



Wisconsin Council of Churches' Annual Report
By Scott D. Anderson, Executive Director
www.wichurches.org

*We pray and work for the unity and renewal of the church
and the healing and reconciliation of the world.*

Tracing its roots back to the early 1940's with an inter-denominational recreation ministry for young people, the Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) now encompasses 13 denominations with approximately 2,000 congregations and over one million church members statewide.

2009 Accomplishments

Equipping Leaders--The Council's signature educational event for clergy each summer is the Washington Island Forum, which in 2009 drew 160 pastors and lay leaders from 21 states representing 14 faith traditions to hear Forum Presenters Marlene Knopf and Ken Nafziger, both from the Mennonite tradition, address the theme *The Unsung Jesus*. The Council also hosts regional events throughout the year on a variety of timely topics to equip clergy and lay leaders for effective ministry.

Greening our Faith and our Communities--the Council has launched a new public education effort to mobilize congregations in support of the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, a bipartisan effort seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our state. The WCC also co-sponsored the statewide Interfaith Earthkeeping Conference, which equipped pastors and lay leaders to practice environmental stewardship in their local communities.

Senior High Convo--brought over 1,000 teenagers from various Christian traditions together for spiritual renewal at the Chula Vista Resort Nov. 13-15, co-sponsored by the United Methodist Annual Conference and the WCC. Keynote speaker Chris Lear addressed the themes of peacemaking and race relations.

Ministering to the Ecumenical Family--a conference co-sponsored by Cardinal Stritch University, brought Roman Catholics, Orthodox, and Protestants together for a two-day discussion of living in "ecumenical families" where each spouse comes from a different Christian tradition.

Formula of Agreement Consultation--religious leaders from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and the Reformed Church in America gathered in 2009 to consider how the full communion agreement between these four denominations can be implemented in our state.

Looking Ahead to 2010

Washington Island Forum--Kenda Creasy Dean, Associate Professor of Youth, Church and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary will serve as the 2010 Washington Island Forum presenter on the theme *Almost Christian: What the Faith of our Teenagers is Telling the American Church* June 21-25. For more information about the Forum and all WCC educational events, go to www.wichurches.org/events.

Beyond Survival: What is God's Future for the Small Church?--the Council is sponsoring workshops in 2010 to equip rural congregations for effective ministry in their local communities.

Addressing the Root Causes of Hunger--the Council continues to advocate for just public policies that provide support for the unemployed and other vulnerable populations during these recessionary times.