



NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2021

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Rev. Dr.
Jennifer Copeland



The North Carolina Council of Churches' 85th Anniversary year (2020) came and went in a blur. We held a plethora of stellar online events that year highlighting our work and providing resources to congregations across the state. That event-filled year was capped off with the release of the Council commissioned hymn, "[God of the Movements and Martyrs](#)." Composed by former staff member and accomplished musician, David LaMotte, it definitely ranks among the highlights of that event-filled year.

Before we knew it, we rushed headlong into 2021. Not much had changed. We were still in the midst of a pandemic, still beleaguered by regressive legislation in N.C., and still calling for racial accountability. Other than the pandemic, this has been the story of the Council for its entire history. The work we do today adds to the foundation laid by those who came before us and who showed us hope and dedication, faithfulness and leadership, conviction and courage.

While the issues we address mirror the attitude of most progressive organizations around us, we have a singular starting place. We refract everything through the prophetic witness of the Old Testament and the gospel message of the New Testament. This starting place offers a different tenor to the conversation and leads to conclusions grounded in God's intention for the flourishing of all creation.

It's not enough to stand for these issues of human dignity and care for creation without being active in pursuit of their accomplishment. Much of our work involves educating people of faith about the connection between their beliefs and the public policies that bracket their lives. While respecting the separation of church and state, we are keenly aware that Jesus wasn't crucified for praying too much. He was crucified for naming the connection between faith and public policy. Education about the issues coupled with inspiration gleaned from the scriptures mobilizes us to live into God's beloved community.

In this review, we invite you to join us in celebrating the past year. We also hope you will look for places you can join us on this faith-filled journey. May God continue to guide and sustain us all.



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2021 IMPACT & PROGRAMS

IMPACT



VIRTUAL EVENTS

31 EVENTS
1,508
PARTICIPANTS



SOCIAL MEDIA

471 NEW FOLLOWERS
TOTAL 3,778
FOLLOWERS



PRESS

52 PRESS
MENTIONS



WEBSITE

42,205 NEW USERS
PAGE VIEWS 84,089



NEWSLETTER

NEW 1,930
SUBSCRIBERS
18,096 TOTAL
SUBSCRIBERS

OUR PROGRAMS

Partners in Health and Wholeness

In 2021 Partners in Health and Wholeness (PHW):

- Had 95 churches in their collaborative
- Recorded and shared 25 videos
- Launched three toolkits on Mental Health, Healthy Aging, and a Sunday School Guide on the Overdose Crisis.



Partners in
HEALTH
and
WHOLENESS

PHW launched the Inaugural Willona Stallings Award recognizing a health ministry and health lead that are doing innovative work around faith and health.

PHW received new grants and partnerships in 2021 to address the HIV crisis in the South, create a robust mental health referral system, and work with BIPOC congregations around mental health.



ECO-JUSTICE
CONNECTION

Eco-Justice Connection

While continuing our work in renewable energy and climate policy through our NC Interfaith Power & Light (NCIPL) campaign, the Council broadened our climate justice work by creating the Eco-Justice Connection. This larger scope is a multi-faith program focused on environmental & climate justice. We strive to do this work by building relationships with our elected officials, inviting congregations to think differently about food and agriculture, investing in the work of resilience on our coast, empowering youth climate organizers, making climate and human health connections, and through conversations and actions focused on energy use, renewable energy, energy justice, and energy efficiency.

