

Annual Ministry Report 2022

CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES
TOGETHER



Christian Churches Together
Annual Ministry Report
2023

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Message from the Executive Director



As we pursue unity together, may we look for Christ in each other and boldly follow the Spirit's leading to whatever surprising place God might lead us.

For Christian churches and organizations in the U.S., and indeed for the whole human race, the past three years have been challenging to say the least. But 2022 was a particularly pivotal year for CCT; it was a period in which we began to see revitalization and renewed enthusiasm around our mission and work. After more than a year of transition, my call to lead CCT—which I had felt growing in me in the previous years—was affirmed by the Search Committee, and I moved into the role of Executive Director. We had our first in-person Forum since 2019, and we began to meet again as a Steering Committee face-to-face rather than over Zoom.

As you will see in the pages that follow, we've had many successes in the past year, which give us cause to celebrate. My heart is overflowing with gratitude. But what I am most thankful for is the relationships that are at the center of all we do as Christian Churches Together. I am grateful for the countless hours that our Presidents have spent discerning the future of CCT, and for the way in which they have grown into a unified team. I am grateful for the bold actions and honest deliberation of the Steering Committee, which has bound us together in new ways. I am grateful for the encouraging emails and the prayers that laid a foundation of support as I began this role. And I am grateful for your patience and grace as I continue to discern and live out what God is calling us to be together as a fellowship of churches.

One of the most significant lessons I have learned this past year is the importance of listening and being open to something new. The commitment to listen first—to seek to understand before being understood, as St. Francis put it—is also one of the hallmarks of "Receptive Ecumenism," which is the model that CCT committed to in our Mission, Vision, Process document adopted in 2019. Scholars and practitioners of this model (first articulated in

2006) are still drawing out its significance for the next phase of the ecumenical movement—a phase marked by the hope that we're emerging from the so-called "ecumenical winter" into a "spring." At a recent conference on Receptive Ecumenism, theologian Paul Fiddes remarked that, "[The] creation of something new in encounter is, I think, at the centre of a second stage of receptive ecumenism." Fiddes goes on to explain that this "new creation," which is prefigured in Ezekial 37:19 and Ephesians 2:15, arises out of the practice of listening to each other and looking for gaps or voids in our own web of belief that might be filled with something new as we learn about another person's faith. In encounter, if we are open to truly receiving it, the "ferment of the new will grow, until we are seeing familiar things in a new way, and we find we are being changed." Isn't this the hope of CCT, the best of what we do as a diverse fellowship of Christians? Isn't this what God has been doing among us as we seek understanding and consensus, in contrast to the polarization of our time?

As we continue to do the good work of CCT—engaging in loving relationships, learning theologically, and leading actions that provide a way to Beloved Community—it is my prayer that we will listen well to each other, that we will look for Christ in each other, and that we will boldly follow the Spirit's leading to whatever surprising place God might lead us—until we are living as a new creation, "no longer strangers and aliens, but... members of the [same] household of God" (Eph. 2:19).

With gratitude,

Monica Schaap Pierce
Executive Director

Operational Developments

In the past year, what kinds of developments were made in the routine functioning and activities of CCT?

Policies	People	Other
<p>New Mission Statement drafted by subcommittee and adopted at Forum</p>	<p>5 individuals nominated, accepted invitation to join the Steering Committee</p>	<p>Articles about the CCT's work featured in Religion News Service and The Indianapolis Recorder</p>
<p>Communication Policies, Financial Policies, revised Dues Schedule, and "Roles of SC and ED" document - all drafted by ED and adopted by SC</p>	<p>Search Team concluded its good work and hired permanent ED</p>	<p>Record number of gifts (financial contributions) given by individuals to CCT</p>
<p>New Facebook page launched (currently 338 followers) and new logo designed</p>	<p>Financial Administrator hired</p>	<p>Relationship forged w/NCC for mutual support, collaboration when appropriate</p>

About our new logo



The new logo was designed by the Executive Director and another member of the Reformed Church in America with the intent of re-branding, or giving CCT a new look, and more explicitly conveying the unity and diversity represented among CCT's participant churches and organizations. In the logo, the line that encircles and forms the shape of the churches (and one building without a cross to represent our organizations) is a single, unbroken line, representing the oneness that characterizes our relationships through Christ. The circle is open to represent the open fellowship of CCT, where there is always a place at the table for new communions and organizations to participate in our work of loving, learning, and leading.

Financials 2022



\$ 1975

raised on Giving
Tuesday

Statement of Activities

Revenue and Support

- Communion and Organizations' Dues 98,915
- Financial Gifts from Individuals 4499
- Forum Registrations 10,146
- Total Revenue and Support \$ 113,560

Expenses

- Program Services 24,438
- Salaries, Wages, and Administrative 72,209
- Total Expenses \$ 96,647

Total Revenue - End of Year \$ 16,913

Net Assets - End Of Year \$48, 527



GIFTS FROM INDIVIDUAL
DONORS INCREASED

185%

From 2021 to 2022

Participant Dues

<u>Communion or Organization</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Compared to 2021</u>
Antiochian Orthodox	-	(1000) *
Armenian Orthodox	1000	
Bread for the World	1500	
Church of the Brethren	2500	
Bruderhof Communities	1500	
Christian Reformed Church	2500	
Church of God (Anderson)	4500	+2000
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	1000	
Disciples of Christ	1500	
Evangelical Lutheran Ch in Am	6000	
Episcopal Church	10,000	
Christians for Social Action	-	(500) *
Greek Orthodox	1000	(1000)
Habitat for Humanity	6000	+ 6000
Hope for You, International	1500	(500)
Internat'l Council of Comm. Ch.	500	
Internat'l Pentecostal Holiness	5000	+ 2500
Internat'l Justice Misison	-	(4000) *
Mennonite Church	1500	
Moravian Church	2430	
Nat'l Baptist Convention of Am	-	(2500) *
Nat'l Baptist Convention (USA)	1000	
Orthodox Church in America	-	(2000) *
Presbyterian Church (USA)	6000	
Reformed Church in America	7000	
Salvation Army	2000	
Sojourners	1500	(500)
Syriac Orthodox Church	1485	+ 135
United Church of Christ	1000	
United Methodist Church	10,500	
US Conf. Catholic Bishops	15,000	
Vineyard, USA	2000	+ 500
Zomi Baptist Churches of NA	1500	+200



