect. We need more concrete steps to work on this. It was suggested that CCT conduct a symposium on alleviating poverty. Due to the nature of the dialogue that we want to have, some of our leadership would not have the expertise in this area; therefore, we need to draw on our participants with that area of expertise. It is important that there be some knowledge and awareness of what we are doing in the time between now and the November election. It would be appropriate for our concern and work (Statement on Poverty) to be made known to the candidates (nominees) so that CCT will be on their radar.

Ron Sider reported that in regard to the decision around meeting with the candidates, the Poverty Committee did not agree and, because we work by consensus, it was determined that we could not come up with a way to do this. This does not prohibit CCT participants from meeting with the candidates, but not in the name of CCT. The committee will design the 2009 Annual Meeting carefully. When asked how this decision impacts the Evangelism Committee’s work on the 2009 Annual Meeting, he reported that evangelism and poverty are flowing together in many ways. In between now and the 2009 Annual Meeting, it is up to the leaders of CCT to wrestle with these issues because it would be difficult to get another meeting on everyone’s calendars. Adam Taylor invited all CCT participants to join with Sojourners in a grass roots movement to turn the corner on poverty so that poverty can be halved in 10 years and eliminated in 20 years. Adam will get materials to the Poverty Committee. We need to covenant together and go back to our churches and organizations and make this a priority. Rev. Raafat Zaki asked that Habitat for Humanity be added to the list of resources and to consider them for production of resources.

Participants are encouraged, as they go back to their shops, to take seriously the poverty agenda of CCT and create a decentralized mobilization under their own names but keeping the CCT Poverty Statement in mind as a resource.

It was shared that while we spoke to this as individuals in the mixed groups, it was not addressed in the family discussions. Family representatives offered their thoughts without the input from all family members. Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson stated that with the help of the Poverty Committee, a major effort was made to adopt the CCT Statement on Poverty. We are grateful that we are going to have expanded dialogue, both public and distributed, that represents a consensus. Nothing prohibits us from using the Statement on Poverty within our denominations. We can and should use it. This discussion is not done but we can use it within the next year since we have already reached an important consensus on this statement.

This is our Poverty Statement. We are going beyond it to have a sit down event with the president-elect. We understand the partisan implications but that doesn’t rule out using what we have already said. The committee did not talk about contacting the religious people working with the candidates. The Steering Committee should give some time to have discussion about how to disseminate the CCT Poverty Statement. It has not filtered down to our own churches. The Steering Committee should devote time to better dissemination (e.g. to be published in the NY Times.) We need to get a press release out this month to the staff of these groups in order to make them aware of this.

It was mentioned that there have been some objections to using this statement with strong opposition to some parts of the Statement. It especially doesn’t reverberate with African Americans. Rev. Ron Sider stated that everyone agreed with the statement and due to interpretation of some or part of it, many may have strong reservations but no one has asked to take their name off of the statement. Sr. Joan Delany felt that we need to ask the candidates for their comments on the Poverty Statement so that they would become more involved and that the timing should be involved with the Annual Meeting. Rev. Raafat Zaki stated that he has anxiety around waiting too long to contact the candidates and having them hear our concerns. This is an election year and we want to impact the election and the people of the nation. We have plenty of material to identify what we are

thinking. We can be prepared to use an event as a means of strengthening coalitions in an election year so that when a meeting comes, we have an agenda that is ready to go; especially in a year that everyone is listening.

In response to a question about whether the Poverty Committee's report to the body is a public document, Ron Sider responded that that question was not addressed so we leave it to the wisdom of our executive administrator to determine how to use it.

Dr. Roy Medley shared that the Poverty Committee heard the anxiety. The reality that we face is that this organization is still very new and we are still understanding each other. We are not in a place to be able to move forward in this season due to the reality of the newness of our relationship. We need to grow in trust and understanding in future. The timing is everything but this is difficult for us. We should encourage the Steering Committee to really seize the moment; also, as churches we should collaborate with our organizations, leveraging our impact and so that we don't go alone.

### **Report/Recommendation on Evangelism Discussions**

Father Leonid Kishkovsky affirmed that the Evangelism Committee is ready to do whatever the body is ready for it to do. We may need to wait another year to concentrate on evangelism.

Father Leonid Kishkovsky expressed gratitude to Cardinal William Keeler for his ministry. Cardinal Keeler has been deeply appreciated by the Orthodox, Protestant and Jewish communities. He is discerning, kind, considerate and clear about this decision to step down as a CCT president. We are grateful and he will be missed, especially since he was present at the creation of CCT at a meeting that he hosted in Baltimore, MD. Wes Granberg-Michaelson also shared that he was present at the creation of CCT with His Eminence William H. Keeler, and without Cardinal Keeler, CCT would not have happened. CCT will always be open to his gifts of wisdom and discernment.

