



IN THIS ISSUE

This issue of *LERNing* focuses on the upcoming National Workshop on Christian Unity, January 29 through February 1, 2007, in the Metropolitan Washington, DC area.

2007 NATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – REGISTER NOW!

It is already time to register for the 2007 National Workshop in Washington, DC – January 29th through February 1st. The early registration rate is \$125 (until December 1st). Thereafter the rate is \$150. The student registration for the entire workshop is \$50 and scholarships are available. For those only able to attend part of the workshop, the one-day registration rate is \$50.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE 2007 NATIONAL WORKSHOP

The website for the National Workshop is:
www.nwcu.us/

Register on-line for the 2007 Workshop at:
www.nwcu.us/2007NWCURegistrationPage.htm

Communications & Public Relations Committee
Chair: Fr. Don Rooney
1009 Stafford Avenue
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
Phone: 540-373-6491
Fax: 540-373-0251
frrooney@immaculate-mary.org

The 2007 workshop brochure and seminar schedule is available on-line at:
www.nwcu.us/2007%20Conference/Descriptionsof17Seminars8eachday.htm

For LERN-related events at the National Workshop, contact the ELCA's Office of Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations:
Paulina Nisbet-Dasse
8765 West Higgins Rd.
Chicago, IL 60631-4101
773-380-2616
Paulina.Nisbet-Dasse@elca.org



Thomas Circle, erected 1884. Sculptor: E. Reitschel.

HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Note: Workshop attendees must make their own hotel reservations.

Key Bridge Marriott Hotel
1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia
Room rate for Workshop participants:
\$120/night, including taxes.

Call for reservations (800) 228-9290;
for information (703) 524-6400

For on-line Registration

<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/waskb?groupCode=nwonwoa&app=resvlink>

WORKSHOP KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Preacher at Opening Prayer Service: *Armenian Bishop Vicken Aykazian, President Elect of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA*

Bishop Aykazian is the legate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) in Washington, and ecumenical officer. Bishop Aykazian was born in Siirt, Turkey and holds a Ph.D in history and is working on a second Ph.D in theology at Catholic University in Washington. Bishop Aykazian is President Elect of the National Council of Churches USA, and is a leading force for ecumenical cooperation among Christians in the United States. In addition, he has been active in the World Council of Churches as a member of the Mission and Evangelism Unit, the Orthodox Task Force and the Central Committee.

Workshop Keynote: *Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC, Professor of Church History, Memphis Theological Seminary*

Brother Jeffrey Gros, FSC, has provided thirty years of ministry in the field of Ecumenism. Brother Gros is currently a professor of Church History at Memphis Theological Seminary. He is well-known to the National Workshop on Christian Unity and has spoken to a wide range of religious groups including the American Academy of Religions, College Theological Society, Faith and Order Commission USA, and Councils of Churches in various states and many varied religious and educational groups throughout the world.

Bible Study Leader: *Brenda Girton-Mitchell, Associate General Secretary for Justice and Advocacy, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA*

The Reverend Girton-Mitchell was licensed to preach in 1998, and was ordained at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, DC in 2004 and now serves as Minister for Christian Discipleship, a member of the Metropolitan Community Development Corporation, and the Millennium Building Committee. The Reverend Girton-Mitchell is a life member of the National Council of Negro Women, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Washington Urban League. She also holds membership in the National Bar Association, Washington Bar Association, Women's Bar Association, and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She serves as chaplain for the National Bar Association and is on the Board of Wesley Theological Seminary.

Thursday Speaker Panel Discussion

"How Faith Influences Christians in Political Office"

A Moderator & 4 Panel Members Representing 4 Perspectives

Including: The Honorable John LaFalce, former Congressman from Buffalo, NY; The Reverend Elenora Giddings-Ivory, Director of the Washington, DC Office of the Presbyterian Church

The intersection of faith and politics has often become contentious on the American scene, and how the faith of people in political life influences their political decisions is not a simple issue. The panel will go beyond simplistic divisions to discuss the more basic and personal questions of the influence of faith on those who make political and juridical decisions for our society.



