



6161 Busch Blvd., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43229

1-614-885-9590

www.ohcouncilchs.org; Facebook

27 regions representing about

4,500 congregations, 2 million members

The year for 2017

Mission Statement

*The mission of the Ohio Council of Churches is to **make visible the unity of Christ's church**, provide a Christian voice on public issues, and engage in worship, education and service.*



"...so that they may be one, as we are one..." John 17:22b

We are the Body of Christ. Our Biblical mandate is to work towards oneness. We 'gift' one another with our traditions and history. Opportunities are before us each day for us to be an instrument for living and demonstrating oneness. How do we do that?

Building relationships: There are always new bishops and executive leaders to meet, and we pray especially for members going through difficult times. A NW Ohio leaders' groups meets twice a year. We were present at a Roman Catholic and ELCA worship commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, taught about ecumenism, and serve on the board of the Bishop Vinton R Anderson Ecumenical Institute at Payne Theological Seminary. Joining the Jain community, we spoke of how we work towards peace. The Roman Catholic Dioceses decided to withdraw their membership, and so building a relationship with the Ohio Catholic Conference will continue.

Witnessing to our Faith: A Legislative Brief goes out monthly with information about current legislative concerns. The Public Policy director often gives testimony and follows issues. Some of the issues addressed were: redistricting, medicaid expansion, the State budget, tax cuts, and the opiate epidemic. We hosted a prayer vigil following the killings in Charlottesville.

Networking and Partnering: We have co-sponsored events with the Hunger Network in Ohio, State of Appalachia Conference, and Faith in Public Life. We have participated on a panel for the Council on American Islamic Relations, and brought greetings to member bodies. Staff serves on the Global Leadership Team for Ohio. A civil discourse group has been working on connecting with congregations to resource them on how to have a civil conversation. The National Institute for Civil Discourse counts Ohio as a key state and has worked with and encouraged us.

CareWorks (our managed care organization) and **CareWorksComp** (worker's compensation) provide lower rates for 650 churches connected with the Council.

Thanks be to God for life together as the Body of Christ known as the Ohio Council of Churches!

Officers: The Rev. Marvin Thomas, President, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Second Episcopal District; the Rev. Vanessa Clark, Vice-President, Episcopal Church, Diocese of Ohio; the Rev. Deb Oskin, Church of the Brethren, Southern Ohio District; the Rev. Tim Philabaum, Treasurer, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, NW Ohio Synod; Rev. Deb Oskin, Chair for Foundation, Board of Trustees; immediate Past-President, The Rev. Raafat Zaki, Synod of the Covenant, Presbyterian Church (USA); The Rev. Rebecca J. Tollefson, Executive Director.