

## Committee on Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations

Action Group Report, November 18, 2016

We opened our meeting with sharing and prayer. We welcomed Jeff Woods as our new staff person, and Zina Jacque as a new member who will take Ashley Whitaker's place as she leaves BGM and our Committee. Minutes of our last meeting in June were approved. We wrote a card to the Rev. Dr. Ernest Jones, now Executive Minister in ABC Ohio, who faithfully served on BGM and CCUIR, representing ABC Metro New York.

Raimundo Barreto reported on plans underway for the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Baptist-Muslim Dialogue to be held in April, 2018, hopefully at the American Baptist Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin. While the first two were comprised of scholarly presentations and prayer times, this one will be distinct in several ways:

- Held in a Retreat setting, there will be more opportunity for personal engagement
- Up to 100 total participants (50 Baptist and 50 Muslim), two will be invited from each community, one Baptist and one Muslim, with a commitment to return to their community to achieve better working relationships between their faith groups
- The age of participants will be up to 40 years of age
- After returning to their communities and working together to build stronger ties between Baptists and Muslims, Dialogue/Retreat participants will reconnect either by a second retreat, or in an electronic conference, to share learnings and assess ways to move forward

We then turned to our responsibilities for the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit in Portland, Oregon. **The Luke Mowbray Ecumenical Award** is given every two years during the Biennial's Christian Unity Dinner.

Information for Nominations is available on the ABC-USA website. The deadline for nominations is January 30, 2017. After reading all material submitted, CCUIR selects the person to receive the award, and certificates are given to those nominated but not selected.

**The Christian Unity Dinner** will be held during the Biennial Mission Summit on Friday evening, June 30, 2017. We discussed which part of our work we want to highlight at the dinner, and decided to lift up the Baptist-Muslim dialogue efforts, with special emphasis on plans for the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Dialogue/Retreat. We discussed possible speakers and resources and members took follow-up assignments.

Our **CCUIR display** is part of the ABCUSA Exhibit area. We began a discussion of what items we want to display and what handouts we might have available to convention attendees.

We will also explore whether there are activities or a site in the Portland area related to our area of focus on Baptist-Muslim understanding that could be available for persons attending the Biennial Mission Summit.

After discussing our Biennial responsibilities, we talked about our role and future work for Christian Unity and Interfaith Relations. One of the issues that had been previously mentioned was how we could work for Racial Reconciliation, and we focused on that. Several resources were named and we discussed if there were ways we could support the ABC Taskforce on Race and Race-based Violence.

Finally, we discussed a grant for peace and justice and how that might support some of our work.