

Churches Uniting in Christ



In the early 1960's a group of Protestant churches in the United States came together to talk about the possibility of merging into one denomination. A consultation process was developed and became known as COCU (the Consultation on Church Union). After forty years of study and prayer together, the member churches of COCU agreed to stop "consulting" and start intentionally living their unity in Christ more fully, and on January 20, 2002 Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC) was inaugurated.

In CUIC each member church retains its own identity but pledges to draw closer in sacred things. They share eight "marks" of participation, including:

1. Mutual recognition of each other as authentic expressions of the one church of Jesus Christ.
2. Mutual recognition of members in one Baptism.
3. Mutual recognition that each affirms the apostolic faith of Scripture and Tradition expressed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, and that each seeks to give witness to the apostolic faith in its life and mission.
4. Provision for celebration of the Eucharist together with intentional regularity.
5. Engagement together in Christ's mission on a regular and intentional basis, especially a shared mission to combat racism.
6. Intentional commitment to promote unity with wholeness and to oppose all marginalization and exclusion in church and society based on such things as race, age, gender, forms of disability, sexual orientation and class.
7. Appropriate structures of accountability and appropriate means for consultation and decision-making.
8. An ongoing process of theological dialogue.

The Coordinating Council for CUIC meets regularly, with representatives from each of the member churches. An advisor, a delegate and a young adult delegate are named by each church. Over the past few years, these leaders have created online ecumenical resources for special days and seasons in the Christian calendar. Those can be found at <https://www.churchesuniting.org> under the "Teaching and Preaching" tab. Currently, a "CUIC Academy for Ecumenism" is being created for young people from member churches (see other side of this flyer), and an archive for COCU and CUIC documents is being revitalized at Princeton University.

The ten member churches of CUIC are: **The African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), The African Methodist Episcopal Church Zion (AMEZ), The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME), The Episcopal Church (EC), The International Council of Community Churches (ICCC), The Moravian Church (Northern Province), The Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA), The United Church of Christ (UCC) and The United Methodist Church (UMC).**

The CUIC Academy for Ecumenism

One of the projects in which the CUIC Coordinating Council is currently engaged is a training academy for young adults from the ten CUIC churches. Through a pilot project in 2023 each church has been asked to name two young adults and one instructor to participate. There will be nine online sessions during which time various topics having to do with the Ecumenical Movement will be taught. The participants will read several books together and participate in their review. The young people will also gather in person for one, multi-day session, during which time the training will continue, but they will also be able to meet each other face-to-face and worship together. Finally, each young person will be required to create, organize and implement a project that will promote Christian unity in their area and context.

CUIC Teaching and Preaching Resources

The CUIC Coordinating Council has created a library of online resources that congregations can use for special Sundays and holidays. All resources are designed to teach about these Christian holy days through the lens of racial justice. The resources are located at <https://www.churchesuniting.org/teaching-and-preaching>, and CUIC churches are encouraged to incorporate them into their congregational life.

The CUIC Member Churches

<https://www.ame-church.com>

<https://www.amez.org>

<https://www.disciples.org>

<https://www.thecmechurch.org>

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org>

<https://www.icccnow.org>

<https://www.moravian.org>

<https://www.pcusa.org>

<https://www.ucc.org>

<https://www.umc.org>

CUIC Coordinating Council Officers

President – Mr. Abraham Wright, International Council of Community Churches

Vice President – Rev. Dr. Jean Hawxhurst, United Methodist Church

Secretary – Rev. Hermann Weinlick, Moravian Church (Northern Province)

Treasurer – Rev. Christian Choi, Presbyterian Church (USA)

(The election of new officers will take place at the 2023 Plenary in Philadelphia, PA.)

CUIC Website

<https://www.churchesuniting.org>