

NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

With 18 denominations representing over 6,200 congregations in N.C., the Council provides incarnational evidence of Christian Unity. By creating unity without expecting uniformity, member bodies collaborate on matters that contribute to the flourishing of God's creation. We are grateful to the North Carolina Conference, UMC for their support and for the leadership on our Governing Board provided by the Rev. Albert Shuler, retired Elder, N.C. Conference, the Rev. Alan Felton, North Raleigh UMC, and the Rev. Claire Clyburn, First United Methodist Church, Graham, N.C.

- **Faith Forward Democracy Network** engages faith leaders across the state as trusted community voices to reassure people that North Carolina elections are fair, safe, and secure. The Council website includes worship resources (prayers, liturgies, sermon suggestions) for congregations to incorporate into the ministry. We also offer a Faithful Voter Guide for those looking for ways to refract public policy issues through the lens of faith. For more information, contact info@ncchurches.org.
- **Capital Punishment Abolition** has long been a priority for the Council. With our allies from N.C. Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty we are focused on adding North Carolina to the list of states who no longer allow this arbitrary and retributive practice. For more information, contact info@ncchurches.org.
- **Reproductive Rights** advocacy is about more than abortion, a decision best left to the pregnant person, her health care providers and her support network of family and friends. Reproductive rights include the right to have a child, the right not to have a child, and the right to raise that child in a safe, healthy environment. For more information, contact info@ncchurches.org.
- **Gun Violence Prevention** advocacy focuses on telling the truth about gun violence in our country. We know the majority of gun deaths are suicides; the next highest number is homicides, usually among people who know each other or who are related to one another. Our work is to help people understand how guns end up in places that create great harm and what each of us can do to make all of us safer. For more information, contact jennifer@ncchurches.org.
- **The Opioid Overdose Response Program** educates people of faith about compassionate responses to these growing health concerns and opportunities to reduce the associated stigmas. We provide avenues to engage the overdose crisis by connecting congregations to resources in their communities. If you would like to host an event or learn more about this project, contact donna@ncchurches.org.
- **Cash Bail Reform** is a part of our criminal justice system coming under the microscope for its unfair application. It is also a misunderstood piece of the justice system, making it harder to reform. The Council has assembled a team of representatives from several of our member denominations to help educate all of us about Cash Bail Reform and advocate for better practices. For more information, contact info@ncchurches.org.
- **Eco-Justice Connection (EJC)** is a multi-faith program area focusing on environmental and climate justice, with an emphasis on "advocating with compassion." A keystone initiative of EJC is NC Interfaith Power & Light. EJC's program mission is to educate, inspire, and mobilize people of faith and conscience to act on climate change as a moral imperative. For more information, contact susannah@ncchurches.org.
- **Partners in Health and Wholeness (PHW)** provides tools to help faith communities form healthy habits by supporting congregation-based health ministries with resources. Current foci are mental health, substance use disorder, tobacco use cessation, healthy aging, healthy eating, and exercise. For more information, contact phwinfo@ncchurches.org.
- **Confederate Monument Removal.** The Council has joined the work of the N.C. Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Criminal Justice to move confederate monuments from courthouse lawns. If you live in a county currently working on such an effort or would like to begin leading such an effort, please contact: info@ncchurches.org.

Other areas of emphasis include paid family leave endorsement, fair courts advocacy, and voting rights and democracy advocacy. Resources are available online and our staff is available to help your congregation address any of the myriad concerns that arise in our contemporary setting. If you have any questions or are interested in more information, please contact us at info@ncchurches.org, or call our office at 919-828-6501.

90th Anniversary Celebration: make plans now to join the Council in 2025 as we celebrate our 90th anniversary. The year will be filled with opportunities to connect to the mission of the Council and learn more about our justice advocacy work across the state. We will culminate the year with a day of learning and worshiping together.

Denominational members include Alliance of Baptists · African Methodist Episcopal Church · African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church · Christian Methodist Episcopal · Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) · Episcopal Church · Evangelical Lutheran Church in America · General Baptist State Convention · Metropolitan Community Churches · Mennonite Church USA · Moravian Church in America · Presbyterian Church (USA) · Reformed Church in America · Reformed Churches of God in Christ, International · Religious Society of Friends · United Church of Christ · Unity Fellowship Church Movement · United Methodist Church.

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www.ncchurches.org