

The World Communion of Churches to Hold 26th General Council



The member communions of the WCRC will gather for its General Council in Leipzig Germany June 29, July 7. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a member of the WCRC and as such we have been invited to participate in the General Council in various ways. Our own General Assembly has approved a slate of delegates to attend on our behalf to participate in the business of the General Council. However, there are other opportunities for Presbyterians to participate. Please see below and inform Melissa Davis with Ecumenical Relations for the PCUSA if you are interested in exploring the options.

Stewards Programme: The WCRC is seeking 70 stewards, 35 from Germany and 35 from the global membership of the WCRC. Applications are now invited for the Stewards Programme.

The work of the stewards is essential to the General Council. Without stewards making sure that rooms are set up, papers are distributed, mail is delivered, people are counted, etc., there would be no General Council at all! Therefore, being a steward means first of all a lot of hard work. Often this work is exhausting, intense and done under the pressure of time. To learn more visit: <http://wrcr.ch/stewards>.

Global Institute of Theology: The next GIT will be held in Wuppertal and Leipzig, Germany, from June 9 to July 7, 2017, living together and learning as a global community in the context of the 2017 General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

The 2017 GIT will offer a unique opportunity for a community of students from around the world to live together, learn and do theology in a fully inter-contextual and ecumenical way, connecting theology from the local to the regional and world levels. To learn more visit: <http://wrcr.ch/git>

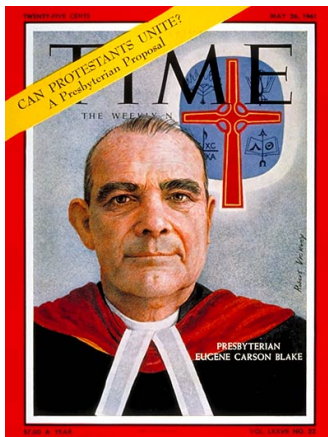
Visitor Programme: The Visitors Programme provides an opportunity for persons who would like to attend the General Council. Visitors are invited to the public sessions of the General Council. Visitors

- fully participate in worship life and Bible studies;
- can accompany the General Council during its sessions in Berlin and in Wittenberg;
- are welcome to listen to the speakers that unfold the council theme during the plenary sessions;
- have the opportunity to discuss with these speakers in special workshops for visitors;
- are invited to the cultural events that will take place in the time of the council;
- can take part at sight-seeing trips in and around Leipzig.

To learn more contact Rev. Hanns Lessing (General Council Coordinator) or Rev. Sylvia Bukowski (coordinator Visitors Programme) under the following email: visitors@wcrch.ch or visit <http://wcrch.ch/gc2017>

The Eugene Carson Blake Scholarship

The Eugene Carson Blake Fellowship program will annually select an outstanding



individual who shows promise for church leadership to attend the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland. Students will receive a holistic education – which combines academic research, cross-cultural learning through life in community, spiritual experience, exposure to and encounter with other faith communities. This formation prepares students to face the challenges of living in an increasingly pluralistic society, in a world of economic and cultural globalization, climate change, neglect of human rights and attempts to justify growing violence in the name of religion. Churches need leaders with knowledge of other religious traditions and with a sensitivity to

confessional and cultural differences.

The Ecumenical Institute at Bossey awards the Scholarship and Presbyterians can seek their denomination to nominate them for the Scholarship by following the instructions set forth in the nomination procedure. Visit:

http://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/ecb-scholarship.pdf

To learn more about last year's Scholarship, visit:

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2016/5/27/new-life-breathed-eugene-carson-blake-scholarship/>

To Learn more about the Ecumenical Institute, visit:

<https://institute.oikoumene.org/en>

DEADLINE: November 30, 2016.

Job Opportunity with the World Communion of Churches in Geneva

The WCC is looking for a Communication Officer at 100% to be responsible to communicate the programmatic activities of the Ecumenical Formation and Education, Unity and Mission programmatic area, and work as the co-editor for our website www.oikoumene.org. Reporting to the Director of Communication, the Communication Officer will integrate a highly focused and motivated small team, to provide editorial, strategic, creative and operational support across our charity's work. He/she will play a key role in ensuring our communications are both influential and informative for the full range of our stakeholders. Deadline for application : 15 August 2016. To learn more visit:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/get-involved/job-openings/vacancy-communication-officer-junior/view>

Volunteer to Become an Ecumenical Liaison for your Presbytery

The Ecumenical Liaisons are Presbyterians who are involved in ecumenical and interfaith work in their communities and serve as a liaison between their presbytery and the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. They facilitate communication and sharing of resources between church bodies. *Complete the application to become a liaison in your presbytery.*

Responsibilities of the Ecumenical Liaison

1. Encourage mid-councils in the presbytery to increase their ecumenical involvement in their communities.
2. To receive communication from the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (GACEIR) regarding ecumenical events and opportunities, and to publicize this information through appropriate means in the presbytery;
3. To share with GACEIR the involvement of individuals, groups, congregations, and the presbytery in local and regional ecumenical activities, for the purpose of helping GACEIR recognize and publicize local/regional ecumenical commitments at the General Assembly level with the church at large.
4. To participate, if possible, in the National Workshop on Christian Unity, an annual training event put together by a number of U.S. denominations and report back to GACEIR. (Though the General Assembly no longer has funds to pay for this training and participation, it might be possible for an individual to tap into local church, presbytery, synod and other scholarship programs.)

To learn more or volunteer to become an Ecumenical Liaison in your presbytery, please contact Melissa G. Davis at Melissa.davis@pcusa.org or 502-569-5037.