



Special Pre-Conference Edition

FIRST FRIDAY LETTER

The World Methodist Council

June 2016

Building Momentum Toward a Successful Conference



In the light of the increased interest expressed in the 21st World Methodist Conference in Houston, August 31- September 3, 2016, we publish a Special edition of the First Friday Letter to share something of the work and witness of the World Methodist Council.

This year marks the 131st birthday of the Council. When the first Ecumenical Methodist Conference of four hundred delegates convened in 1881 for twelve days at Wesley's Chapel in London,

little did they know that the proverbial mustard seed planted would grow to become "home" to 82.5 million people of 82 Methodists, Wesleyan and related United and Uniting Churches in 134 countries around the world.

The Council is the only body that brings the global Wesleyan family together every five years at a Conference with a set number of delegates from member churches but open to all who seek to follow Jesus in the company of the Wesley's.

The Council is one of more than thirty "families" of churches known as "Christian World Communions" (CWC). While these communions share a general tradition common to all Christians, each "family" is held together by a common heritage, creed or confession. Since 1957, the secretaries of CWC have met annually for fellowship and to share mutual concerns. The World Methodist Council, as one of these world communions, seeks to engage, empower and serve the member Churches by encouraging Methodist unity in witness, facilitating mission in the world, and fostering ecumenical and inter-religious activities. The Council "promotes



21st WORLD
METHODIST
CONFERENCE

obedience to the Great Commandment of Jesus Christ to love God and neighbor and to fulfill the Great Commission to make disciples through vibrant evangelism, a prophetic voice, cooperative programs, faithful worship and mutual learning".

This is a year of celebration. As we share in the 21st World Conference, it has "come of age" and where better to throw a party and reach for the stars to marvel at the majesty of God than in Houston, the home of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Two other bodies have 60th Anniversaries, the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women and the Methodist Museum, while the World Methodist Evangelism Institute celebrates 35 years and the Order of the Flame its 20th Anniversary.

Whether you can make it to Houston or not, it is my hope and prayer that this special issue of the First Friday Letter will inspire you to participate actively in this 21st Conference through your support and prayers.

Wishing all Conference participants a spiritually rewarding experience as you renew friendships, participate in worship, engage in debate and pray together.

Duan Abrahams

21st World Methodist Conference At a Glance

- 1,200 participants currently registered
- 70 Member Churches represented
- 5 languages spoken
- 4 pre-events and various other joint meetings
- 12 speakers and over 40 workshops!

Hurry and Register! Online registration closes 1 August

www.worldmethodistconference.com/register

About the World Methodist Conference

The World Methodist Conference is a celebration hosted every five years by the Council in a different location around the world. The 21st World Methodist Conference will be hosted by the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas., United States of America. Over 3,000 persons from the global Methodist/Wesleyan family are expected to attend!

Conference is a unique forum to network, learn, worship, engage in formal dialogue, and informal conversation that will ensure lifelong friendships.



The purpose of the World Methodist Conference is to open windows of understanding to the world and identify the contemporary challenges that Christians face in faith, mission and witness.



“One” is the theme of the 21st World Methodist Conference which will be a celebration of our unity in the midst of diversity. The member churches of the World Methodist Council are “one” not because they are uniform; they are “one” because they are unified. This distinction can be drawn from the most basic understanding of a triune God, a Holy Trinity that is simultaneously unified and diverse. To find out more go to: www.worldmethodistconference.com.



Jorge Lockward



Bishop Ivan Abrahams



Rev. Dr. Joanne Cox-Darling



Rev. Dr. Harold Good



Rev. Dr. Yani Yoo



Rev. Dr. Ted Campbell



Rev. Grace Imathiu



Dr. J.C. Park



Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon



Bishop João Carlos Lopes



Dr. Jennifer Wiseman



Pastor Rudy Rasmus



Rev. Dr. David Wilkinson



Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie

Previous World Methodist Conferences

1881	London, England	1956	Lake Junaluska, N.C., USA	1986	Nairobi, Kenya
1891	Washington, D.C., USA	1961	Oslo, Norway	1991	Singapore
1901	Toronto, Canada	1966	London, England	1996	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1921	London, England	1971	Denver, Co., USA	2001	Brighton, England
1931	Atlanta, Ga., USA	1976	Dublin, Ireland	2006	Seoul, Korea
1947	Springfield, Mass., USA	1981	Honolulu, Hawaii, USA	2011	Durban, South Africa
1951	Oxford, England				

What is the World Methodist Council?