Washington National Cathedral

EDEIO & LERN LUNCHEON

The annual luncheon of the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO) and the Lutheran Ecumenical Representatives Network will take place on **Tuesday, January 30th**. The speaker will be The Very Rev. Samuel Lloyd, dean of Washington National Cathedral since April 2005. Dean Lloyd, served as assistant rector in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he was also an assistant university professor of religious studies. For about a decade he ministered at Trinity Church, Boston, and oversaw the growth in family, children and youth outreach – from only a “handful” of children to well over 200 kids.

The luncheon ticket form is available on-line at: www.elca.org/ecumenical/nwcu/Ecco%20and%20Lern%20Luncheon.pdf.

LARC LUNCHEON

The fifth annual Lutheran Anglican Roman Catholic (LARC) luncheon will take place on Wednesday, January 31st during the National Workshop. The speaker will be The Rt. Rev. Edwin F. Gulick, Bishop of Kentucky. As head of the Diocese of Kentucky, Bishop Gulick is chief pastor to its clergy, 36 congregations, and about 10,600 active members. Bishop Gulick has served two terms on the *Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations* and co-chaired the *Anglican Roman Catholic Dialogue* (ARC-USA) from 1997 to present. He represented the Episcopal Church on the *Consultation on Church Union* (COCU) from 1995 to 2000. He also serves on the *International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission on Unity and Mission*. Luncheon ticket forms are available on-line at: www.elca.org/ecumenical/nwcu/Larc%20luncheon.pdf.

SEMINARS – 2007 NATIONAL WORKSHOP

The 2007 Workshop offers 17 seminar options: Each is briefly summarized below.

The Ministry of a Congressional Chaplain
Father Daniel Coughlin, Chaplain for the United States House of Representatives
Serving since 2000 and first Catholic priest to be a congressional chaplain, will discuss the ministry he provides for the members of Congress, as well as matters regarding the ecumenical role of a congressional chaplain will be addressed as well.

Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry: 25th Anniversary

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Wainwright
The presenter was a member of the "BEM core group" of the World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission in the years immediately before and after the issuance of the document (1976-1991).

Scripture, History and the Search for an Ecumenical Ecclesiology

The Reverend Dr. Joseph Fitzmyer and The Very Reverend Dr. William H. Petersen
On the 25th anniversary of BEM, New Testament scholar Joseph Fitzmyer and church historian William Petersen, using the resources of scripture and the experience of the church in history, ask the question whether there can be a truly ecumenical ecclesiology and, if so, what issues would it have to satisfy in order to serve the ecumenical enterprise.

Growing Together in Unity and Mission; Building on Forty Years of Anglican- Catholic Dialogue *The Right Reverend Chris Epting and Reverend Paul McPartlan*

Despite the present "imperfect communion" between these two churches, the recently formed International Anglican Roman Catholic Commission on Unity and Mission (IARCCUM) believes that the theological statements of ARCIC (Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission) over the past 35 years should be translated into practical progress in our relations and common mission. This presentation will focus on what has been achieved in the dialogue, what remains to be done, and what can be done practically "on the ground" in the meantime.



National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institute

Baptism—Seminarian Essay Winners

Dr. Michael Trice

In this seminar, seminarians from different churches around the country discuss models for how baptism is foundational to ecumenical agreements in congregational parish life. The World Council of Churches' key document, *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*, is the foundation for discussion.

Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC)—Implementing Ministry

The Reverend Patrice L. Rosner

In June, 2006, Rev. Rosner assumed the directorship of Churches Uniting in Christ. The ten member communions of CUIC are seeking significant movement toward greater unity, looking to reach a common mind on ministry and full recognition of the forms of ministry exercised within their various communities in the near future.

Forming the Next Generation of Pastoral Ecumenists: The Washington Theological Consortium Today

The Reverend Dr. John W. Crossin, OSFS

This workshop will explain the vision, the successes and the challenges (expected and unexpected) of several of the WTC's efforts, including: ecumenical events for the public, deepening faculty collaboration, increasing ecumenical course offerings for students, and a new Masters-level Certificate Program in Ecumenism.

Lessons Learned in Local Ecumenical Efforts

The Reverend Dr. Christopher Agnew and The Reverend Dr. Michael Lee Nelson

This seminar will explore ways in which churches and judicatories on the local level have been listening and responding to the ecumenical movement. A panel representing successful local ecumenical efforts will discuss the lessons they have learned, and how they can be applied in other settings.