Dick Hamm shared that several participants had to leave this morning in order to attend another major meeting in St. Louis, MO, that involves several heads of communion and ecumenical officers (Churches Uniting In Christ). We appreciate their commitment to CCT as well as to other ecumenical organizations.

### **Bylaws Changes**

The *Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws of Christian Churches Together in the USA* (White 1) was reviewed. This document was previously sent out to all participants in accordance to the CCT Bylaws, ARTICLE THIRTEEN, AMENDMENTS, which states that a copy of the proposed changes to the Bylaws must be mailed to all Participants at least three months prior to the meeting in which the change is to be considered. The Steering Committee, at their meeting of September 27-28, 2007, approved the motion to recommend to the participants of the 2008 Annual Meeting that ARTICLE TWELVE, MISCELLANEOUS, Sec. 12.2, be amended to read as follows: ~~The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December in each year.~~ **The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be determined by the Steering Committee.** This amendment is offered in order to make it possible for our annual audit to be done at the most economical time and at a time that makes it possible to have the audit available for the Annual Meeting to review. The motion was moved, seconded, and approved.

### **Budget Review**

The 2008 Budget was reviewed and accepted.

### **Update on Global Christian Forum**

Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson reported that CCT was well represented at the Global Christian Forum in Limuru, Kenya, on November 6-9, 2007. All of the CCT presidents were in attendance, with Cardinal William Keeler being represented by Bishop Stephen Blair. The prayers of many of us were answered in Limuru. There were 250 church representatives from 72 countries representing all streams of Christianity throughout the world. There were large numbers of Pentecostal, Catholic, historic Protestant, Orthodox and African instituted churches. Unity comes as the work of God's spirit, inspiring a new thing in the life of the Body of Christ. There were testimonials built around the sharing of journeys; presentations and general sessions, gathering together to seek unity and relationship, building a deep network of relationships that had not occurred before. This was regarded as a remarkable breakthrough. It is historically unprecedented and a great step forward...a breakthrough. The role

of CCT was appreciated and was shared as a model of an organization that has clarity and has provided a bridge. Most churches full of vitality are those that have long relationships and an appreciation of a broader reach of the Church. The single largest challenge of the Church today is providing a bridge to bring us closer together. There will be an evaluation of the process that started nine years ago by the Global Christian Forum Steering Committee, of which Wes is a part. They will meet in February and again in the fall in order to determine their next steps. Father Leonid Kishkovsky also shared that CCT has made more progress with a deep involvement from Christian bodies within the United States.

### **Proposed Guidelines for Applications/Suggested Changes in the Application Form**

The *Proposed Guidelines for Application Process* (White 2-see below) was reviewed. These guidelines provide clarification of the application process that the Steering Committee thought would be helpful when there are reservations about an applicant, but the Steering Committee is not prepared to reject the applicant. The *Suggested Changes in the Application Form* (White 3-see below) was also reviewed. There were no questions regarding either document so the proposed guidelines and suggested changes in the application form were approved by consensus.

### **Future CCT Meeting Dates**

Below are the future meeting dates of the Steering Committee and Annual Meetings. These are for informational purposes. They have been reviewed and set so as to avoid conflicts with meetings of the NAE, NCC, and CUiC. So far we are okay with these dates but if any conflict arises, please communicate that to Dick Hamm. We want to be sure that participants are able to take part in both the Steering Committee meetings and the Annual Meetings.

#### **Annual Meetings (locations TBD)**

January 13-16, 2009  
January 12-15, 2010  
January 11-14, 2011  
January 10-13, 2012

#### **Steering Committee Meetings (noon-noon)**

May 1-2 (Thurs & Fri), 2008  
Oct 1-2 (Wed & Thurs), 2008  
May 4-5 (Mon & Tues), 2009  
Sept 30-Oct 1 (Wed & Thurs), 2009  
May 3-4 (Mon & Tues), 2010  
Sept 29-30 (Wed & Thurs), 2010

### **Announcement of 2008 Steering Committee Members**

Dr. William Shaw reported that Rev. Dr. Stephen Thurston, National Baptist Convention of America, was named for another 3 year term representing the historic Racial/Ethnic family.

Cardinal William Keeler reported that Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, Archdiocese of Atlanta, will be the new Catholic president and that he has expressed his willingness to accept this responsibility.

Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson reported that he was elected to a second term representing the historic Protestant family. Rev. Dr. Daniel Vestal, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, wished to move off the Steering Committee and Ms. Wendy Mc Fadden, Church of the Brethren, will take his place in the Class of 2010. In looking at the overall mix of the Steering Committee, it was determined that they would like to add an at-large member; therefore, Mr. Carlos Malave, Presbyterian Church USA, will be added to the Steering Committee. His addition will provide Hispanic representation as well as strengthen the tie to the PCUSA.

