

CHURCHES SUPPORTING CHURCHES

C/o NCCC-USA

110 Maryland Avenue, N.E. Washington, DC 20002 - 202-544-2350 Ext. 27

Dear Friends:

June 1, 2006

These materials inform you of the Churches Supporting Churches (CSC) Katrina Response program initiated by six denominations and three ecumenical organizations; The National Council of Churches, The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, and the Every Church a Peace Church movement (*see List of Groups and NOLA Pastors*).

The CSC project purpose is to help restore thirty-six congregations in twelve of the most destroyed New Orleans neighborhoods. It is a comprehensive strategy to assist these predominantly African America congregations to **“Restart, Reopen, Repair or Rebuild the Churches in order for them to be agents for Community Development and to recreate their Community”**. CSC, concerned about the total devastation, sees this New Orleans project as the model for beginning similar work throughout the Gulf Coast.

The first document is a Summary/Outline of the CSC Project that identifies the three areas of concentration: 1. Strengthen the health and unity of the pastors, spouses and members as they try to return to New Orleans (*see Pastors Retreat Series/Institutes*); 2. Rebuild the bricks and mortar and spiritual life of these congregations to become socially active agents for meeting returning peoples' human needs; and, 3. Partner each NOLA congregation with a cluster of ten national for three years to assist in mobilizing spiritual, financial and technical assistance resources and to create an effective national advocacy capacity of the initial 360 of the supporting congregations (*see Congregation Participation Covenant Draft*). Two important statements by the President and General Secretary of the National Council of Churches from their May 22-23 Governing Board meeting are included. The first of two CSC-DVDs is also enclosed.

To get immediate financial assistance for the first 36 congregations we are asking each cluster of ten congregations to make an initial good-faith special offering of \$250 from small churches (75 members or less); \$500 from medium churches (75-150); and \$1,000 from larger churches. These funds would come through the NCC- CSC fund designated for the partner congregations. We are asking denominations to do what the Presbyterian Church-USA has already done; put some immediate cash into the CSC fund, then help recruit clusters of ten congregations to adopt/partner with one specific NOLA/Gulf Coast congregation, contribute to the \$ Ten Million initial rebuilding fund and contribute to general CSC expenses. This will escalate the survival rate of the NOLA congregations until the longer-term support described in the CSC Covenant comes from the Partner Congregations.

We welcome your support and interest.

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