Christians in the Holy Land

The Reverend John Tidy, His Eminence Archbishop Pietro Sambì. The Right Reverend Bishop Vicken Aykazian

This seminar will explore the difficulties of Christians in making a common witness in the Holy Land as their numbers dwindle, and the positive impact that a common witness of Christian churches in the United States could make in supporting them.

Progress & Potholes on the Road to Unity: Updates & Obstacles

The Very Reverend Dr. William H. Petersen and Dr. Ann Riggs

This seminar will present an update on ecumenical dialogues, principally in bilateral ecumenical conversations, but with some notice of multilaterals. The spectrum of goals from "mutual understanding" to "reconciliation of differences" to "full communion" will be considered with attention to national, regional and some global perspective.

Ecumenism 101

The Reverend Dr. Robert K. Welsh

This seminar is for newcomers to formal structures of the ecumenical movement. It provides a brief history and introduction to the movement, context for current dialogues, an overview of national and international ecumenical conversation and engagement, and a sampling of new and emerging discussions.

Religion and the Media

Mr. Jerry Filteau and Reverend Leslie C. Tune
Jerry Filteau, a senior reporter for Catholic News Service, and the Rev. Leslie C. Tune, communications officer of the Washington office of the National Council of Churches share their wisdom and experience relating to getting the messages of the churches on radio and TV.

Christian-Muslim Relations: Interreligious or Intercultural Dialogue

The Reverend Dr. Jay Rock, Dr. Sayyid M. Syyed, Dr. Ahmad S. Dallal, Dr. John Borelli
Some church leaders and theologians are suggesting that we understand the dialogue between Christians and Muslims as an intercultural rather than an interreligious dialogue. If there are important differences between these approaches, what are they? Is a critical and appreciative Christian-Muslim understanding better served by discerning common values amid cultural differences, or by respectfully examining religious differences and what they have to teach us?



Saint Matthew's Cathedral, Washington

Making Christian Churches Together (CCT) Appropriate to Local Contexts

Dr. Ann Riggs

Christian Churches Together in the USA is a new forum growing out of a deeply felt need to broaden and expand fellowship, unity, and witness among the diverse expressions of Christian faith today. This seminar is a place to consider together the needs, tasks, questions, and successes of those building CCT organizations of Christian communities at the state and local level.

FUTURE WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

2008: Chicago, Illinois - April 14-17

2009: Phoenix, Arizona

50th Anniversary of Faith and Order

Dr. Keelan Downton

In the summer of 2007, the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCCUSA) is returning to Oberlin, Ohio, to celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary. The conference seeks to stimulate a new interest in multi-lateral ecumenical engagement at all levels of ecclesial life, especially among a younger generation and will include a unique ecumenical "film festival."

The Concept of Spiritual Ecumenism

The Reverend Dr. Diane Kessler and The Reverend Tom Ryan

The presenters will unpack its considerable content and describe how they are engaging whole congregations in it through a four-day renewal event, "Gospel Call," designed to deepen Christians' sense of identity and solidarity with one another in mission.



Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington

Ecumenical Advocacy on Moral Issues

The Reverend Dr. Michael Kinnamon

Advocacy offices in Washington are sponsored by the churches to enable ready access to government and timely response to its actions. How do these offices work? How are current moral issues addressed, issues of war and justice, economics, human rights, and advances in medical science, to name a few?

JOIN OUR EDITORIAL TEAM! *LERNing* is currently looking for someone to fill the third slot on the editorial team. If interested, please contact Rocky Piro or Russell Meyer. (Contact information is at the end of the newsletter.)

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE LERN PLENARY SESSIONS IN DC

The plenary sessions for LERN representatives at the National Workshop are the only times that all the Lutheran representatives get together to work on common tasks and business. These are opportunities to address network-wide concerns and issues, such as electing officers, as well as tending to work in regional caucuses. At the final plenary in 2006, we heard that representatives would like more interaction with churchwide staff involved in ecumenical and interreligious work, and we will make sure that that happens in DC.