The World Methodist Council is an association of 82 member churches on six continents, all branches of one single family tree planted by John and Charles Wesley.

Who is the Council?

The Council is comprised of delegates (250- 528) selected by member churches for a five year cycle.

What does the Council Do?

Through the Council, churches in the Wesleyan tradition connect by listening to and learning from one another, finding mutual support, and ways to engage in united witness in the ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Council meets at least twice in a quinquennium to conduct its business. The Council elects officers and chairpersons to its Steering Committee which meets annually to implement the decisions of the Council.

Standing Program Committees:

- Ecumenical Relationships
- Education
- Evangelism
- Family Life
- Inter-Religious Relationships
- Social and International Affairs
- Theological Education
- Worship and Liturgy
- Youth and Young Adult

What the Council DOESN'T Do

The Council does not legislate and respects the autonomy of all member churches, rather it endeavours to strengthen international ties, promote understanding, clarify theological and moral standards, and identify priorities for the Methodist movement.



World Methodist Council meeting in London 2013



Dr. Hugh & Shirliann Johnson receive the 2015 World Methodist Peace Award



WMC-Baptist World Alliance Dialogue meeting in Germany 2016

Want to know more?

Visit us online to learn more about the World Methodist Council.

www.worldmethodistcouncil.org/about

Meet The Steering Committee of the WMC

The Steering Committee exists to carry out the mandates of the World Methodist Council, and to act on behalf of the Council during the times in between meetings of the Council. The Steering Committee is comprised of officers representing different regions of the world where our member churches are located, chairpersons of the various Standing Committees, and representatives from organizations affiliated with the Council.

Officers



Kirby Hickey
Treasurer/CFO
The United MC, USA



Gillian Kingston
Vice-President
MC in Ireland



Bishop Paulo Lockmann
President
MC in Brazil



Rev. John Barrett
Past Chairperson
MC in Britain



Rev. David Bush
MC in New Zealand



Rev. Wonjae Lee
Korean MC



Rev. Lauren Matthew
Youth & Young Adult Pres.
MC of Southern Africa



Dr. George Mulrain
MC in the Caribbean &
Americas



Joshua Rathnam
MC in India



Archbishop Michael Stephen
MC Nigeria



Bishop Ivan Abrahams
General Secretary
MC of Southern Africa



John Thomas, III
Youth & Young Adult Coord.
African Methodist Episcopal

Standing Committee Chairpersons



Christy-Anna Errington
Youth & Young Adults
MC in Britain



Prof. Robert Gribben
Ecumenical Relationships
Uniting Church Australia



Emmy Lou John
Interreligious Relationships
The United MC, USA



Rev. Jorge Lockward
Worship & Liturgy
The United MC, USA
& Dominican Rep.



Mbongeni Magagula
Social & Interntl. Affairs
MC of Southern Africa



Dr. Amos Nascimento
Education
The United MC, USA
& MC in Brazil



Dr. J.C. Park
Theological Education
Korean MC



Bishop Teresa Snorton
Family Life
Christian Methodist
Episcopal



Bishop Michael Watson
Evangelism
The United MC, USA



Ruby Beech
Finance
MC in Britain



Ann Connan
World Federation of Methodist
& Uniting Church Women



Dr. Kimberly Reismann
World Methodist
Evangelism



Lawrence Malone
WesleyMen/World Fellowship
of Methodist & Uniting
Church Men

Did You Know? The officers and committee chairpersons of the Council are selected from the various world regions where member churches are present. New officers and chairpersons will be elected prior to the 21st World Methodist Conference.

Finding a safe space in Jordan

By Laura Cook, Communications Manager for All We Can



Amana stands with Mohammad and her daughter outside her dwelling in Husn Camp: "The most positive thing here is the people. The people are kind."

To get to the border on one day we had to walk for seven hours continuously. We had many fears. At any moment we might be killed." In 2010, with four young children, Amana made the long journey on foot from Der'a in Syria across the border into neighbouring Jordan. She fled the developing conflict to find a safe haven after three of her neighbours were killed by an explosive device in front of their home. Amana is now one of the nearly 650,000 Syrian who have become refugees and are now residing in Jordan.

