



# News from Your Council of Churches



**Council of Churches of Greater Washington**  
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**REV. DR. STEPHEN W. GENTLE**  
SENIOR PASTOR  
NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
**Council Service of Christian Unity  
Speaker**

The Council of Churches of Greater Washington will host the Service of Christian Unity on Sunday, February 23, 2014, at 3:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Gentle, Senior Pastor at National City Christian Church of Washington, DC will be the guest speaker.

The Council encourages the religious community of the Greater Washington area to come together to worship our common bond in Christ.

The service will be held at Second Baptist Church, 816 Third Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001. For more information, please call 202-745-0425, 202-842-0233 or 202-232-0323.

## **Dates to Remember:**

- Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014**  
**3:00 pm** Service of Christian Unity at Second Baptist Church, 816 Third Street, N.W., Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Gentle, Speaker
- Friday, Mar. 7, 2014**  
**9:00 am** Church Women United – DC Unit, World Day of Prayer at Union Wesley AME Zion Church, 1860 Michigan Ave, NE, 202-716-7219
- Thursday, Mar. 13, 2014**  
**12:00 Noon** CCGW Board of Director's Meeting (Details to be announced.)
- Friday, Mar. 21 thru Monday, Mar. 24, 2014** 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days at the Doubletree Hotel, Crystal City, VA. Visit [www.advocaydays.org](http://www.advocaydays.org).
- Thursday, May 22, 2014**  
Annual Spring Assembly

## **THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (CCGW) AND YOU**

The Council Needs You!  
You Need the Council!

The Council of Churches of Greater Washington (the Council) takes on issues to make the Capital area a better place in the interest of the will of God and the people who live in the area. To the extent that Christians join in this effort, the better for all concerned. The participation of all boosts the good done in the name of God.

You might ask, what are we up to? Of course the more participation, the more each participant can have a positive effect.

### **District of Columbia**

**Statehood:** Recently we have been getting a good response from our activities toward bringing statehood to the District of Columbia. We will continue to work on that, but the churches in the area with fellow congregations throughout the Country can be especially effective in this effort by appealing to their fellow Christians across the land and getting them to entreat their Congressional Representatives and Senators to bring democracy, full citizenship and fair play to the people, more than in some states, who live in the future State of Columbia. Denominations with regional and national organizations in the Capital area can be especially helpful in this effort.

### **Overcoming Gun**

**Violence :** The Council engages in several programs to reduce gun violence and the effect of violence, not only in the Capitol area, but abroad in the land. It provides a helping, and spiritual presence to families affected by gun violence, and partners with an organization, *Heading God's Call*, which aims at stopping gun violence.

### **Renewable energy**

**Assistance:** The Council contemplates partnering with a non-profit organization to help churches reduce their energy costs while improving their ecological

footprint. Again, regional and national efforts in the area can be especially effective. With success in this program, it has the possibility of being directly beneficial to most people in the area, and even abroad in the land.

**Jobs:** The Council has been working on a unified, proactive approach to employment. It involves all significant sectors of the community, especially the religious community. It derives from the instance when a person losing his job he goes to see his pastor. Most clericals will help in any way they can, but few have Manpower Development experience. This program will resolve that by providing a ready referral to a bonafide employment project that will immediately take over and get the person lined up to get a job .In some case that will involve an interview and referral to a waiting job. Others may require more. In addition to interview and referral, the project will provide for whatever services - counseling, job development, placement and follow up - needed to get the person the optimal job and job security.

**Youth and Arts for Everyone:** In the interest of improving the lives of all, the Council favors improving the art world for everyone. In order to interest young people in arts toward a more rewarding life, he Council is sponsoring a youth art development exhibition this summer. For years the Council sponsored a youth summer camping program. Individual churches had been involved in it to make the program available especially to disadvantaged young people. It had been interrupted. We intend to return to such a program this summer.

Council and our society in general (reference: [www.councilofchurchesofgwdc.org/projects](http://www.councilofchurchesofgwdc.org/projects)), some not listed on the

Council web site such as better post high school education and college financing, serving an information and advocacy center role for Christians abroad in the Country.

Now, wouldn't you like to participate in and bring to fruition some of these issues? Surely, any number of people in every congregation would enjoy such participating in these activities and bring pride to their congregation in the process.

You can do it by joining the Council of Churches of Greater Washington. It's easy. You can start by contacting the Council (See the letterhead.) Or come to the Council office or a program activity.

## THE SPRING ASSEMBLY

The Spring Assembly is a time of celebration, praise, during which there are refreshments, a special speaker, funding-raising, recognitions, etc. Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 22, 2014.



Sylvia Stokes is currently planning our Spring Assembly. She has been in the DC Metro area for the past 8 years managing programs for and providing direct service to low income individuals in the region. She is the Human Resource Director at Fort Foote Baptist Church, and a ministry leader for their Station of Hope. Sylvia is a core member of Re-Entry Roundtable of Prince Georges County, instrumental in bringing to light the issues faced by those returning home from incarceration..

She has created a large network of faith based and community organizations that can be called on to help with rapid response assistance to residents' issues, i.e. housing, food and finance. The network of organizations in the Metro area support each other and share information on various subjects many for a more informed public and unity in ideas and actions.

She conducts parenting workshops for various organizations and empowerment workshops for women's ministries in Greater Washington area. She now serves in a limited capacity as the Executive Director of a small non-profit **Education and Training Services Inc.** her main focus is helping the agency to grow and to be an anchor for residents in the East Over/Glass manor area in Prince Georges County.

Ms. Stokes has over 30 years of experience in administration of employment and training programs. She was responsible for the innovative income generating programs allowing low-income residents, returning citizens and at-risk youth an opportunity to learn skills and a trade while being paid through outside sources for their work. Sylvia has been a community activist for most of her life, working on desegregation issues, issues facing young people, economic development in urban areas, collateral damage of returning citizens for being incarcerated, and most recently becoming more active in lack of housing and mental health services for residents in the area.

Sylvia is excited about the work that she does helping individuals to grow and to become viable citizens. For her, much of her work is seen as service and ministry which she serves gladly.

Sylvia holds a Masters in Management from Cambridge College in Massachusetts. She has one daughter who lives in the Gallaudet/Trinidad area of the city.

Please send any news or announcements for the Newsletter to the CCGW office before 10:30 a.m. on the preceding **Wednesday**.  
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