

June 2010

Pax Christi USA to Honor LCWR at National Conference

At its national conference on peacemaking, Pax Christi USA will bestow the Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award on LCWR.



The award, established in 2007, is given periodically to honor a group or individual who has given strong and extraordinary prophetic witness for peace in a time or situation of devastating violence or injustice. Eileen Egan was one of the co-founders of Pax Christi USA and a long-time executive with Catholic Relief Services. The recipient of this award is to exhibit the same spirit associated with Egan: "steady courage to speak the truth of nonviolence in a world addicted to war-making, deep compassion for the victims of violence and poverty, and unshakeable perseverance to change the world for the better."

In a statement Pax Christi noted that it "knows and recognizes that women religious are the backbone of the Catholic peace and justice movement. These strong, prophetic, and compassionate women are always on the frontlines where the weak and most vulnerable suffer at the hands of violent and unjust power. They have been our teachers, our guides, our mentors, and our conscience. They have called us to be a people committed to living lives fashioned by the heart of the gospel which Jesus proclaimed. For the dedication to peace and justice which they have shown in our church and to the world, Pax Christi USA recognizes and honors them with this award."

LCWR president Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA will receive the award on behalf of the conference on July 18 in Chicago.

Report on the LCWR and CMSM Consultations in Rome

pages 4, 5, and 6



Delegations meet with Dr. Miguel Díaz, US ambassador to the Holy See

Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America Opens at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage

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From the LCWR Presidency

Expand, Broaden, and Re-Energize

by Mary Hughes, OP — LCWR President-Elect

So many people, events, meetings, and occasions press us for time and attention. Consequently, when we receive invitations to larger and international events, we tend to agonize over the time it will take, the cost, and the stress of travel. Is it worth it in terms of our ongoing formation as leaders of religious congregations?

Such an invitation arrived some months ago and a number of us accepted the opportunity of traveling to Rome to attend the plenary of the International Union of Superiors General. Eight hundred women gathered from more than 70 countries to be fed by a program focused on mysticism and prophecy. The words of John of the Cross “I know the fountain well that flows and runs, in black of night” united our prayer, ritual, and presentations. Women were dressed in native garb, a variety of religious habits, or other clothing bearing the symbol of their religious congregations. Our languages and cultures were different. We were bound together closely because each of us knew the fountain well that runs through the darkness of geography, politics, economics, our relationship with our beloved Church, and with each other. This fountain of grace bubbled up repeatedly during the conference offering refreshment and solidarity. Was it worth it? Absolutely!

Our ongoing formation as religious leaders merits careful tending. Events such as the one just referenced, ought to do at least three things for us: expand our perspective, broaden our vision, and re-energize us for this sacred mission of leadership. Gatherings that do less are not worth our time and attention.

Events of recent months have precipitated considerable inward focus for us. We have become more acutely aware of our own suffering in the face of differences. At a meeting such as the UISG we hear an African woman theologian speak for the more than 235 sisters who have died because of their faith during tribal wars or radical fundamentalist attacks. Other sisters shared the impact



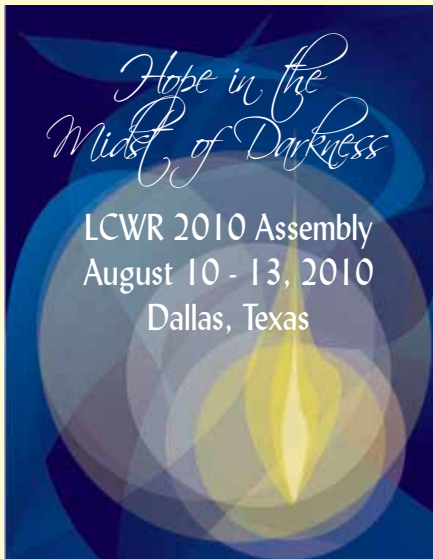
of the bombings in Iraq or of the effects of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and drought upon the lives of their women and the people they serve. While our concerns are real, they faded in significance in the face of the horrors experienced by our sisters in other parts of the world. Perspective was stretched.

