**PENTECOSTAL/CHARISMATIC KOINONIA 2022: A Report on Pentecostal/Charismatic Engagement with the Greater Christian Community, with a Focus on North America** Presented by David Cole, PCCNA Liaison to the Greater Christian Community  **PCCNA Christian Unity Commission** In May of 2015, the PCCNA executive committee approved the formation and establishment of a commission that would assist in the facilitation and expansion of the work of promoting Christian unity among member denominations and organizations, and also between Pentecostal/Charismatic Christians and other members of the Body of Christ. A number of PCCNA organizations have appointed C**h**ristian Unity Liaisons, who serve as ambassadors on behalf of their church families while cooperating in Christian unity efforts within and beyond the PCCNA. These Liaisons gather each year in conjunction with the PCCNA annual meeting, along with guests, to engage in work together on behalf of Christian Unity.

**Christian Unity (taken from Christian Unity Commission page on PCCNA website, pccna.org):**

**Mission:** The PCCNA Christian Unity Commission exists to serve the PCCNA by facilitating greater communication and cooperation between PCCNA constituents and other Christians for the sake of Christian unity and the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

**Vision:** Building on the ongoing cooperative work that takes place within and among the PCCNA churches themselves, the Christian Unity Commission encourages awareness among members of opportunities that lie outside the PCCNA to share the message of Pentecost with other Christians and churches. This sharing of the Pentecostal/Charismatic message and experience involves testimony, stewardship, leadership, and commitment to relationship.

Such an outward focus can be seen in the founding PCCNA document, the *Racial Reconciliation Manifesto*, article VII, "We commit ourselves not only to pray but also to work for genuine and visible manifestations of Christian unity," and also article XI, "At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Azusa Street Mission was a model of preaching and living the Gospel message in the world. We desire to drink deeply from the well of Pentecost as it was embodied in that mission. We, therefore, pledge our commitment to embrace the essential commitments of that mission in evangelism and mission, in justice and holiness, in spiritual renewal and empowerment, and in the reconciliation of all Christians regardless of race or gender as we move into the new millennium."

**Goals:** 1.Address issues raised by PCCNA that encompass the whole of the Body of Christ. 2. Provide leadership in the education and training of emerging Liaisons officially designated by their churches. 3. Equip those responsible for advocacy on behalf of PCCNA member churches when engaging other Christian churches. 4. Develop media suitable for the use of PCCNA member churches as they respond to the call for unity embedded in Scripture.

**Christian Unity Commission: 2021 Christian Unity Liaisons, appointed from various PCCNA organizations:**

\*Rev. David Cole—Open Bible Churches

\*Rev. Harold D. Hunter—International Pentecostal Holiness Church

Rev. S. David Moore--Foursquare

Rev. Frank Patrick—Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

\*Rev. Cecil M. Robeck, Jr.—Assemblies of God

Rev. David Han—Church of God (Cleveland, TN)

(asterisk\* designates members of the Steering Committee of the Christian Unity Commission)

**PCCNA/USCCB Conversation** This exploratory conversation between representatives of the PCCNA and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) met on September 14–16, 2021, in Washington, which was the first time representatives of the two groups met at a national level for a theological dialogue in what is expected to be a three-year exploratory dialogue that could lead to further dialogues exploring areas of convergence in the future. At the first meeting, the theme of “Initiation” was discussed as scholarly papers were presented for discussion and reflection by those in attendance. Subsequent engagement of the two groups will focus on the themes of “Healing” and “Vocation.” Facilitators of the meeting were Rev. Dr. Harold D. Hunter (International Pentecostal Holiness Church), and Rev. Walter F. Kedjierski, Ph.D., executive director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the USCCB. Presenters of the scholarly papers for the meeting were Rev. Dr. Frederick L. Ware (Church of God in Christ), “Initiation (Water Baptism) in North American Pentecostalism,” and Dr. Kimberly Belcher (Roman Catholic), “Initiation from the Roman Catholic Perspective.” Other Pentecostal participants were Rev. Dr. Tammy Dunahoo (International Church of the Foursquare Gospel), Rev. Dr. David Han (Church of God Cleveland, TN), and Dr. Martin Mittelstadt (Assemblies of God). Other Roman Catholic participants were Rev. Dr. Leonardo Gajardo, Rev. Andrew V. Menke, and Mr. Nathan Smith (observer). The first meeting was hosted by the USCCB at the Washington Retreat House, and the next meeting will be hosted by PCCNA at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa and is scheduled for September 14–16, 2022.

**Pentecostal/Catholic Forum in Tennessee** A new conversation is being facilitated with leadership from David Han (Church of God, Cleveland) and Nathan Smith (Glenmary Home Missioners and USCCB field representative). A gathering is planned for May 12-13, 2022 at Pentecostal Theological Seminary which will include representatives from the Diocese of Knoxville, the Church of God and a few other Pentecostal denominations. The event is also being sponsored by The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, and is considered to be a regional expression of the Global Christian Forum. It is hoped that this Forum can serve as a pilot project that will catalyze other such events around North America.

**Ecumenical Engagement in Canada** On January 23, 2022, David Wells and Frank Patrick attended a Prayer Service connected with this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It was jointly organized by the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and the Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches. It was hosted by Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church in Scarborough, Ontario, Canada. The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC) also supplied readers for the service. Additionally, PAOC Christian Unity Liaison Frank Patrick’s ecumenical engagements in Canada in 2021 included a three-day session as a participant in Canada’s Roman Catholic-Evangelical Dialogue. Discussions centered on “The Resurrection in Recent Protestant Theology,” and also “The Beginning of the End of the World,” from Catholic and Evangelical perspectives.

