

FYI: Action Group Nov. 2015 Notes
Committee on Christian Unity & Interfaith Relations

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Action Group Report, November 12-13, 2015

The meeting opened with a time of sharing and prayer.

CCUIR Roster updates for 2016 include newly elected members Ashley Whitaker, Jim Wolfe and Raimundo Baretto. Those completing service on the committee are Roy Medley, Ruth Clark, Ernest Jones and Hopeton Scott. June Totten will continue as chairperson.

Appointments:

Baptist World Alliance--June Totten to Creation Care; Marvin McMickle to Theological Education and Leadership Formation; Curtis Ramsey-Lucas to Religious Freedom; Stephen Murray to Baptist Doctrine and Christian Unity.

Churches for Middle East Peace-- Roy Medley.

Shoulder to Shoulder—no appointment at meeting. Carol Blythe-Goodman was subsequently named.

National Council of Churches—Raimundo Baretto to Interreligious Convening Table.

Representative to Presbyterian USA Meeting—Steve Bils. This appointment is in observance of their special anniversary.

Discussion Items:

- Future plans included the third Baptist Muslim Dialogue. It is planned to be more locally based to cultivate practices for covenantal relationships between local congregations and mosques. The goal is to bring Baptist and Muslim faith communities into cooperative efforts to address needs in their immediate settings from among leadership 40 years of age and younger. Funding sources would come from participating congregations and mosques, denominations, foundations, and online.
- The ABC/Church of the Brethren Pilgrimage to the Middle East. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship indicated interest in becoming a partner on future pilgrimages. The committee will consider co-sponsoring a trip in 2018, including a Nazareth peace conference as was held in 2015, and possibly hosting a US based peace conference with invited Middle East participants prior to 2018.
- Brainstorming around new ventures. Discussion of approaches to increasing revenue to support and expand its ongoing work. Possible issues to include: consensus was that racism and immigration should be given top priority for ecumenical/interfaith dialogue and action.
- 2016 Budget commitments to ecumenical/interfaith organizations.
- Methods to more effectively provide an orientation to new BGM members and CCUIR members.

Members Present: June Totten, Roy Medley, Ernest Jones, Andy Arndt, Ruth Clark, Duh Kam, Dennis Johnson