ACHIEVEMENTS

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS



Policy Statements approved by Governing Board

Statement on George Floyd Murder Trial Verdict | April 21, 2020

Resolution: Remove Confederate Symbols Where Justice Is Sought | January 26, 2021

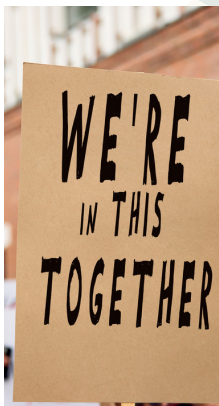
Statement on Systemic Racism | June 2, 2020

Statement on Staying Home | April 24, 2020

Read the full statements: ncchurches.org/issue-statements/

2021 Legislative Seminar

Expert speakers spoke on the following topics: Eco-Justice and Energy Policy, Current Landscape of Gun Laws, Current Immigration Legislation, NC Drug Policy and How it Affects the Overdose Crisis, Voting Rights: The Struggle Continues, Tax & Budget/Finance Reform, Healthcare Policy, Current State of Public Education, Working for a Living Wage. During the Seminar, we presented our Faith Active in Public Life Award to native North Carolinian and newly confirmed Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan, for "Courageous, Dedicated, Faithful And Compassionate Witness In The Public Arena." View all of the recordings on our YouTube Channel playlist "2021 Legislative Seminar."



Reparations to Restoration: A Call to Action

Grounded in the Christian principle of confession, repentance, and reconciliation we hope to recast the reparations conversation through the lens of Christian restoration. By focusing on restoration, we leave behind the language of debtors and creditors, victims and perpetrators, givers and takers. We move to a place of restoration by acknowledging the reconciling work that begins with God. Representatives from 10 of the Council's member denominations are compiling an 8-session resource to help dismantle oppressive systems. Like the Old Testament prophets we offer this truth as a lament that calls all of us to admit the truth--confess--and turn away from this behavior--repent--leading to the Christian call to restore that which has been lost by those harmed by this system.

God of the Movements and Martyrs

"God of the Movements and Martyrs," the Council's hymn, was composed in 2020 by former staff member and accomplished musician, David LaMotte. The 8 different versions offer unique sounds that every listener can enjoy. In 2021, the hymn had more than 1,800 views and more than 65 hours of watch time. This hymn has been a major accomplishment moving into 2021! Listen to each of the versions by visiting our Youtube playlist.



TESTIMONY & MEMBERS

CONGREGATION TESTIMONY

Partners in Health and Wholeness presented the inaugural 2021 Willona Stallings Award for Excellence in Community Innovation to Citadel of Faith Christian Fellowship, Inc:

"The Black Community in Thomasville, NC needs factual, straight to the point messaging from authentic voices concerning vaccine availability, accountability, and affordability. Our ultimate goal is to encourage Black and Brown people to trust the science and get the vaccine as soon as possible."

We are so proud to be partners with the North Carolina Council of Churches and to be in fellowship with Partners in Health and Wholeness. We are proud to be a part of this growing community

Bishop Dr. George B. Jackson

Citadel of Faith Christian Fellowship, Inc.



Citadel of Faith Christian Fellowship
Thomasville, NC

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(PCUSA)

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Vance Haywood
Metropolitan Community
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Unity Fellowship Church
Movement

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Presbytery of Western North
Carolina (PCUSA)

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Anderson

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At-Large: African Methodist
Episcopal

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Christ)

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Church, Piedmont Episcopal
District

William Pegues
Christian Methodist Episcopal,
Carolina Conference

Beth Owen
Member Congregations
Representative, Congregation at
Duke Chapel

Claire Robinson
Church Women United

Christy Lohr Sapp
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America, NC Synod

Lia Scholl
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Church, NC Conference

Amelia Stinson-Wesley
At-Large: United Methodist
Church, Western NC Conference

John Taylor
Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
(PCUSA)

Sarah Woodard
Episcopal Diocese of NC

We thank our denominational members for their support:

Alliance of Baptists | African Methodist Episcopal Church | African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church | Christian Methodist Episcopal | Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) | Episcopal Church | Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | General Baptist State Convention | Metropolitan Community Churches | Mennonite Church USA | Moravian Church in America | Presbyterian Church (USA) | Reformed Church in America | Reformed Churches of God in Christ, International | Religious Society of Friends | United Church of Christ | Unity Fellowship Church Movement | United Methodist Church