

PCCNA Christian Unity Commission Report of Activities 2024

Submitted by David Cole, PCCNA Liaison to the Greater Christian Community and Christian Unity Commission Chair

2024 Christian Unity Liaisons, appointed from various PCCNA organizations:

Roberto Albino—National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

Matteo Calisi—United in Christ International

David Cole—Open Bible Churches (steering committee member)

Dan Coleman—Pentecostal Church of God

David Han—Church of God (Cleveland, TN)

Harold D. Hunter—International Pentecostal Holiness Church (steering committee member)

Dennis Kutzner—CMI Global

S. David Moore--Foursquare

Frank Patrick—Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

Cecil M. Robeck, Jr.—Assemblies of God (steering committee member)

Each year in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches of North America, the PCCNA Christian Unity Commission holds an on-site meeting. Attendance at our Wednesday, February 20, 2024 CUC meeting, in addition to most of our Liaisons, included Monica Schaap-Pierce (executive director of Christian Churches Together in the USA), Alicia Hartle (executive director of Pentecost Today USA—the service committee of the national Catholic Charismatic Renewal), Darrell Wentworth (director of Awakening the Domestic Church), and Nathan Smith (Director of Ecumenism, Glenmary Home Missioners), and Father Timothy Cremeens (Eastern Orthodox priest and member of Alleluia Ecumenical Community). This year's Christian Unity Commission meeting was also a joint meeting with the PCCNA Race Relations Commission, led by Aaron Campbell and Don Gilbert.

Initiatives discussed at our February 2024 CUC meeting, involving our CUC Liaisons and churches:

PCCNA/USCCB Conversation The 2023 session of this initiative took place September 27–29, 2023, hosted by the Office of Mission Engagement and Church Affairs at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. It was attended by representatives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Pentecostal Charismatic Churches of North America (PCCNA). This was a continuation of a theological exchange that began in 2021 between the two faith groups and also convened in 2022. This year's Pentecostal participants included Rev. Dr. Harold D. Hunter (International Pentecostal Holiness Church), who serves as Pentecostal co-chair; Rev. Dr. David Han (Church of God); Rev. Dr. Frederick L. Ware (Church of God in Christ); Rev. Jennifer Thigpenn (International Church of the Foursquare Gospel); and Rev. Dr. Martin W. Mittelstadt (Assemblies of God), who delivered the Pentecostal paper on the subject of "A Pentecostal Theology of Vocation."

Ecumenical Retreat Nathan Smith (Glenmary Home Missioners and USCCB field representative), facilitated a retreat for specialists in ecumenism, which took place May 28-30, 2024, at St. Meinrad Archabbey and Seminary in Indiana. Approximately twenty ecumenists participated, representing churches and organizations including Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Southern Baptist, Pentecostal, Church of Christ, Evangelical, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Young Life, and others. PCCNA Liaison David Cole was among the attendees, who participated in prayers with the Benedictine monks, did prayer walks and other prayer activities, and engaged in testimonies and reflections on challenges for today's church. <https://www.glenmaryunity.org/>

Global Christian Forum The Fourth World GCF Gathering took place in Accra, Ghana April 15-19, 2024 on the theme "May the world know" (Jn 17:23), with the participation of about 250 delegates from all currents of modern Christianity. Church of God PCCNA Liaison David Han assisted in facilitating the invitation process to Pentecostal

leaders from North America and globally. PCCNA member churches sent several representatives, including Mel Robeck and John Mark Robeck (Assemblies of God), Lisa Stephenson (Church of God), David Cole (Open Bible Churches), J. Anthony Taylor (Church of God in Christ), and David Wells (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada). Rev. Billy Wilson (Oral Roberts University and Pentecostal World Fellowship) delivered plenary session remarks on behalf of the Pentecostal delegation. In addition to reflecting deeply in plenary sessions and at round tables of eight on issues of common concern all week, the group spent a full day in learning and lament in the sacred and sober atmosphere of the Cape Coast Slave Castle, a center of Trans-Atlantic slave trafficking activity.

<https://globalchristianforum.org/>

Somos Um David Cole (Open Bible) serves on the International Fraternal Council for the We Are One (Somos Um) initiative in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which engages in unity among Catholics, Evangelicals and Pentecostals in Brazil and several other nations in Latin America. The Sixth International Conference for Somos Um will take place in Rio de Janeiro September 16-22 2024 session. <https://missaosomosum.com.br/>

Unity and Renewal Luncheon PCCNA parachurch member, The King's University hosted its second annual Unity and Renewal Luncheon on its Southlake, TX campus. Special guest Adriana Gonzalez, cofounder of Flourish Your Faith Ministries in Florida, discussed and offered a showing of her recently completed documentary, "That They May Be One." The film highlights the 20th century Pentecostal and Charismatic movements from the perspective of how those movements have opportunity to promote and facilitate unity in the Body of Christ. After the viewing of the documentary, a panel discussion on the relationship between unity and evangelization took place with panelists from four perspectives: Adriana Gonzalez (unity between Catholics and non-Catholics), Rev. Andrew Jackson, Church of God in Christ pastor (unity between members of different races and ethnicities), Dr. Dan Call, Assemblies of God minister and graduate theology instructor (unity between the church and the academy), and Rev. Nic Lesmeister, executive director of the Gateway Center for Israel (unity between Jews and Gentiles).

Unity and Renewal Forum at Alleluia Ecumenical Community A Forum for Christian Unity and Renewal will be held in Augusta, Georgia, hosted by the Alleluia Ecumenical Community, June 26-26 2024. Speakers at the Forum include Rabbi Dr. Mark Kinzer, Mons. Juan Usma Gomez, Matteo Calisi, Nathan Smith, Dr. David Cole, Dr. Don Swenson, Dan Almeter, Bob Garrett, Dr. John Gresham, Adriana Gonzalez, Anthony Martini, Dr. Dennis Feltwell, and the Very Reverend Dr. Timothy Cremeens. Also, the new documentary "That They May Be One" will be shown followed by a discussion. <https://unityforum2024.org/>

International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue David Wells (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada), Mel Robeck (Assemblies of God), David Cole (Open Bible Churches), David Moore (Foursquare), Dale Coulter and Marcia Clarke (Church of God) will be in Lisbon, Portugal in July 2024 for this year's session of the Dialogue, which has been continuous since it began in 1972 under the co-chairmanship of David Du Plessis and Fr. Kilian McDonnell, OSB.