**PENTECOSTAL/CHARISMATIC KOINONIA 2015: 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 Commission in Development Stages** At the 2014 PCCNA annual meeting, the PCCNA executive committee approved the concept 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. Two steps have been taken in service of that opportunity. First, a number of PCCNA organizations have appointed Greater Christian Community Liaisons, who will serve as ambassadors on behalf of their Church families while cooperating in Christian unity efforts within and beyond the PCCNA. And secondly, a group of those GCCLs have met in Vancouver this week in conjunction with the PCCNA annual meeting, engaging in prayer, planning and preparation in anticipation of the launch of a new PCCNA commission that is committed to and focused on unity between Christians.

**Currently appointed Greater Christian Community Liaisons from various PCCNA organizations:** Rev. David Cole—Open Bible Churches (USA) and Open Bible Faith Fellowship (Canada). VP for Student Development, The King’s University, Southlake, TX, USA. [david.cole@tku.edu](mailto:david.cole@tku.edu)

Rev. Harold Hunter—International Pentecostal Holiness Church (USA). Director of International Pentecostal Holiness Church Archives and Research, Oklahoma City, OK, USA. [hdhpctii@gmail.com](mailto:hdhpctii@gmail.com)

Rev. Steven Land—Church of God (USA). Professor of Pentecostal Theology, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN, USA. [sland@ptseminary.edu](mailto:sland@ptseminary.edu)

Rev. Cecil M. Robeck—Assemblies of God (USA). Professor of Church History and Ecumenics, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA, USA. [cmrobeck@fuller.edu](mailto:cmrobeck@fuller.edu)

Rev. Anthony Suarez—National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (USA). Executive Vice President, NHCLC, Elk Grove, CA, USA. [tonysuarez@nhclc.org](mailto:tonysuarez@nhclc.org)

Other activities and initiatives that merit the awareness and/or involvement of our Pentecostal/Charismatic family:

**Memphis Miracle Remembered** On Monday, November 24, 2014, over 600 ministers and guests gathered at Cathedral of Praise Assembly of God, Memphis, TN, to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the "Memphis Miracle." It was at that October, 1994, Memphis gathering that white Pentecostals disbanded their all-white Association, Pentecostal Fellowship of North America (PFNA), in favor of a new racially integrated organization called the Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches of North America (PCCNA). The service was planned by the PCCNA Memphis Chapter. Jurisdictional COGIC Bishop Jerry Maynard, pastor of Cathedral of Praise, Nashville, TN, gave the keynote address. Remarks were also provided by Dr. Jeff Farmer (PCCNA Chairperson), Dr. Harold Hunter, Director, IPHC Archives & Research Center and contributing author to the 1994 Racial Reconciliation Manifesto, and Rev. Don Evans, pastor of Gateway Christian Church, Tampa, FL.

**ENCOUNTER 2015 Prayer Gathering** Nearly one thousand Pentecostal pastors and denominational leaders gathered for prayer in Fayetteville, North Carolina on January 5-7, 2015 for ENCOUNTER 2015. This meeting has been described as the first ever self-initiated gathering of Pentecostal pastors and denominational leaders (at least nine Pentecostal groups were represented) for the one express purpose of prayer. The event was hosted by Northwood Temple (an International Pentecostal Holiness Church), and led by prayer coordinators of the Church of God, the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, and the Assemblies of God. There were no offerings received, no sermons preached, and no business sessions conducted. The multidenominational emphasis was prayer alone, aided only by brief devotionals and guides, and with delegates assembled each night around the Lord’s Table for Holy Communion. Executive leaders, support staff members, pastors, teachers, and evangelists—men, women, and minorities—all led prayer sessions focusing on “the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3). Registration was free, and represented delegates from the Assemblies of God, Church of God (Cleveland), Church of God of Prophecy, Congregational Holiness Church, Full Gospel Fellowship International, International Pentecostal Holiness Church, Open Bible Churches, Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church, and United Holy Church of America.

