

You are invited to become a member of

ENVOYS FOR ECUMENISM

sponsored by the Massachusetts Council of Churches

*an intentional association of individuals
committed to invigorating the ecumenical movement
through spiritual renewal in companionship and community*

People who are committed to the ecumenical movement - the quest for reconciliation in the body of Christ - often find their faith enriched and enlivened by their encounters with Christians from other churches. They also, however, occasionally may feel lonely and isolated, because the mandate for Christian unity sometimes is misunderstood; or, if comprehended, it may be resisted. In addition, few organized structures now are in place in America helping future generations to glimpse the vision and garner the enthusiasm necessary to foster ecumenism.

Mutual support and spiritual nurture are vital ingredients enabling people to pursue the vision of Christian unity with faithfulness, persistence, and resiliency.

To facilitate this, the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Council of Churches initiated in 1990 "Envoys for Ecumenism" - an intentional association of individuals committed to invigorating the ecumenical movement through spiritual renewal in companionship and community.

The Massachusetts Council of Churches will serve as a facilitator for

- sharing information about the association through Intersect;
- maintaining a list of members;
- providing periodic communications to members; and
- organizing an annual dinner/dialogue and retreat.

I subscribe to the purpose of Envoys for Ecumenism, and commit myself to its discipline.

Signed _____
Name (please print) _____

Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Local Church Membership _____

Ecumenical Organization(s) in which I will participate _____

Please return this form to: Envoys for Ecumenism, Massachusetts Council of Churches
14 Beacon Street, Room 416, Boston, MA 02108 Phone: 617-523-2771

Membership is open to anyone who subscribes to the purpose of the association, and who commits him/herself to the ten point discipline listed below.

Practice daily prayer and meditation in the spirit of John 17:21, "That they may all be one...so that the world may believe..." including intercessory prayer for other "Envoys for Ecumenism."

Read, at least weekly, literature about the quest for Christian unity, and/or the relationship between the unity and mission of the Church.

Practice monthly shared Bible study with a person or persons of another Christian tradition.

Give some time, each year, to a voluntary association devoted to promoting Christian unity.

Gather once annually with other "Envoys for Ecumenism" for dinner and dialogue about the observations, hopes and concerns of ecumenical work experienced through involvement in voluntary associations.

Contribute financially to an ecumenical organization.

Facilitate and/or participate annually in at least one ecumenical worship service (such as during the week of prayer for Christian unity).

Attend annually at least one ecumenical event for personal edification.

Witness frequently to one's ecumenical commitment (especially in a local church), and encourage annually at least one other person to become an "Envoy for Ecumenism."

Participate in an annual twenty-four hour retreat for "Envoys for Ecumenism," during which members can become a gathered community, and can be refreshed by, renewed for, and rededicated to the ecumenical mandate.

"Ecumenism is not simply a goal or commodity to be achieved, but a worldview, a kind of spiritual orientation, which many Christians already share.... The very existence of this movement is an incarnate protest against the "us - them" mentality which destroys human community...."

- Michael Kinnamon