Amana lives in Husn Refugee Camp with her children and her mother; her husband travels frequently, trying to find work. While Amana describes Jordan as a friendly country, and its people as kind, life is incredibly challenging. The basic cost of living is high for a family, and especially because they have had to leave everything behind. Amana often reminisces about her former life at home in Syria before the war. "We were very happy there, we had a very wonderful farm. I often remind my kids about Syria and what our lives were like there."

More than three years ago, All We Can started responding to the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict in Syria, by supporting Syrian refugees and their host communities in Jordan. In Husn Refugee Camp, All We Can's work has focussed on supporting families like Amana's through the provision of a community Child Forum. The forum, run by

our local partner DSPR, provides a space for children to come together, to play and to learn. Amana's son Mohammad has really benefitted from the Child Forum and for him it has been one of the first places he has felt truly safe. "There is a big change in his personality. He has started to have friends and build relationships. He used to be very shy. Now he is still shy but a lot less so. He has started smiling." Amana, grinning broadly, tells me. In the midst of an uncertain and transitory situation, Amana and her children are finding hope and community.

In May this year, Revd Dr Roger Walton and Ms Rachel Lampard (President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2016-17) accompanied All We Can on a visit to the Husn Refugee Camp Child Forum. They spent time talking to, and joining in activities with, the 40 Syrian and Palestinian refugees attending the group. After visiting the forum, Rachel reflected on the impact of

the work she had witnessed noting that the children's club presented "a chance for children to play and be creative together, to become friends and to feel safe. The Child Forum was allowing children to be children, in spite of their circumstances."

Amana is taking each day as it comes and finds comfort and a real sense of happiness seeing her children regain some of the confidence they had lost. Whilst she still longs to be back



Revd Dr Roger Walton and Ms Rachel Lampard (President and Vice-President of the Methodist Church in Britain Conference 2016-18) spent time with children in the Husn Refugee Camp Child Forum.

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Jordan continued

home in Syria, she knows that, realistically, this yearning will not be satisfied any time soon as the conflict continues to deepen in her home country. Her hopes are simple ones; for her children to be safe and happy and “for a good future” for her family.

More than five years into the brutal Syrian conflict, All We Can remains committed to helping the many families like Amana’s. Maurice Adams, All We Can’s Chief Executive, commented, ‘Like many of us, these mothers and fathers simply want a home. A place they can feel safe with their children. They want a future free from the pain and memories they have experienced. We are doing all we can to help them realise their hopes by providing physical and emotional support to help them survive day by day’. In addition to the Child Forums, All We Can’s humanitarian aid partners continue to deliver assistance, including; cash support, help with rising rental costs, access to safer living, basic services such as primary health care and counselling and vocational training courses.

All We Can, the British Methodist relief and development charity, is a pioneering international development, relief and advocacy organisation that helps people in some of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable communities in creating positive, longer-term solutions. Working through partnerships with local people and organisations it is inspired by Christian principles and focuses on those in greatest need. Find out more about All We Can’s work with refugees in Jordan at www.allwecan.org.uk/allpeople.



African Methodist Episcopal Church works to establish a presence in Brazil

By Mr. John Thomas III, Ph.D. Student, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago

From July 11-13, 2016 a delegation from the African Methodist Episcopal Church visited the 2 Comunidade Cristã Metodista (CCM) - Christian Methodist Community - in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

‘The Comunidade Cristã Metodista (Christian Methodist Community – CCM) is pastored by the Rev. Paulo Mudesto and his wife the Rev. Mirian Mudesto.

The following persons formed the AME delegation: Bishop John F. White (Presiding Prelate, 16th and 18th Episcopal Districts); the Rev. Dr. George F. Flowers (Executive Director, Department of Global Witness and Ministry); the Rev. Mashod A. Evans (Pastor, St. John AME Church--Birmingham, Alabama) and Mr. John Thomas III (General Board Member, At-Large). The group was also joined by Ms. Kiratiana Freelon, a Chicago native and AME member currently working as a freelance journalist in Brazil.