It was the work of the Spirit that the themes of mysticism and prophecy were highlighted on another continent, even as they are being discussed in our own organization. Our sisters abroad

dream of ways to meet needs that we can only imagine. There were wonderful examples of collaboration and there was great honesty. These days were filled with courageous conversations. In a world that struggles mightily with differences, the gathering space was filled with women with striking differences but who held such differences with respect, love, and understanding. The differences deepened our prayer and conversation. During these days, we became the vision for the world order for which we ache.

Repeatedly, regardless of the country of origin or the clothing being worn and without the labels so often found in our speech, we seemed to speak with a common voice. There was a solidarity that was palpable. The days were long and many were struggling with the adjustment that accompanies long journeys and different time zones. So many of those were greater than those experienced by North Americans. Yet, physical fatigue failed to diminish the spiritual and psychic energy that lifted our spirits and re-energized each of us for mission. No one went home alone. Each sister left with the prayerful support of those she left behind. One could not help but burst with pride to be in the company of so many other competent and gifted women who also share in this sacred ministry of leadership.

So, the next time one of those special invitations crosses your desk, think seriously about accepting it. By the way, have you registered for the August LCWR meeting yet?



Register for the 2010 LCWR Assembly Hope in the Midst of Darkness

Exploring the Ecclesial Role of Women Religious

Outstanding Keynoters:

M. Shawn Copeland
Richard Gaillardetz

Opportunities to communally
contemplate and process
the many events occurring in the church and
religious life and their implications for
elected leaders

www.lcwr.org/members/LCWRassembly10.pdf

Assembly Registration Deadlines

The registration fee for the 2010 LCWR assembly will increase effective June 16. The fees per person are as follows: before June 16 - \$380.00 USD, June 16 - July 7 - \$410.00 USD, after July 7 - \$435.00 USD.



Not-to-Be Missed on the LCWR Website

LCWR continues to receive letters of support from around the world as US women religious participate in the apostolic visitation.

www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/av.htm

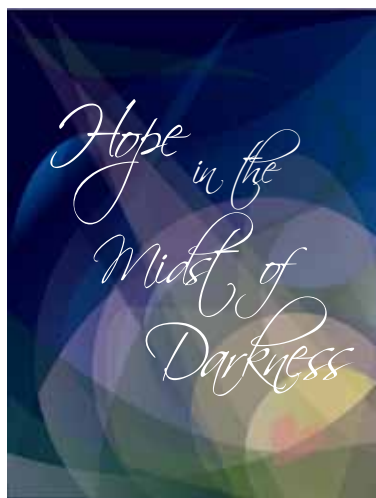
The LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee is compiling an annotated bibliography of articles and books on religious life that leaders and their institute members may find useful. The bibliography is accompanied by reflection questions.

www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/bibliography.htm

UISG Plenary Addresses Available Online

Many members of LCWR were among the approximately 800 major superiors who participated in the plenary assembly of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) that took place from May 7 to 11 at the Hotel Ergife in Rome.

The participants heard several addresses presented under the plenary theme, "I know the fountain well which flows and runs...though it is night." These addresses are online at www.uisg.org/Article.aspx?id=d384d59d-d206-44e8-8b8f-ceed9337596c



LCWR reflections
begin on Monday,
May 31

From the LCWR Executive Director - Jane Burke, SSND

Report on the LCWR-CMSM Consultations with the Vatican

From April 21 through April 27, LCWR and CMSM leaders were in Rome. As per the usual custom, some of the visits we made to various Vatican offices were done jointly and others were done as individual conferences. This year in our pre-visit conversations we decided to add some new offices to our schedule. While it kept us busier than in the past, the decision also gave us the opportunity to meet with groups we had never met, and we found ourselves being warmly received and gaining some new insights into how these offices are organized and the work they are doing.



Our travel time came right in the middle of the first volcanic eruption in Iceland and so two members of the group, Mary Hughes, OP and Abbott Giles Hayes, OSB could not make the trip. We missed their presence but kept in regular contact with Mary during our days there. The members who did make it were Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA; J Lora Dambroski, OSF; and me.