**Cantalamessa Film** Awakening the Domestic Church has produced and released *The Preacher to the Popes: Raniero Cantalamessa*, a documentary film on the life of Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa. Released globally in December 2021, the film focuses on Cantalamessa’s life story, focusing on his life-changing experience at the 1977 Kansas City Charismatic Conference, his unprecedented international leadership on behalf of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and his ecumenical relationships with Christians outside of the Catholic Church. For forty years, Cantalamessa has served as the Preacher to the Papal Household at the Vatican, and for many years he was a participant in the International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2022, CMAX-TV sponsored a series of live-streamed ecumenical panel discussions in conjunction with viewings of the film, which included a number of Pentecostal and Charismatic leaders and scholars. [https://cantalamessamovie.com](https://cantalamessamovie.com/)

**Christian Churches Together in the USA** CCT provides a forum for honest dialogue on issues related to life, poverty and racism, as leaders gather from Evangelical/Pentecostal, Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, and Racial/Ethnic churches from across the US. The International Pentecostal Holiness Church is among those Evangelical and Pentecostal churches who regularly participate in the ongoing work of CCT. [www.christianchurchestogether.org](http://www.christianchurchestogether.org)

**Global Christian Forum** The “Facilitation Group” of the Global Christian Forum (GCF), joined by other world Christianity specialists, met in Rome February 5-9, 2022, hosted by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity (PCPCU).  During the meeting, the Group reviewed the ongoing programs of the GCF, focusing on local, national and regional meetings, as well as the involvement of young Church leaders in the life of the GCF. Dr. David Han (Church of God, Cleveland) participated in the meeting of the GCF Facilitation Group. Part of their planning included work on the Fourth World GCF Gathering, which is scheduled in Ghana for April 2024 on the theme "May the world know" (Jn 17:23), with the participation of about 250 delegates from all currents of modern Christianity. The Facilitation Group also evaluated various aspects concerning the involvement of young people in the aforementioned Gathering, reflected on the correct geographical and confessional distribution of the participants, and considered a framework program. The GCF is a unique ecumenical platform that brings together all the main currents of world Christianity. It is not an organization with institutionalized structures, but an "open space" based on the principle of participation rather than formal membership, where Christian leaders meet periodically to pray together, to cultivate mutual respect and a spirit of unity, and to tackle issues of common interest together. Its hallmark is the sharing of personal or ecclesial stories of faith during the meetings.

**Pentecostal World Fellowship** Dr. Billy Wilson, Chairman of the PWF has announced that the next Pentecostal World Conference will be held in person during the week of October 10-14, 2022 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Please note this is a change from the original dates of June 8-10, 2022. Yoido Full Gospel Church, founded by Dr. David Yonggi Cho, will host the meeting. Dr. Cho died September 14, 2021 at the age of 85. The current pastor of Yoido is Dr. Young-Hoon Lee. Dr. Lee was instrumental in bringing the Korean Assemblies of God into the Korean National Council of Churches. [**www.pwfellowship.org**](http://www.pwfellowship.org)

**PWF Christian Unity Commission** In 2019, the Pentecostal World Fellowship (PWF) established its Christian Unity Commission, chaired by Rev. Dr. David Wells, General Superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and Vice-Chair of the PWF. In June of 2021 the Commission held a Zoom meeting in which it heard from participants in various international ecumenical groups, including the World Council of Churches and the Global Christian Forum. The chair also gave an update on plans for a PWF – Anglican Dialogue. They reviewed and revised the Commission’s “Terms of Reference”, which will receive final approval at the PWF meeting in Seoul. The PWF Christian Unity Commission and its members are committed to serve as a coordinating group for the ongoing dialogues with other communions, as well as the various ecumenical forums and consultations involving Pentecostals. The PWF also remains very committed to the activities of the Global Christian Forum.

**PWF/Lutheran World Federation Dialogue** Dr. Jean Daniel Plüss (Pentecostal Assemblies of Switzerland) and the Rev. Dr. Walter Altmann, (Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil) are the co-chairs to the Dialogue between Lutheran World Federation and various representatives from Pentecostal World Fellowship churches. They had planned to meet in September 2021, but with COVID restrictions that was impossible. The final meeting of this first official round of Dialogue is now scheduled to take place at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA, USA, March 27-30, 2022. The annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies will take place at the nearby Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, CA, USA, March 24-26 immediately before the Dialogue. Several members of both teams plan to attend that meeting.

**International Roman Catholic – Pentecostal Dialogue** The sixth round of this dialogue completed its work and published its report in 2016. The opening meeting for the seventh round of the International Catholic - Pentecostal Dialogue took place in Springfield, Missouri, USA, July 12-18, 2018. The focus for this round of discussions is the idea of *lex orandi, lex credendi* (the relationship between our worship and our beliefs). In 2021 the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) named Joseph Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, PA, USA, to serve alongside Cecil M. Robeck, as co-chair. After a two-year hiatus due largely to COVID restrictions, the steering committees met via Zoom on Thursday, July 8, 2 021. Bishop Bambera and Msgr Juan Usma of the PCPCU met with David Cole, David Wells, and Robeck. Together, they set the date and venue for the next meeting and reviewed the agenda for the continuation of the Seventh Round. The recent break allowed the Pentecostal team to make some important additions to their team, with new participants coming from Canada, the USA, England, Ghana, Australia, and Peru. On September 23, a second Zoom meeting took place, that allowed for introductions of new team members, and a brief discussion of the next steps leading to the upcoming meeting in Rome in July 2022. This meeting will mark the 50th Anniversary since the start of the Dialogue in 1972.