



World Communion of Reformed Churches

Uniting General Council Newsletter

April 2010

Welcome the World June 18-28, 2010

Held on the campus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids,
Michigan

On June 18, more than 1,000 people from 100 countries will come together to launch the World Communion of Reformed Churches. At global ecumenical events such as this, there is an opportunity for local congregations to get involved and meet delegates who have traveled from around the world to attend the meeting. There are many ways your congregation can take part in this historic and inspiring event.

Welcome delegates on Welcome Weekend (Sunday, June 20)

This opportunity for congregations within 50 miles of Grand Rapids will allow delegates to join a local congregation for a warm welcome, worship, and lunch. Members of host congregations will be invited to accompany delegates to an exciting ecumenical worship service at 4:00 p.m. on the campus of Calvin College.

Your congregation can choose to welcome anywhere from 10 to 100 delegates on June 20. The WCRC will transport delegates to churches hosting groups of more than 20 delegates.

Share your congregation's life and work with a smaller group of delegates on Saturday, June 26, and Sunday, June 27

This is a great opportunity for members of your congregation to connect on a more personal level with Christians from around the world. You can pick up a group of 3 to 12 delegates at Calvin College at 2:30 on Saturday afternoon and spend time with them Saturday night and Sunday morning.

You may choose to have delegates stay overnight with members of your congregation or, if you are within a short driving distance, you may wish to bring the delegates back to their dorms at Calvin on Saturday night and pick them up again for worship on Sunday morning.

On Sunday morning, you could recognize the delegates in your worship service and offer them the chance to preach, teach, or share their stories with your congregation as you share with them.

Volunteer at the Uniting General Council event

Hundreds of volunteers are needed at Calvin between June 18 and 28 to assist with activities and help individual delegates. There are a variety of options, including driving a golf cart to shuttle delegates around campus, ushering at events, and welcoming delegates at the airport. Volunteering at this remarkable event will be a rewarding experience.

For more information about hosting delegates on either of the two weekends or volunteering on Calvin's campus, visit the Uniting General Council website at www.reformedchurches.org or contact one of the following individuals, depending upon your church's denominational affiliation.

PC(USA) churches:

Rev. Karen Fitz La Barge
Email: kflabarge@gmail.com

CRC churches:

Rev. John Rozeboom
Email: johnrozeboom789@gmail.com

RCA and UCC churches:

Rev. David Baak
Email: davidbaak@mac.com

The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) is a newly formed international organization comprising the membership of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the Reformed Ecumenical Council. For more information on the WCRC and its first meeting in June 2010, visit www.reformedchurches.org.

WCRC Uniting General Council

Schedule of Main Events

June 14–17 Pre-Council meetings for women and for youth. Visiting participants are welcome. Registration required.

June 15–17 Calvin College hosts a conference, "Reformed Mission in an Age of World Christianity." Registration required. See <http://www.calvin.edu/scs/2010/conferences/rcc/reg/register.html>.

June 18 UGC begins. Visitors are welcome to these events, but are requested to register, either for the whole UGC, or as a day visitor.

11:15 a.m. Opening Worship, Van Noord Arena.

2:45 p.m. Opening Session of UGC, followed by reception on the lawn.

June 19

10:30 a.m. Keynote event, with panelists from around the world.

2:00 p.m. WARC and REC General Secretaries report.

June 20 (Sunday)

4:00 p.m. Mass worship for the Reformed family in West Michigan, Van Noord Arena. All welcome.

June 21 Workshop sessions and exhibitions open. Visitors' Program begins.

June 22

11:15 am Keynote to introduce the encounter with native peoples.

1:00–2:30 p.m. Gathering begins at Ah-Nab-Awen Park in downtown Grand Rapids for the largest Native American gathering here in decades. Food and craft booths from the Native American community.

2:30–8:00 p.m. A Pow Wow led by 12 tribal chiefs, the longest dance line in recent history, and a Native American Christian worship highlight this afternoon. All welcome.

June 23–25 UGC delegates conduct business. Visitors are welcome to many events, but should register for the week or by the day.

June 25

6:00 p.m. Celebratory banquet, DeVos Convention Center. Tickets required.

June 26

11:00 a.m. Closing worship, Van Noord Arena. Visitors welcome.

June 26–27 Delegates visit area churches to learn and share with local Reformed community.