Preparation for this annual trip takes weeks of work and much collaboration between national office staff and LCWR/CMSM leadership. Staff members communicate with the various Vatican offices in setting up appointments, dealing with scheduling conflicts, making reservations, and more. Their skills and collabora-

tion make this trip go smoothly and allow the LCWR/CMSM leadership to continue to focus on other details that are necessary in preparation for this journey.

One of the first things we do once the delegation arrives is to gather for a planning meeting. We review the daily schedule, discuss our talking points, and work through scheduling conflicts that require us to divide up in order to keep all appointments. This year the entire LCWR delegation was able to attend all the joint meetings while the CMSM delegation had to split up for some.

The schedule included joint appointments with the following pontifical councils: Justice and Peace, Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples, Social Communications, Inter-Religious Dialogue, Culture, Laity, and Family. We also had a joint appointment with the Congregation for the Oriental Churches. Other joint appointments were with the US Ambassador to the Holy See, and the International Union of Superiors General and the Union of Superiors General leadership teams. As in the past, we enjoyed an evening reception for leaders and curial members atop the monastery of the Conventual Friars located inside the walls of the Vatican.

LCWR's appointments with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) and the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL) were separate from those of CMSM, and LCWR hosted a meeting with major superiors who have provinces in the United States.

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LCWR and CMSM officers meet with Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko of the Pontifical Council for the Laity

Appointments with Vatican Officials

In a previous communication LCWR members received a report about the meetings with CDF and CICLSAL so this report will include only highlights from a few of the other appointments.

During our meeting with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace we had a very lively exchange of ideas discussing issues such as the polarity and division being experienced in both church and civil society, how to promote a culture of peace and develop right relationships, intercultural concerns, and the deep desire for unity, noting that unity does not equal sameness.

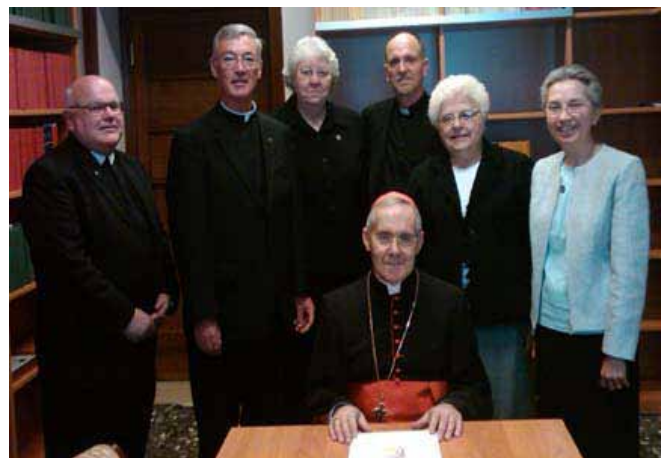
At the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples we learned of the many and various groups of itinerant peoples that this council serves -- from migrants to cruise ship workers to travelers and airline flight attendants and pilots. We spoke in detail about the issues of immigration reform that we in the United States are facing. At one point in the conversation a staff member reminded us that as this debate grows larger we may be faced with making some critical choices. He was wondering if civil disobedience may be one of the choices some of our congregational members may make in our efforts to reform immigration policies.

One of our first-time visits was to the Pontifical Council for Social Communications and we gained new insights into the difference between the Vatican press office and the social communications office. The staff explained that their offices are not the official press office for the Vatican and they are not directly involved in media communications that come from the Vatican. Rather

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Members of the delegations at the monastery of the Conventual Friars



Meeting with Cardinal Jean-Louis Taurin of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue



The delegations met with Archbishop Cyril Vasil, SJ of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches

they are connected with activities such as the broadcasting of Christmas and Easter Masses at St. Peter's. They also demonstrated some of the materials available for use on their website (www.pccs.va) and spoke of responsibilities such as:

- encouraging the use of technology
- teaching other groups to use technology so that it will become a tool used to reflect and promote the Gospel and the message of the Catholic Church
- teaching that technology can be used to promote dialogue that leads to deeper understanding of one another, of faith traditions and their history, and to human development
- helping others to recognize that new technology is creating a new culture which requires direction and guidance for people of faith and values.