THREE COMMUNIONS
CONTRIBUTED AT LEAST

\$ 1000

more in 2022 over the
previous year

Thank you for your
contribution to CCT; your
financial support allows us to
convene one of the broadest
fellowships of Christians
in the US so that we may
love, learn, and
lead together.

* CCT is in conversation with this Participant and
expects to receive their 2022 dues in early 2023.



PARTICIPANT
DUES RECEIVED
WERE, ON AVERAGE,

12%

more than in 2021



Relationship– Building

Reconnecting and deepening relationships with current Participants



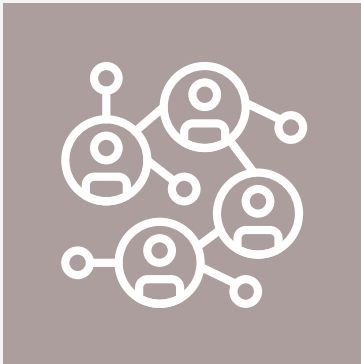
Connecting with Heads of Communion

Throughout the course of the year, the Executive Director had one-on-one conversations with the Head of Communion/Organization (or their official representative) of 27 out of our 33 member Participants.



Communicating CCT's mission

The Executive Director gave a keynote speech to over 2,000 members of the Zomi Baptist Church of North America at their inaugural seminary graduation. She presented the work of CCT to the Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches of North America, and to the 20+ staff and faculty gathered at the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship.



National and International Gatherings

The Executive Director represented CCT and engaged in strategic relationship–building at the General Assembly of the World Council of Churches, the International Pentecostal Holiness Church General Conference, and the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA.

New Relationships

Forging relationships with potential Participants



Pentecostal Churches

Ongoing participation in and presentation to the Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches of North America provides opportunities to interface with and invite additional Pentecostal churches to CCT.



Organizations with similar goals

After building a relationship with Executive Directors of Resetting the Table, they offered to use a grant they received to train CCT participants in dialogue across difference. This workshop was a fitting follow-up to the 2022 Forum theme and leading action.



Equivalent bodies in other countries

Forming relationships with leaders of ecumenical organizations, such as Churches Together in England, who have a longer history than CCT helps us reflect on our distinctive mission, how we might partner with such groups, and what the future might hold for us.



Prospective Participant groups

Through the good work of the Forum, three communions showed interest in joining CCT; another two (one charismatic, one an organization) have asked for applications to CCT and are in the process of discussing CCT membership with their leaders.

Next Steps

Where is God leading CCT in the coming year/s?



Continue to build relationships

- Particular goal of inviting additional Evangelical, Pentecostal, and Historic Black churches to CCT
- Reconnecting with churches and organizations that have had a tenuous relationship with CCT or have recently left CCT



Live into our stated mission

- How do we more effectively employ the consensus model in all decision making?
- Continue to discern what it means for CCT to commit to "leading actions" and faithfully live out the leading actions that we commit to



Be a model of Receptive Ecumenism

- Discern how CCT can exemplify (through our own distinctive work) the model of "Receptive Ecumenism," as we committed to do in our Vision, Mission, and Process document approved in 2020



Major in "the basics"

- Communicate more frequently and effectively with Participants
- Continue to look for new sources of income

CCT's Mission:

Christian Churches Together brings together the diversity of Christian churches and organizations in the U.S. to foster loving relationships, cultivate theological learning, and discern, through consensus, how we bear witness to the reconciling power of Jesus.

The Leadership of CCT

Steering Committee

Orthodox Family

Vicken Aykazian
David Barr
Razek Siriani (John Sawak's term)

Evangelical/Pentecostal Family

Funmi Adeyemi
Jim Lyon
Josh Williams

Catholic Family

Donna Toliver Grimes
Ron Roberson
David Talley (Walter Kedjerski)

Protestant Family

Jean Hawxhurst
Margaret Rose

Historic Black Family

Kevin Donalson
Angelique Walker-Smith

At-Large Members

Suzanne Dillahunt
Dianna Wright
Peter Baktis
Danielle Brown
Nicolas Kazarian
Anna Brandt
Moya Harris

Roles within the Committee

Presidents

Vicken Aykazian
Funmi Adeyemi
David Talley (Walter Kedjerski)
Jean Hawxhurst
Angelique Walker-Smith

Officers

Moderator – Fr. Walter Kedjerski
Secretary – Jean Hawxhurst
Treasurer – David Barr



Thank you for your continued support of
and participation in CCT!



SAVE THE DATE:
 CCT's Annual Forum
 October 3-6, 2023

Ways to stay connected...



<http://eepurl.com/ie1bA5>



[FACEBOOK.COM/CHRISTIANCHURCHESTOGETHER](https://www.facebook.com/CHRISTIANCHURCHESTOGETHER)



WWW.CHRISTIANCHURCHESTOGETHER.ORG



Ways to give to CCT...



[PAYPALME/CCTUSA](https://www.paypal.com/payto/PAYPALME/CCTUSA)



<https://giv.li/u9806r>



And Venmo: @CHRISTIANCHURCHESTOGETHER