

**PENTECOSTAL/CHARISMATIC KOINONIA 2025: 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 and Christian Unity Commission Chair

**2025 Christian Unity Liaisons, appointed from various PCCNA organizations:**

Matteo Calisi—United in Christ International

David Cole—Open Bible Churches (steering committee member)

David Han—Church of God (Cleveland, TN)

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

David Moore—Foursquare

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

**Christian Unity Commission** 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 19, 2025 CUC meeting, in addition to most of our Liaisons, included Monica Schaap-Pierce (executive director of Christian Churches Together in the USA), Darrell Wentworth (director of Awakening the Domestic Church), Nathan Smith (Director of Ecumenism, Glenmary Home Missioners), Randall Bach (National Association of Evangelicals), Wilfred Graves (Talbot Seminary Center for the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit; Church of God in Christ), Mark Hazzard (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada), Peter and Gabriela van Breda (Bellevue Church, The New International University), Daniel Henley (Church Developers Network), and Virgy Centro (Care Portal). 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. Don Gilbert facilitated a challenging reflection and discussion on "Reconciling Immigration and Christian Nationalism." A presentation by Monica Schaap-Pierce (Christian Churches Together in the USA) served to strengthen the growing bond between CCT and PCCNA. A presentation by Nathan Smith (Glenmary Home Missioners) invited PCCNA to consider deeper ecumenical partnerships through participation and co-sponsorship of an upcoming international conference on receptive ecumenism.

**Initiatives discussed at our February 2025 CUC meeting, involving our CUC Liaisons and churches:**

**PCCNA/USCCB Conversation** A historic ecumenical dialogue between representatives of the Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches of North America (PCCNA) and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) met on October 2–4, 2024, at the Pentecostal Theological Seminary in Cleveland, Tennessee. Following a three-year exploratory dialogue, this meeting marked the first Pentecostal-Catholic dialogue in the United States endorsed by both ecclesial bodies. The meeting was co-chaired by Rev. Dr. Harold D. Hunter, International Pentecostal Holiness Church liaison to the Greater Christian Community and member of PCCNA Christian Unity Commission Steering Committee, and Bishop Peter L. Smith, Auxiliary Bishop of Portland, Oregon, who represents the USCCB's Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

The theme of the first five-year phase of the dialogue is "Waters that Divide: Waters that Unite." This year's session focused on the example of Jesus in John 13 where he washed his disciples' feet. After dialoguing about the role of footwashing in their respective traditions, both teams participated in a foot-washing service at the International Prayer Center of the North Cleveland Church of God. Participants agreed that footwashing signifies and enables believers to participate in Christ's humility, hospitality, and call to reconciliation. Attention was drawn to the unscheduled foot-washing service at the 1994 founding of PCCNA, sometimes referred to as the "Memphis Miracle." Dr. Hunter noted that having started as an exploratory dialogue in 2021, this community has grown in their sensitivity to the presence of God as together we seek to edify the risen Christ.

Presenters of the scholarly works at the meeting were Rev. Dr. John Christopher Thomas, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Church of God (Cleveland), "Footwashing in the Pentecostal Tradition," and Rev. Andrew V. Menke, S.L.D., "A Brief Examination of the History of the Practice of Footwashing in the Catholic Church."

The Pentecostal team members were Rev. Dr. Dale M. Coulter, Professor of Historical Theology, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Church of God (Cleveland); Rev. Dr. David Han, Dean, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Church of God (Cleveland); Rev. Dr. Martin Mittelstadt, Professor of New Testament, Evangel University, Assemblies of God; Rev. Jennifer Thigpenn, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel; and Rev. Dr. Frederick L. Ware, Associate Dean, Howard University School of Divinity, Church of God in Christ.

The Catholic team members were Rev. Russell K. McDougall, C.S.C, Executive Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the USCCB; Rev. Andrew V. Menke, S.L.D., Executive Director, International Commission on English in the Liturgy; Dr. Kimberly Hope Belcher, Associate Professor (Liturgical Studies), Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame; and Mr. Nathan Smith, Director of Ecumenism, Glenmary Home Missioners.

The Pentecostal Theological Seminary hosted the meeting. The attendees visited the Church of God International Headquarters and the Dixon Pentecostal Research Center at Squires Library. Rev. Dr. David Roebuck, the historian for the Church of God, guided both tours. Participants were also greeted by Dr. Mark L. Williams, Third Assistant General Overseer and Executive Liaison to the Church of God Christian Unity Committee, and by Dr. Brian Sutton, North America General Presbyter, Church of God of Prophecy and Member of the Executive Committee, PCCNA. The USCCB will host the next meeting on September 24–26, 2025.