Efforts to establish an AME presence in Brazil date back to the 1996 World Methodist Conference in Rio de Janeiro when several persons approached the AME delegation about the possibility of starting an AME Church in Brazil. Bish-

op Carolyn Tyler Guidry and the late Bishop Sarah Frances Davis both met with members of the Methodist Church in Brazil who were interested in joining the AME Church. In February 2016, the Rev. Paulo Mudesto and the Rev. Mirian Mudesto were invited to attend the Dominican Republic Annual Conference. Upon their return to Brazil, the Congregation voted to formally petition the AME Church for membership the delegation visit is a response to this petition

The team met with the clergy and lay leaders of the congregation as well as attended a specially convened church conference. The delegation was warmly and genuinely received by the membership and ministerial staff. Bishop White preached the Sunday Service after the Church Conference. The team also visited the outreach programs of the church including an urban youth outreach program and a relationship with a chemical dependency treatment center.

The delegation will present its report to the Council of Bishops after the General Conference to determine the next steps regarding admission of the Christian Methodist Community (CCM) to the denomination.

Ecumenical Groups Respond to Mass Shooting in Orlando, Fla.

World Methodist Council's Response

Our heartfelt prayers go out to the family and friends of those killed and injured by the senseless act of violence on innocent people at The Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Fla., early Sunday morning. This massacre was a cowardly attack on the rights and freedom of all peace-loving people.

The World Methodist Council condemns all acts of violence, hatred and bigotry, and affirms the dignity of all persons irrespective of race, religion, or sexual orientation. We pray for God's peace to touch the lives of all those affected, and we continue to hope for a day when that peace extends to the world around us.

Churches Uniting in Christ's (CUIC) Response

On this, the anniversary of the mass shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, once again, our Nation and the World hear the names of the slain from another mass shooting. And once again, the Body of Christ weeps over another evil act that has taken lives of 49 souls, as well as the life of the assailant in yet another mass shooting. This time, it was at the Pulse Night Club in Orlando on June 12, 2016. 54 were left injured. The victims, many who were persons of color, of Latino heritage, or both, gathered to celebrate their culture. The impact is felt across our churches, schools, and workplaces. The shockwaves have been felt around the World, as the global community grieves the loss of so many lives.

In its quest for unity with justice, Churches Uniting in Christ offers our lament as well as our hope that all divisions amongst God's people will be reconciled. We recognize that many families, but especially families of color, have been directly affected by this tragedy. We deplore that the Latino community, Muslim community and the LGBTQI community will continue to suffer, even after the news media turns to the next headline-grabbing story.

Across our denominations, many prayers have been and will be said. Numerous vigils will be held. We pray for compassion and understanding and are especially concerned about the two communities particularly experiencing the impact of the Orlando massacre. Everyone in the LBGQTQI and Muslim communities deserves to know they are safe and free from any kind of discrimination and hateful, divisive language and retribution. As people of faith, the dignity of every human being is without question. No form of violence, whether it is terrorism or spiritual teaching, has the right to denigrate any person. In this moment of grief, we implore

all of the members of our churches as well as the public in general to hold the human dignity of everyone in the highest regard and courageously speak up for the rights of the minorities and marginalized when they are attacked. As followers of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, we stand up against invective and vitriol. In the words of Maya Angelou, "Hate, it has caused a lot of problems in the World, but has not solved one yet."

To the fallen, may God grant them eternal rest. To their families, we mourn with you and pray for your well-being. We also extend our compassion and prayers to the family of the assailant, for they are suffering too. We are deeply grateful for the police officers, first responders, medical care personnel, pastors and chaplains who are providing aid and assistance to victims and their families and friends. This sign of the common humanity unites us all. Such signs can serve to show us all how to act for positive change in society. To political leaders, we implore you to address the elements that allow these events to happen time and time again. We must recognize that our society has yet to provide adequate mental health care to those who resort to acts of violence out of their own despair prior to a tragedy occurring. The same type of assault rifle used at the Pulse Night Club was also used in Sandy Hook and San Bernardino. Let us not be shy about taking the necessary steps to increase oversight in the sales and purchase of these types of weapons. Enough is enough!

We are people born from the pain of the cross upon which Jesus of Nazareth was executed. Our solidarity with the victims and their families is visceral from the very core of our faith. We pledge our houses of worship as spaces in which comfort for the grieving can be found and the rhetoric of hate has no place. We also recommit ourselves to ministries of reconciliation and justice in our city streets – for we believe that "God is in the midst of the city" (Psalm 46:5a).