REMINDER OF REGIONS' TASKS BETWEEN WORKSHOPS

At the 2005 National Workshop in San Jose, representatives from each of the nine ELCA regions met in caucus to discuss ecumenical activities, identify ways to assist with the development of the LERN Manual, and to commit to tasks that they will undertake between now and the 2007 National Workshop. Here is a quick summary of the tasks each region agreed to pursue.

Region 1 – Increase interactions with the Alaska Synod.

Region 2 – Improve communication structures.

Region 3 – Participate in a 1-day retreat (one on east side of region and one on west side).

Region 4 – Work on improving interactions with Nebraska Synod.

Region 5 – Get to know one another better; Work with those synods currently without designated representatives.

Region 6 – Create an electronic bulletin-board.

Region 7 – Hold a 1-day gathering; Work on getting ecumenical representatives from other synods to attend the National Workshop.

Region 8 – Communicate by e-mail with each other at least once a month; Conduct a regional meeting around some event.

Region 9 – Work on mutual consultation concerning new mission starts.

WHAT WILL LERN LEARN FROM *ER* IN DC?

The Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations is working on a couple of items that will be showcased at the initial LERN plenary session in DC. The office will provide an overview of its new 70-page "interreligious primer" which went on-line on Friday, November 10th. One of the features of the primer is its multiple links to various interfaith organizations. You can check it out at:

www.elca.org/ecumenical/interreligious/index.html.

(continued on page 6, see ER in DC)

ER in DC (continued)

The Office is also spearheading a new ecumenical reception database called *Christian Unity Town Hall*. This database is being designed to be able to record all ecumenical reception efforts in North America. The goal is to distribute and market this tool in Spring 2007. LERN plenary attendees will be able to preview this project in DC and provide feedback to churchwide staff before it goes "live."

QUICK OVERVIEW: METRO DC SYNOD

The Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod includes the District of Columbia, the Virginia counties of Loudoun, Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William, including the cities of Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church, and the Maryland counties of Montgomery, Prince George, Charles, Calvert, and St. Marys. There are 75 congregations and almost 40,000 baptized members in the synod. The oldest congregation in Lovettsville, VA is nearly 250 years old. Yet 25r congregations are less than 25 years old. Multi-cultural ministry is both a challenge and opportunity. The Metro D.C. Synod is strongly ecumenical in spirit and is building meaningful ties, covenants and relationships with the Episcopal Church, the Roman Catholic Church, and Churches of the Reformed tradition. There continue to be good ties in some ministries with the Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod.

If you are able to stay longer in the DC area, consider visiting on of the synod's congregations; a listing of parishes is on-line at: www.metrodcelca.org/congregations.htm



Georgetown Church – oldest Lutheran Church in DC

HAVE AN ARTICLE FOR LERNing? If you would like to submit an article for a future issue of *LERNing*, please contact one of the editorial team members.

GETTING AROUND BY METRO

The National Workshop site at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel in Arlington is just across the Potomac River from the National Mall in Washington, DC. The hotel is near the Rosslyn Metro station, served by both orange and blue lines on the region's subway system, and is an important bus and rail hub. The Rosslyn Metro Station, between Fort Myer Drove & North Moore Street has an elevator and is handicapped accessible.



Rosslyn Station, Metrorail

Metrorail, Washington's regional subway system, often referred to simply as "Metro." The Metrorail system comprises five color-coded lines: blue, green, orange, red and yellow. The lines intersect at various points, making it possible for passengers to change trains and travel anywhere on the system. Service frequency varies according to day and time from a low of 15 minutes between trains on weekend evenings to a high of 3 minutes between trains in the peak of the rush hour period.

Rosslyn station is only 5 stops from the Washington National Airport on the blue line. Both the orange and blue lines serve Rosslyn and connect directly with sites along the National Mall, including the Smithsonian complex and the Capitol Building.

More information on using the Washington, DC subway system, Metro, is available on-line at: <http://www.wmata.com/default.cfm>

LERNing EDITORIAL TEAM

Dr. Rocky Piro, REPiro@aol.com
Anne Edison-Swift, anne.edison-swift@yale.edu
Position 3 - vacant
Executive Board Liaison: Rev. Russell Meyer, russellmeyer@att.net