

NCC Restructure Overview

Governance of the Council

Governing Board (GB) is composed of the highest-level leader of each NCC member communions who has the authority to speak and act on behalf of their churches, or his/her designee. The GB may determine to add at-large seats in order to enhance strategic partnerships, provide for needed skill sets, and uphold commitments to diversity. The GB shares in the common life of the churches; sets Council-wide priorities; makes determinations with regard to membership; approves the annual budget; and selects and oversees the Executive Director. The GB will meet twice annually in May and November. The GB will elect from among its members an **Executive Committee** (EC) that will have the decision-making authority described above between GB meetings. At minimum, the EC will meet quarterly in February, May, August, and November – twice in conjunction with the GB.

For an interim period of 2014, the GB will be composed solely of the highest-level leaders of the NCC member communions. In January 2015 each member communion will be temporarily granted a second seat, if needed, in order to facilitate the seating of any designees. By the November 2015 GB meeting, the transition will be complete with each member communion having one seat at the table, in addition to any at-large seats.

NCC Governance Committees (i.e. governance, bylaws, and nominations; development; and finance) are composed of members of the Governing Board.

Life of the Council

Christian Unity Gatherings celebrate and give witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ; demonstrate the churches' visible unity in the US and in relationship to global partners; engage historic and contemporary church dividing issues; define specific and strategic goals, outcomes, and timelines for the Council's work; and provide opportunities to identify synergies with partners and opportunities for collaboration. The Gatherings invite the opportunity for koinonia, and ensure Council-wide integration and fellowship with partners who are committed to racial, gender, and economic justice and to speaking with a common voice on pertinent issues. In addition to the NCC Board, Committees, Think Tank, and Convening Tables, the Gatherings will include partners, local and regional ecumenists, and congregants to enrich and enhance the ecumenical movement and to equip all involved. NCC business will be conducted at the time of the Gatherings, as needed.

Ecclesial Relations Committee is a standing committee of the Council chaired by a GB member and composed of senior staff of the member communions who carry significant ecumenical responsibility. Its mandate will be to tend to relationships among NCC member communions and to cultivate relationships with non-member communions and organizational partners. It will serve in an advisory capacity to the GB and the Executive Director.

Communications Committee (CC) is a standing committee of the Council chaired by a GB member and composed of communications, policy, and advocacy staff of the member communions and leadership of the Convening Tables.

These existing committees will be maintained:

- Bible Translation and Utilization
- Committee on the Uniform Series
- Local and Regional Ecumenism
- World Council of Churches Relations Committee

Other standing committees may be formed at the discretion of the Governing Board.

Intergenerational Think Tank (ITT) is composed of leaders of local and regional ecumenical initiatives and bodies, emerging ecumenical and church leaders, and leaders who are bearers of NCC institutional memory. Its purpose will be to monitor developments in the ecumenical movement and in the changing ecclesial and inter-religious landscape and to recommend adaptive and transformational changes, new strategic partnerships, and priority areas for the Council's work. It will serve in an advisory capacity to the GB and the Executive Director.

Convening Tables (CT) facilitate collaboration among member communions and partners (including non-member communions) in four core areas of work: theological study and dialogue; inter-religious relations and dialogue; joint action and advocacy for justice and peace; and education, formation, and leadership development. CTs will be composed of ecumenical officers, member communion staff, emerging ecumenical and church leaders, academicians, and partners (including those from non-member communions). CT members will be appointed by the GB; care will be taken to ensure that composition reflects the Council's commitments to racial, gender, and economic justice. The CTs will meet face-to-face at least once annually in May, in conjunction with the Christian Unity Gathering, and may meet at other times throughout the year, either face-to-face or electronically.

Staffing of the Council

Executive Director (ED) is selected by the GB to provide visionary leadership; to speak for the Council; to implement the strategic directives of the GB; to monitor and ensure the Council’s commitments to racial, gender, and economic justice; and to hire and supervise NCC staff. The ED will lead an annual evaluation to track outcomes and monitor integration of work. Further work on staffing structures will include the consideration of shared leadership models at the highest level of executive leadership.

Staff members serve as connectors, linking people, ideas, and resources across Convening Tables in order to implement the priorities determined by the GB. They will be hired by and accountable to the Executive Director.

Annual Cycle of Quarterly Meetings