Bishop Teresa Snorton - President, CUIC

Mr. Vince Gonzales - Chair, Racial and Social Justice Task Force

Rev. Michael Fisher, Jr. - Chair, Young Adult Task Force

Mr. Abraham Wright - Vice President, CUIC

Rev. Hermann Weinlick - Secretary, CUIC

Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson - Treasurer, CUIC

Churches Uniting in Christ is a covenant relationship among eleven Christian communions that have pledged to live more closely together in expressing their unity in Christ

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Respond continued

bating racism together. The member churches of CUIC include the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, The Episcopal Church, the International Council of Community Churches, the Moravian Church (Northern Province), the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a partner in mission and dialogue. For more information, please see our website at www.churchesuniting-inchrist.org

Zambian Missionaries Share their Journey

Keith & Ida Waddell, Missionaries from the Methodist Church in Scotland, write about their work in Lusaka, Zambia.

It has been some time since the flitting and that was the last time we posted, over a month ago. Much has happened nationally, locally and in our lives and work in Lusaka.

Nationally the economy is still in poor shape with inflation at 20% and a static job-market with 60% of the population living on less than \$2.00 a day.

The IMF have ominously paid a visit, raising the spectre, once again, of 'structural adjustment' in order to meet the terms of another bail-out. This will mean even greater austerity as government spending is cut. Public debt is heading towards 60% of GDP and so the IMF are apparently concerned about Zambian Eurobond borrowing and budget deficit. There are moves afoot to remove subsidies on fuel, electricity and fertiliser but this is unlikely to happen till after the election, set for August 11.



Read more at <http://idaandkeith.blogspot.com/>.



Federico Pagura of Argentina Passes

It is with great sadness that WMC received the news that Bishop Emeritus Federico J Pagura passed away on 6 June, 2016, in Argentina. The former bishop of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Argentina was an advocate for peace and human rights. He was the WCC President from 1998-2006. He also served for 17 years as president of the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI). In addition to his ministry and advocacy, Pagura was a poet, writing many songs and poems speaking to injustice, suffering, and hope for rebirth.

Prayers for the Victims of Natural Disasters and Terrorist Attacks In the wake of the many natural disasters and terrorist-related attacks that have altered the lives of many in our churches and communities, the World Methodist Council offers prayer for peace, hope, forgiveness and rebuilding. The Council has issued several statements, and we regret that we cannot begin to address the countless instances of disaster, violence, and unrest which have occurred throughout the world this year. We urge the member churches of the Council to also be in prayer, and to seek ways to be in solidarity with the victims and their loved ones.

Pope Urges Methodists to Disseminate Dialogue Results

by Robert Gribben

Chair, Standing Committee for Ecumenical Relationships

The April issue of this Newsletter carried two reports on the recent Opening of the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome (MEOR). They described the worship service in the English-speaking church at the Ponte Sant'Angelo, and the reception by Pope Francis the following day. Cardinal Kurt Koch, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) also sent us a letter of greeting, and, of course, Pope Francis addressed us when our delegation sat with him in his reception room in the Vatican. There was a common thread to their messages which members of our worldwide community should hear.

Cardinal Koch particularly spoke of the new Office. He wrote that its opening 'is a joyful occasion and a sign of great hope. I welcome this office and the promise that it gives of continued fruitful cooperation between the World Methodist Council (WMC) and the PCPCU.' Referring to the 60th anniversary of the Ponte Sant'Angelo congregation he said, 'we thank you for the Christian witness you give to the people of Rome'. He referred to Dr Macquiban and his predecessors 'who have been invaluable points of contact and informal ambassadors of the World Methodist Council, helping to further mutual understanding between us.'

He then put some straight questions to us: 'What will be the role of the MEOR? What need does it meet? What opportunities does it create?' He welcomed the meeting of the Officers of our Council which met in Rome during that week, and hoped that we would bring other committees and groups to meet there.

The MEOR is situated in the five-storey apartment building which is Methodist property. The Minister's residence is there, and now a suite of rooms for conferences, committees, and accommodation for pilgrims, students, sabbatical clergy and much more. Its church is the worship place for a local multi-ethnic congregation, which is part of the local circuit of the Italian Methodist churches (OPCEMI). Methodism in Italy dates back to 1861 and the work of British and American missions who came to work with the native Italian Waldensian Church. When the Pope invited our delegation, he was recognizing for the first time the ministries in Rome of the Italian Methodist Church (including its President deacon Alessandra Trotta), and representatives of the British Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church, as well as officers of the WMC. I was particularly touched by this, because when the idea was first mooted, some ten years ago,



“
Do all in your power to ensure that your search for reconciliation is echoed and reflected wherever Catholics and Methodists meet.
”

Catholic leaders in Rome and Methodists elsewhere had little idea that there were Methodists in Italy!