**The Reconciled Church: Healing the Racial Divide**  On Thursday, January 15, 2015, over 100 ministers met at The Potter’s House in Dallas, Texas (pastored by Bishop T.D. Jakes) for a powerful closed door conclave called “The Reconciled Church: Healing The Racial Divide”. Collectively, those gathered represented over 40 million evangelical Christians of different racial backgrounds. The group included former Ambassador and civil rights activist Andrew Young; Elder Bernice King (daughter of the iconic civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.), Bishop Harry Jackson (chairman of the High Impact Leadership Coalition), Bishop Vashti Mackenzie (presiding prelate of the 10th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church), Bishop Paul Morton (founding and presiding bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship), Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council, Dr. Jim Garlow of Skyline Wesleyan Church, Dr. Tony Evans of the Urban Alternative, James Robison of Life Outreach International, Dr. Sammy Rodriguez of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. Leith Anderson of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), and representatives of Colorado based Focus on the Family. Later that evening over 6,000 people gathered for a Communion and Commissioning service designed to begin addressing the need for racial reconciliation within the church.

**Centennial Celebration** The Assemblies of God celebrated its 100th anniversary with events August 5-10, 2014 in Springfield, MO. Consistent with its commitment to world mission, it comes under an umbrella organization known as the World Assemblies of God Fellowship with a global membership of nearly 68 million. It is present in 244 nations/territories/provinces and served by missionaries from 85 countries. Members from 120 nations came to Springfield, MO for the celebration. [www.100.ag.org](http://www.100.ag.org)

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** This event with special emphasis on unity between Christians takes place all over the world each year from January 18-25. It has been instrumental in gathering diverse groups of Christians together for prayer, Scripture reading, preaching, worship and fellowship. This year’s Springfield, MO area worship service commemorating the WPCU took place at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, sponsored by that area’s Pentecostal-Catholic dialogue. The service, which was held on January 21, 2015, included a homily by Dr. Carol Taylor, president of Evangel University.

**Society for Pentecostal Studies** The 44th annual meeting of SPS takes place March 12-14, 2015, in Lakeland, FL at Southeastern University. This year’s theme is “Global Spirit: Pentecostals and the World.” [www.sps-usa.org](http://www.sps-usa.org).

**Christian Churches Together in the USA** February 10-13, 2015 in Houston the annual CCT Convocation focused on the theme of “Immigrant Faith Communities and the Future of the Churches in the USA.” A small number of Pentecostal denominations and organizations participate in this annual gathering and its interdenominational initiatives, and one of this year’s speakers was Dr. Cheryl Bridges-Johns from the Church of God (Cleveland, TN). [www.christianchurchestogether.org](http://www.christianchurchestogether.org)

**Eastern Orthodox-Pentecostal Relations** Dr. A.D. Beacham, Jr., the Presiding Bishop of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church, was granted a Private Audience with His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarchate Bartholomew at his office in Constantinople (Istanbul), Turkey, on April 18, 2014, along with his wife Susan and Dr. Harold D. Hunter. The group then attended the Resurrection Service at St. George the following evening. Dr. Hunter is also involved in facilitating informal discussions between the Eastern Orthodox and Pentecostals, including plans for a consultation in late September 2015.

**International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue** The International Catholic–Pentecostal Dialogue met July 12-18, 2014 in Sierra Madre, CA, USA. The meeting was co-chaired by Bishop Michael Burbidge (USA) and Rev. Cecil M. Robeck, Jr (Assemblies of God, USA). The topic was “Prophetic Gifts.” Participants attended services at West Angeles Church of God in Christ led by Bishop Charles Blake, Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ. Both teams are working on a draft report of this five year session on “Charisms in the Church,” which they hope to complete at the next scheduled meeting of the dialogue taking place in Rome, July 10-17, 2015.

**From one of our leaders:** “Only a united Church can reach a divided world. Only a united Church will bring disciples to maturity. Only a united Body, fitted and held together by what every joint supplies with individual parts functioning properly can experience growth and be built up in love. Only a united Church can overcome the onslaught of darkness. Only a united Church can capture the hopes and dreams of a new generation and see the passion of youth intersect with the mission of God.” (General Overseer Mark Williams at the 1/28/15 meeting of the Church of God International Executive Council) faithnews.cc