The staff members spoke of their desire to connect with other groups and we mentioned the National Communicators Network of Women Religious. We promised to put them in touch with some members of that group, and we mutually agreed to meet again next year.

Our meeting with the major superiors was very well attended, with more than 45 leaders participating. We shared with them what we shared with LCWR members about our visits with CDF and CICLSAL. We were encouraged by their great concern for both the members of the LCWR and for the organization itself as we continue to deal with the questions that come from the doctrinal assessment process. Be assured that with this meeting and the meeting with the UISG and USG, we received promises of ongoing support and expressions of deep concern about both the apostolic visitation and the doctrinal assessment. All expressed a willingness to do whatever we might ask as both studies unfold.

The Rome trip of 2010 is now completed but some of the follow-up is still a work in progress. Returning home is always a joy, and sharing this information with you can never completely describe the experience or share the depth of the learnings. But making the connections and meeting face-to-face is an invaluable part of the tasks we take on yearly.



THE Occasional Papers

Order Occasional Papers by June 1

An order form for the Summer 2010 issue of LCWR's *Occasional Papers* is available on the LCWR website at: www.lcwr.org/lcwrpublications/OPordersSummer10.pdf

Orders are due by **June 1**.

This issue focuses on religious life leadership as both prophetic and imaginative and includes an interview with Walter Brueggemann, author of *The Prophetic Imagination*.

Although all members, associates, and subscribers will receive their own copy of this issue, many leaders order additional copies for their members. If you have any questions about an order, please contact Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org or at 301-588-4955.

Meeting with Dr. Falmina Giovanelli, Msgr. Anthony Frontiero, Msgr. James Reinert, SJ of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

WOMEN & *spirit*

CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage Welcomes Women & Spirit

The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage hosted a reception on May 8 to mark the opening of *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America*. Attended by representatives of many of the congregations of women religious in northeast Ohio, as well as other local officials, the reception marked the beginning of a three-and-a-half month series of programs and events throughout Cleveland that will highlight the contributions of Catholic sisters to US history and culture.

The exhibit includes locally-created materials that tell the story of women religious in northeast Ohio. The Maltz Museum is offering more than a dozen public programs, performances, and lectures related to the *Women & Spirit* exhibit, while numerous other organizations throughout the city are presenting their own material with complementary subject matter. In addition Steven Hacker produced a film, *Women with Spirit*, exclusively for the Maltz Museum, which highlights the role of spirituality in the lives and work of Cleveland area women leaders of various faiths. Women religious are also now serving as Maltz Museum docents.

Many elementary and secondary school trips to the exhibit have been planned, in part due to the generous gift of Cleveland Bishop Richard Lennon in the amount of \$25,000 to be used for the transportation and museum admission fees for any student in the diocese who wishes to see the exhibit.

The members of the local committee who are responsible for the promotion of the exhibit as well as the creation of its local component include Lynn Berner; Maureen Grady, OSU; Patricia Harding; Cheryl Keehner, CSA; and Carol Ziegler, SND.



LCWR past president J Lora Dambroski, OSF led a prayer and blessings at the opening reception



Cecilia Liberatore, SND, chair, of the Conference of Religious Leadership in the diocese of Cleveland offered remarks at the opening

Upcoming Showings

Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage
Beachwood, Ohio (outside of Cleveland)
May 9 - August 28, 2010

Statue of Liberty National Monument/Ellis Island Immigration Museum
New York
September 24, 2010 - January 22, 2011

Mississippi River Museum
Dubuque, Iowa
February - April 2011

Center for History
South Bend, Indiana
September 2 - December 31, 2011

Venues for 2012 are being finalized

Mayor and City Council of Chicago Honor LCWR

The mayor and city council of Chicago issued a resolution honoring the Leadership Conference of Women Religious on its action on behalf of health-care reform. Alderman Mary Ann Smith presented the resolution on April 14. The resolution reads in part:

“Whereas, that on March 17, 2010 the Leadership Conference of Women Religious sent all members of Congress a letter in support of healthcare reform; and

Whereas, that the signers of that letter, because of their commitment to life and their dedication to the sick and poor, called for universal and affordable healthcare...; and

Whereas, that this significant demonstration of Catholic women’s support for healthcare reform, as part of their dedication to the sick and poor, was key in persuading some lawmakers to vote yes on the healthcare bill; and

Be it resolved, that we, the Mayor and the Members of the City Council of Chicago assembled this fourteenth day of April 2010, do hereby honor the Sisters of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious for their humble service to the sick and poor of our country through their leadership at this critical time in our nation’s history; now, therefore,

Be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to all members of Congress and to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.”

Mayor Richard M. Daley and city clerk Miguel del Valle signed the resolution.



Update is an official publication of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious published monthly and distributed to members nationally.

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LCWR Finance Committee Meets

On April 28 and 29, the LCWR finance committee met in the Baltimore area. Elizabeth Ney, CSJ, the treasurer of LCWR, was not able to attend the meeting due to illness. Committee members present for the meeting were Pam Chiesa, PBVM; Beatrice Hernandez, OSF; Helen Ingles, IHM; Sheila Megley, RSM; and Doretta Meier, OSF. Pat Cormack, SCSC, LCWR associate director for business and finance also attended.

The committee received a report on LCWR investments from Eileen O’Connell and Julie Frank of Christian Brothers Investment Services. The committee also received and studied a copy of the annual review for both LCWR and for the Cameron Street Building presented by Joe McCathran of Linton Shafer Warfield and Garrett PA.

Recommendations regarding new finance committee members as well as the LCWR dues for 2011 through 2013 are being forwarded to the LCWR executive committee and the LCWR board. The committee prepared and submitted materials for the LCWR 2009 annual report. The committee also thanked Pam Chiesa for her service on the finance committee as she completes her term.

Interfaith Nuclear Disarmament Group Calls for Action on START

Encouraged by President Obama’s signing of the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty), the Interfaith Nuclear Disarmament Group met on April 27 to plan for action on the treaty, which must have a two-thirds vote of the Senate for ratification. The last START agreement expired in December 2009, with presidents of both Russia and the United States agreeing to monitor until ratification of a new treaty.

Senators whose votes are key were identified for lobby efforts. Participating groups declared commitments. Steve Colecchi, representing the USCCB, shared a list of resources which were rolled out to Catholic social ministry leaders. A representative of evangelicals shared information about a National Week of Coordinated Citizen Advocacy, May 17-21, 2010 which all members of the group supported. Both CMSM and LCWR committed to share information with their members, encourage

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participation in the May advocacy week, and expressed willingness to participate in lobby visits to key senators on the Hill.

NETWORK Board Acknowledges Highs and Lows

The April 23-24 NETWORK board meeting agenda was not only very full, but also included both celebrations and difficult issues. The meeting opened with highlights from staff on NETWORK's key role in passage of healthcare reform legislation and subsequent multiple contributions from grateful donors, both current and new. Board members also discussed the letter from LCWR presidents addressing problems with the process and communication of the letter signed by the LCWR president and a number of members. A letter expressing sincere regret for mistakes made was proposed by board members and subsequently drafted and sent to LCWR presidents.

Board members energetically moved ahead with the strategic planning process. At the same time, led by the strategic planning facilitator, they confronted financial and other problems facing NETWORK and proposed specific steps to address them.

Additionally, the board approved by-law changes, made appointments to the coordinating council, and celebrated with gratitude board members whose terms have expired and staff members for their work.

JFI Core Members Focus on GOP Co-Sponsors for Immigration Legislation

Following the framework for comprehensive immigration reform legislation issued by Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), and the decision of Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC) to step back from being a co-sponsor, members of the legislative/policy sub-committee of the Justice for Immigrants Campaign agreed, during the May 12 meeting, to focus on lobby visits to several Republican senators, encouraging them to work with Senator Schumer on a bi-partisan bill.