Now to the common theme of the Cardinal and Pope Francis. The Pope also welcomed the MEOR: 'It is a sign of our growing closeness, and particularly of our shared desire to overcome all that stands in the way of our full communion.' Both leaders noted that our international dialogue was approaching its 50th anniversary. The Methodists were among the earliest to respond to the call of the Second Vatican Council to meet in dialogue, and our forthcoming Council in Houston will receive its Tenth Report. Koch put this challenge: 'the members of that Commission [for dialogue] have long recognized that their work serves little purpose unless agreements are made widely known, and become the basis for prayer, discussion and action at all levels of ecclesial life. Pope John Paul II, addressing the Joint Commission in December 1980 urged them to "Do all in your power to ensure that your search for reconciliation is echoed and reflected

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Pope continued

wherever Catholics and Methodists meet”’.

He went on ‘This growth in unity is a work of the Holy Spirit which should be treasured in the hearts of Catholic and Methodist faithful alike. The more widely and thoroughly the work of the theological commission is known, the more Christian communities in both our traditions will seek ways to give flesh to these agreements, to act on the basis of them, to express our real, though still incomplete, communion in prayer and witness.’

Pope Francis also spoke in concrete terms. After quoting John Wesley’s Letter to a Roman Catholic (1749), he said, ‘It is true that we do not as yet think alike in all things, and that on issues regarding ordained ministries and ethics, much work remains to be done. However, none of these differences constitute such an obstacle as to prevent us from loving in the same way and offering a common witness to the world. Our lives of holiness must always include a loving service to the world; Catholics and Methodists together are bound to work in different ways in order to give concrete witness to the love of Christ. When we serve those in need, our communion grows.’

All our dialogue groups are aware of this shortcoming in our work. Much has been achieved in mutual understanding and the healing of memories. Much has been articulated that we can affirm together. But we have not found the way, or the financial backing, to make these reports (Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, Salvation Army...) better known, or even more, to produce material which digests them (though they are less complicated than many think!) and translates them into ministry in local contexts. How do we get their messages out? I hope that delegates to the forthcoming Council might bring some answers.

Want to know more about dialogue with the Catholic Church? The reports of the Ecumenical Relationships Committee Dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church (and others) can be found online at:

<http://worldmethodistcouncil.org/resources/ecumenical-dialogues/>

Join us at the World Methodist Conference for the workshop *The Call to Holiness: Methodists and Roman Catholics in Dialogue* led by Rev. Dr. David Chapman (WMC Ecumenical Relationships Committee) and Rev Fr Anthony Curren (PCPCU)

Next year, 2017, will mark 50 years of the World Methodist Council’s dialogue with the Catholic Church!

Uniting Church in Australia Participates in NCCA Forum

by Rev Dr Chris Walker

UCA National Consultant Christian Unity, Doctrine & Worship

The National Council of Churches in Australia held its 9th triennial National Forum on 24-27 June at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney.

A new Constitution was endorsed. UCA ex-President Rev. Prof. Andrew Dutney brought a proposal about Palestine which was passed. It was agreed to have a fact-finding delegation to West Papua to investigate allegations of human rights violations. Rev. Elenie Poulos of UnitingJustice also made a presentation on social justice.

An ecumenical worship service was held on Sunday 26 June. Anglican Bishop Philip Huggins was installed as the incoming President. As part of the service, a covenant between the Congregational Federation and the Uniting Church in relation to Holy Communion, endorsed by both churches last year, was affirmed. Leaders of the two churches formally signed Australian Churches Covenanting Together and member churches of the NCCA reaffirmed their commitment to continue the ecumenical journey.



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This and past First Friday Letters can be found online at FirstFridayLetter.worldmethodistcouncil.org.

The World Methodist Council's website may be found at worldmethodistcouncil.org.

The World Methodist Museum's website is at methodistmuseum.org.

To subscribe to this newsletter, please email communications@worldmethodistcouncil.org.

About the First Friday Letter

The First Friday Newsletter is a monthly publication of the World Methodist Council.

Publisher: Bishop Ivan Abrahams, General Secretary

Editor: Barby Bowser, Communications

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