Bishop James Leggett had to leave early but reported to Dick Hamm that Rev. Jeff Farmer, Open Bible Churches, was elected to a second term and Commissioner Israel L. Gather, The Salvation Army National Headquarters, has accepted a position on the Steering Committee representing the Evangelical/Pentecostal family.

Father Leonid Kishkovsky reported that Archbishop Cyril Karim's term ended by rotation and that the Very Reverend Olof H. Scott, Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, will succeed him on the Steering Committee representing the Orthodox family.

Since the term length for at-large Steering Committee members is not clearly stated in the CCT Bylaws, it was recommended that the same 3-year term length of the designated representatives of participants would apply to the at-large members. The current at-large members will be placed in classes according to when they came on board. There was no objection, so the recommendation and the proposal were affirmed.

Cardinal Keeler shared that the Focalare group will be 3 million strong in prayer power and might be a suitable participant in CCT.

### **Brainstorming about 2009 Annual Meeting**

The *Recommendations from the Poverty Committee* will be given to the Steering Committee, thought out and executed. It was suggested that we contact the religious person in the president-elect's office in order to talk to us about their beginning dialogue. We don't want to lose the time of sharing of families with the rest of the group. We would like to see the continuity of some more of the seminarians throughout the Annual Meeting by having them spend a longer time with the group or even the entire time. It would be useful for us to begin to think of the connection between poverty and race and to confront our own churches on this issue. As we go from city to city, we need to extend an invitation to other organizations that are the best advocates to moving our mission along.

### **Press Release**

Dick Hamm reported that he will be producing a press release and it will be on the website as well as ongoing and up-to-date records as to what we are doing. These materials will also be made available to the bodies and networks within the churches and organizations. The press release will come from Dick and can be adjusted for your own context and communication.

### **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**

Father Leonid Kishkovsky shared that it is important to have this business meeting in order to address items and points of concern and to have the committees report to us. He also shared that he is delighted to work with Dick Hamm. It is always productive, harmonious and clear when communicating with Dick. He invited everyone to communicate with him. All five presidents and the Steering Committee are certainly at the service of CCT's participants. Please call with affirmation, critique or requests to hear your voices. He thanked Rev. Wes Granberg-Michaelson for continuing with us on the Steering Committee as the president of the historic Protestant family.

Moderator Kishkovsky offered a word of prayer and adjourned the meeting.

## **Proposed Guidelines for Application Process (White 2)**

In accordance with the Bylaws, ARTICLE FOUR, Section 4.3 Admission to participation, the Steering Committee recommends that the following process guidelines be approved:

1. Applications shall be submitted to and reviewed by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee may recommend acceptance of an application, designate the family in which the applicant will participate, and circulate the application to all participants, providing the opportunity for anyone with objections to state them. If there are no objections expressed by participants within 60 days, the application is deemed accepted.
2. If members of the Steering Committee have reservations about an applicant, but are not prepared to reject the applicant, a process of inquiry may be applied as follows:
  - (a) Within two months of the Steering Committee meeting, a team that is representative of at least three of the five families (and including one representative of the family with whom the applicant identifies) is appointed to conduct a visitation with the leadership of the applicant church/organization to inquire of them regarding their full affirmation of the By-laws, especially ARTICLE TWO, Theological Affirmations, and any other matters of concern that may have been raised by members of the Steering Committee.
  - (b) Upon having completed their visitation, the team shall make a recommendation to the Steering Committee regarding the application.
  - (c) Upon careful review of the team's report, the Steering Committee shall decide whether or not to forward the application to the Participants for action in accordance with #1 above.

### Suggested Changes in the Application Form (White 3)

The CCT Bylaws state that any change in the application form (to become a participant church or organization) has to be approved by participants. The Steering Committee recommends approval of the following changes in the *Instructions for Application Form*:

Current wording of #6 on Application Form:

**Please submit 1) a brief history of the church/organization; 2) creedal/mission statement and its relation to the Bylaws IV.2; 3) an overview of the governing structure and number of worshipping communities; 4) an indication of which faith family you would like to be part of and why.**

Proposed additions in wording of #6:

**3. (add:) “or, in the case of organizations, an overview of the governing structure and the number of supporting congregations/groups/individuals. Add a new 5 and 6: 5. In the case of organizations, how do you believe being a part of CCT will help your organization fulfill its mission and purpose? 6. In the case of organizations, how do you believe your organization will be able to help CCT fulfill its mission and purpose?”**

Rationale: While we certainly hope that the mission and purpose of any applicant would be enhanced by participating in CCT, how would CCT be enhanced by their participation? Having this information will help CCT avoid applicants who are merely seeking support.