

## ON ECUMENISM TODAY...

*"The world is looking for a Christian witness that has moved beyond the parochial, beyond a focus on institutional survival and denominational structures."*

*"The best way to be religiously tolerant is to have a secure sense of one's own tradition and be able to share it while respecting other traditions. If we can foster that, we might be able to raise a generation capable of overcoming the type of violence seen in Beirut, Bosnia and Belfast."*

*"Neither on the religious left nor the right, the NCC is a moderating group by virtue of our diverse makeup."*

*"My sense of community has been informed by the powerful concept in Lakota spirituality that we are part of a circle, not at the center of it. Too often we claim the center, either as individuals or religious groups, exhibiting an excessive concern for rights rather than responsibility and accountability."*

—The Rt. Rev. Craig B. Anderson

## ABOUT THE NCC

The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA is the primary national expression of the movement for Christian unity in the United States. The NCC's member communions, including more than 30 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican church bodies, work together on a wide range of activities that further Christian unity, that witness to the faith and that serve people throughout the world. Some 52 million U.S. Christians belong to churches that hold Council membership.

All the member communions subscribe to the Preamble to the NCC Constitution, which states, "The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America is a community of communions, which, in response to the gospel as revealed in the Scriptures, confess Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God, as Savior and Lord. These communions covenant with one another to manifest ever more fully the unity of the Church. Relying upon the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, the communions come together as the Council in common mission, serving in all creation to the glory of God."

The Council was formed in 1950 in Cleveland, Ohio, by the action of representatives of the member churches, and by the merger of 12 previously existing ecumenical agencies, each of which had a different program focus. The roots of some of these agencies go back to the 19th century.



For more information about the NCC contact:

NCC Communication Department  
475 Riverside Drive, Room 850, NY, NY 10115



The Rt. Rev. Craig B. Anderson

PRESIDENT 1998-99

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

