

5. Report of the Delegates to Christian Churches Together

Formed in 2001, Christian Churches Together (CCT) is one of the broadest Christian fellowships in the United States, convening members of Catholic, Orthodox, mainline Protestant, historic Black, Evangelical, and Pentecostal families of Christian churches. In addition, its membership includes national organizations, such as Bread for the World and Habitat for Humanity.

It is this mix of churches and religious organizations that makes CCT unique among North American ecumenical organizations. One of its distinctive characteristics is intentional focus on relationship-building and mutual understanding instead of theological consensus-building.

This feature has created the ideal context for Christians from very diverse communities and often with very different convictions to come together in a unique and holy manner. The CCT process (based on the three “charisms” of CCT—loving relationships, learning theologically, and leading actions) is a way for members to commit to working together in discernment to engage in steps that lead to Beloved Community.

CCT participants from over 20 church denominations and organizations gathered in Indianapolis Oct. 4-7 for the annual Forum to engage in theological learning, spiritual reflection, shared worship in local churches, and a prayer pilgrimage from Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis to the historic Interchurch Center.

Representatives from CCT’s five “families” of churches addressed the Forum’s timely theme: “Who does Jesus Call our Christian Churches to be in a Polarized Society?” They spoke from their respective traditions and perspectives, with time for ecumenical dialogue in large and small group settings. Participants adopted by consensus a prayer that conveys some of the wisdom, lamentations, and hopes raised at the Forum. This prayer was shared with US churches.

Among the many benefits of participating in CCT, the annual Forum serves as an opportunity to build personal relationships with people across the church to come to a more nuanced understanding of the differences and commonalities between communions, to grow together in Christ, to deepen spiritual wisdom, to identify new possibilities for a shared witness, and to act as a unified voice in speaking to contemporary culture on issues of spirituality, life, justice, and peace.

In 2022, CCT saw a change in leadership. Dr. Monica Schaap Pierce (from the Reformed Church in America), who had previously served on the CCT Steering Committee and as the organization’s treasurer, was hired as executive director.

We thank the Church of the Brethren for your commitment to the vision and

mission of CCT and for your financial support. Because of this support, CCT is	1
making a real and lasting difference as we live into Christ’s call to “be one.”	2
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CCT’s website (www.christianchurchestogether.org) provides additional infor-	4
mation about its mission and activity.	5
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Monica Schaap Pierce, PhD	7
Executive Director, Christian Churches Together	8
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