**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 took place in Rio de Janeiro September 16-22 2024. <https://missaosomosum.com.br/>

**Italian Charismatic Consultation** In October, David Cole (Open Bible) was a speaker at the annual meeting of the Italian Charismatic Consultation. This year's meeting was in Caserta, Italy, and the theme was a reflection on the occasion of the tenth anniversary since Pope Francis' journey to Caserta to ask forgiveness of Pentecostals on behalf of the Catholic Church and offer reconciliation with Pentecostals. The meeting took place at the Evangelical Church of Reconciliation, pastored by Giovanni Traettino. Pastor Traettino and his church were the location of the historic meeting with Pope Francis in 2014. Traettino and PCCNA Liaison Matteo Calisi have been engaged in intentional reconciliation initiatives in Italy and elsewhere for over thirty years.

**Holy Mass for the Beginning of the Pontificate of Pope Leo XIV** PCCNA president David Wells was invited to attend the inaugural mass of newly selected Pope Leo XIV, at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, which took place May 18, 2025. David Wells also serves as president of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, as vice president of the Pentecostal World Fellowship, and as chair of the PWF's Christian Unity Commission. In addition to attending the inaugural mass, Wells also attended a special meeting that Pope Leo XIV held with leaders from other (non-Catholic) Christian traditions as well as other religious groups. Rev. Dr. Opoku Onyinah from Ghana, who serves on the Pentecostal team at the International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue and was recently invited to attend the participated in the 2023 and 2024 Synod sessions in Rome, also attended these recent events.

**Alleluia Forum for Unity and Renewal** The second annual Alleluia Forum for Unity and Renewal will be held on the campus of The King's University in Southlake, Texas, June 26-28 2025. This year's theme is *Nicaea: Ecumenical Gift and Ecumenical Challenge*. Speakers at the Forum include Rabbi Dr. Mark Kinzer, Dr. David Rudolph, Dr.

Daniel Keating, Dr. Don Swenson, Janet Hatfield, Dr. John Gresham, Ann Friemel, Anthony Martini, Thomas and Amy Cogdell, Pastor Mike Fehlauer, and Rev. Dan Wager. PCCNA Liaisons David Cole and Matteo Calisi are on the planning committee for this annual forum. In conjunction with the Forum, participants will join in worship at the local Baruch HaShem messianic synagogue Shabbat service. <https://unityforum2025.org/>

**Pentecostal World Conference** The 27<sup>th</sup> Pentecostal World Conference will take place June 4-7, 2025 in Helsinki, Finland. The theme is “Go & Make!” Over a dozen PCCNA member organizations are also members of the Pentecostal World Fellowship, which sponsors the PWC once every three years. PCCNA president David Wells serves as the vice president of the Pentecostal World Fellowship, and also chairs the PWF’s Christian Unity Commission, which has been in close cooperation with PCCNA’s Christian Unity Commission over the years. This year’s conference includes a special breakout session that will highlight a PWF Christian Unity Commission panel discussion on Christian unity. <https://pwc2025.fi/>

**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 Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, July 2025 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. The two teams hope to complete a report on its theme of *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi* (“Praying, Believing”), to be published later this year.

**“That They May Be One” podcast** David Cole, PCCNA’s Liaison to the Greater Christian Community and Open Bible Churches’ unity liaison, currently co-chairs a podcast devoted to unity and renewal in the Body of Christ. “That They May Be One” is sponsored by Flourish Your Faith Ministries, and Adriana Gonzalez also serves as co-chair. The podcast can be found on Spotify, Apple, other places, or here: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/that-they-may-be-one/id1773005587>

**Christian Churches Together in the USA** The annual forum of Christian Churches Together in the USA will take place October 7-9, 2025 in Philadelphia. This year’s theme is “The Light of Life: the Gospel and the Witness of the Church.” CCT brings together to the same table a diverse cross-section of the Body of Christ, including Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, Mainline Protestant, Evangelical, Pentecostal, and historic Black churches, along with several Christian organizations. PCCNA member churches International Pentecostal Holiness Church and Hope for You are also members of CCT, and PCCNA has official observer status at the CCT table. <https://www.christianchurchestogether.org/>

**Charismatic Leaders Fellowship** The Charismatic Leaders Fellowship has been meeting annually, continuously since the early 1970s. Originally named the Charismatic Concerns Committee and formed by Father Dennis Bennett, Vinson Synan and others, the meeting gathered key leaders from Pentecostal families, as well as charismatics from Protestant, Catholic and Anglican streams. Current issues and challenges in the larger charismatic renewal have been the focus, as leaders have prayed with and supported one another. This year’s meeting will take place in Bradenton, Florida, February 23-26, 2026. <https://www.charismaticleadersfellowship.org/>

**Society for Pentecostal Studies** The annual meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies will take place March 12-14, 2026, at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. This year’s theme is “‘Communing with the Spirit:’ the Promise and Power of Pentecostal Prayer.” <https://sps-usa.org/theme.html>