During a discussion about the recent Arizona law, the joint statement by the presidents of LCWR and CMSM was shared. Also, a CRS member stated that much attention has been paid to the law in Mexico and Central and South America where underlying racism in the United States is a matter of concern. The law will be addressed in the upcoming consultation of bishops of the Americas.

Recognizing that introduction of legislation this year is unlikely, core members also discussed the importance of education and communication in working with Catholic communities and organizations. There were reports on field activities in Ohio, New York City, the Philadelphia-Camden area, and upcoming activity in Boise, Idaho. A recommendation to put clips from Cardinal Mahoney's website on the JFI web was endorsed.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly

Dallas, Texas

August 10 — 13, 2010
Travel date: August 14

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

San Pedro Spiritual Retreat Center

Winter Park, FL

January 16 — 21, 2011

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake

Mundelein, Illinois

March 24 — 27, 2011

LCWR Assembly

Garden Grove, California

August 9 — 13, 2011

LCWR Assembly

St. Louis, Missouri

August 7 — 11, 2012



- On April 29, the LCWR presidents issued a statement expressing opposition to the Arizona anti-immigrant law and support for the public position of Bishop John Wester, chair of the USCCB MRS Committee. LCWR issued the statement as a press release and forwarded it to Bishop Wester, who acknowledged it with gratitude.
- In response to a recommendation from the LCWR Global Concerns Committee and CMSM Justice and Peace Committee, a letter opposing the Arizona anti-immigrant law and calling for passage of comprehensive immigration reform legislation this year was signed by the CMSM and LCWR presidents and sent on May 11 to President Obama and Democrat and Republican leaders in the House and Senate. Following an announcement to LCWR and CMSM members, a press release was issued and the statement, in both English and Spanish, was posted on the LCWR website. (The April 29 and May 11 statements can be found at www.lcwr.org/lcwrpressreleases/publicstatements.htm)
- Letters signed on behalf of LCWR by the associate director for social mission
 - Letter to Congress urging FY 2011 funding for Water for the Poor Act
 - Letter to Congress requesting support for tax credits to assist low-income working families

SHARE Announces Delegation to El Salvador

The SHARE Foundation is sponsoring a delegation to El Salvador that will commemorate the lives of the four US churchwomen assassinated in that country 30 years ago. Women religious are particularly encouraged to participate in this delegation that will focus on women's justice issues both in El Salvador

and around the world. The delegation will take place from November 29 - December 6. More information will follow in the LCWR newsletter. More information can be obtained by contacting the SHARE office at 202-319-5540. Cost is \$850, plus airfare (scholarships and group discounts are available).



NCNWR Announces 16th Annual Conference

The National Communicators Network for Women Religious (NCNWR) will host its 16th annual conference September 21-24 in Denver, Colorado. Presentations and breakout sessions will focus on the theme "Moving Mountains."

Carol Zinn, SSJ, a member of the leadership team of the Sisters of St. Joseph from Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, will be the opening presenter at the conference on Wednesday. An internationally known speaker and author, she will challenge attendees to "reflect on the power of one — communicators 'moving mountains,' for the life of the world." The next day, Heather Mansfield will address mobile technology at the morning session, and then will offer two of the workshop options that afternoon, "Maintaining Your Social Media" and "E-Newsletters." Other session and workshop options will include "Virtual Meeting, Vibrant Reality" by Tanya Mullen; a panel on reconfiguration that will feature three congregations; and "Leadership and Communicators Working Together" by former LCWR executive director Carole Shinnick, SSND. Barbara Mullen, CSJ, will speak on the spirituality of communications on the closing day. NCNWR members will also showcase exemplary communications projects, as judged by their peers, during the "Best Practices" sessions.

Congregational leaders are encouraged to attend. The conference schedule and registration form are available online at www.ncnwr.org, under "Conference."