



# News from Your Council of Churches



**Council of Churches of Greater Washington**  
5 Thomas Circle, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005  
Phone No. : (202)745-0425 Website: [councilofchurchesofgw.org](http://councilofchurchesofgw.org)  
Email: [ccgw@verizon.net](mailto:ccgw@verizon.net)  
Volume I Number 5

January 11, 2014 **STATE OF**

## **COLUMBIA**

Statehood - Columbia! Many of us believe it a shame that the District of Columbia remains a colony and that the residents do not share full citizenship rights with all other Americans.

The Board of the Council of Churches of Greater Washington considers District statehood an important objective and will work diligently to bring it about.

All manner of reasons justify statehood for the District of Columbia:

- More DC citizens voted in the last presidential election than either Alaska or Wyoming, yet Alaska and Wyoming get to elect Senatorial and Congressional representatives. DC doesn't.
- While district citizens raise the revenue to run the District, they can't spend a dime unless and until Congress authorizes it.
- When the Federal government shuts down, contrary to all other cities and states, by law, the District must shut down. (It worked a travesty on District of Columbians in this latest debacle, whether federal employees or not.)
- DC residents uniquely must subrogate to a law making body (Congress) for which they have no vote nor say.
- Without getting into it, some statehood, benefits generally accrue to Americans outside the District – benefits not available to District residents.
- Not lastly, it otherwise defies the US Constitution and democracy.

We have come to believe that the only way to solve these inequities arrives out of statehood. So we beseech all Americans of faith and that support democratic equality to join us and work together to achieve the long overdue State of New Columbia!

## **CCGW**

*The Council of Churches of Greater Washington, often referred to as CCGW or the Council, primarily has the following purposes:*

Stimulate, facilitate and coordinate the work of the religious community to carry out the will of God in the Greater Washington Area.

The Council seeks to be an ecumenical instrument of God's will in society through:

- Ministry to all people, particularly to victims of injustice;
- Commitment to change the structures of our society to establish justice;
- Evaluation and assistance to reshape the lifestyles, structures and values of the community rather than give legitimacy to harmful cultures; and
- Liberation of every manner of oppressed people: and Promoting Christianity and Christian love and co-operation.

The Council is a non-profit organization without discrimination prohibited by national law for religious organizations doing business with the government.

## **Dates to Remember:**

**- Sunday, Jan. 12, 3:00PM**  
Annual Rev. Martin Luther King Celebration at Lutheran Place Memorial Church at Vermont, 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Thomas Circle, N.W.

**- Thursday, Feb. 13, 10:30AM**  
CCGW Executive Committee Mtg. World Day of Prayer. (Details to be announced.)

**- Sunday, Feb. 23, 3:00PM** Service of Christian Unity at Second Baptist Church, 816 Third Street, N.W., Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Gentle, Speaker



**JOHNNY BARNES, ESQ.**

STATEHOOD EXPERT

**Council of Churches of Greater Washington Fall Assembly Speaker**

The Council of Churches of Greater Washington Fall Assembly held on December focused on District of Columbia statehood.

Johnny Barnes, ESQ, former Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area and an expert on statehood spoke at the Council meeting held at National City Christian Church. A lively discussion followed.

The Council encourages the religious community of the Greater Washington area to work to make DC statehood a reality as soon as possible and intends to involve the community, especially the religious community, to make statehood a reality.

It gladdened Statehood enthusiast to see so many turn out for and participate in this significant meeting.

## **JOIN THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

**The Council of Churches of Greater Washington needs You! You need the Council of Churches of Greater Washington.**

The Council of Churches of Greater Washington (often referred to as CCGW or The Council) met Thursday, November 21 with one of it's objectives to advance toward turning the District of Columbia from a colony, in which the residents relate more or less as subjects of a US colonial territory, into a state where citizens are truly citizens as in any other state in the country. This citizen, a resident of Maryland, believes that in many ways District statehood would as well benefit all America and, while it particularly would enhance the good and welfare of District residents, it would augur well for the region.

Accordingly, we invite all religious people and organizations to join us in a drive to expeditiously turn the District of Columbia into a state of the United States of America.

We invite all nonmembers to join the Council in this important goal as well as in other activities to improve Greater Washington, (the counties surrounding Washington, DC and all jurisdictions within).

For over 60 years, the Council engaged in many arenas to serve the best interests of the area and it works with many people-organizations-partners to advance issues of importance to the region.

More specifically, the Council seeks to be an ecumenical instrument of God's will in society through: promotion of Christianity and Christian love, cooperation and collaboration among people, churches and related organizations through dedication to stimulate, facilitate and coordinate the work of the religious community to carry out the will of God; represent Christian interests and positions on issues; minister to all people, particularly

victims of injustice, i.e., liberation of every manner of oppressed people; and, collectively provide services, as Jesus would have us do, in matters and situations too difficult or awkward for a single church or person alone, but better done communally by all working together.

How much more effective Council efforts would be if the entire religious community joined the Council in dealing with them? How much would it help the congregations and it's worshipers for a full participation, including membership?

The recent federal government shutdown that so seriously harmed the nation, especially harmed us in the Nation's Capital, provides an example. Had the religious community called upon its affiliated organization with a well organized program to contact each congressman and congresswoman across the land, perhaps the shutdown would have been shorter, or, maybe, not at all. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Council could have been able to affect this? We could have if we were blessed with every church participating as a full member of the Council.

Added to this, the Council now operates a number of programs and activities: A food program involving the hungry in the vicinity of a number of churches across the community; Youth and family programs, including summer camping and counseling, a program of youthful art promotion and education, help for families who have lost family members to gun violence, and so on. We are putting together a plan that through community involvement would set up an innovative process for significantly improving the jobs picture, and special events and taking care of special needs: Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, Christmas toys, and so on, and, an annual Unity and Justice Prayer Assembly. You will hear more about it shortly.

The need is much greater. Accordingly, Church Women United is active in the Council. Too, we have joined with other organizations, notably Heeding God's Call to curb gun violence, a program to help, particularly churches, in cutting costs through using renewable resources.

We would like to join with you. By way of membership financial support. The Council constitution suggests \$100 for each church or related organization for the first hundred members and a dollar for each above a hundred members.

Please call the Council office (202-745-0425), or write them and send a check to: The Council of Churches of Greater Washington, 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Should you want someone from the Council to come to your church on behalf of the Council, contact the Council office (above), Rev. Dr. James Terrell 202-841-2479 or me at 301-229-2142.

May God Be with Us, One and All!

*Douglas Cook*

### **Become a Member of CCGW**

Membership in the Council is encouraged for those living or ministering in Greater Washington.



To join and participate, please contact us at the Council of Churches of Greater Washington, 5 Thomas Circle, NW, of Washington, DC 20005, at 202-745-0425 or [ccgw@verizon.net](mailto:ccgw@verizon.net).

Please send any news or announcements for the Newsletter to the CCGW office before 10:30 a.m. on the preceding **Wednesday**.  
Office: 202.745.0425 \* Facsimile: 202.745.0424 \* Email:ccgw@verizon.net \* Website: councilofchurchesofgwdc.org