



# INTERCOM

Kentucky Council of Churches



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## You are invited to Nominate a Peacemaker & Racial Equity Advocate of the Year

Here's a chance to put the spotlight on a couple of Kentucky's special saints: You are invited to **nominate someone** who deserves recognition as Kentucky's **Peacemaker of the Year**, and someone who deserves the mantle of **Racial Equity Advocate of the Year**.

To learn more about the criteria for each of these awards, go to <http://capwiz.com/kychurches>.

The KCC Program Unit on Peacemaking and Racism will review all nominations and will present awards during the Annual Assembly of the Kentucky Council of Churches, October 19-20, in Bardstown.

## Annual Assembly In Bardstown, Oct. 19-20 Theme: Becoming a New Church



### Theological educator, Dr. Malcolm Warford, to give key-note presentations

Dr. Malcolm L. Warford, director of The Lexington Seminar, a project of the Lilly Endowment focusing on theological teaching and learning for the churches' ministries, will be the key-note speaker at the 58th Annual Assembly of the Kentucky Council of Churches.

The Assembly of Delegates and observers will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 19th, at First Christian Church, 175 E. John Rowan Blvd., in Bardstown. It will conclude at 12:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 20th.

Warford's two lectures, on Thursday and Friday mornings, will focus on the theme of "becoming a new church". The Thursday lecture is titled: "Arrivals and Departures"; the Friday lecture is titled "Promises of Return."

Warford has been with The Lexington Seminar since 1998. It is a project of the Lilly Endowment that focuses on the seminary faculty as educators-teachers who face increasingly diverse students who are preparing for ministries in a changing church. The project involves over 40 seminaries and university divinity schools. Warford, formerly president at Bangor Theological Seminary, and Eden Theological Seminary, was one of the first Protestants to become a full-time, tenured member of a Catholic theological faculty, and the first public member of the Board of Trustees of Maryknoll School of Theology, where he served for 10 years. He is the author numerous articles, several books and monographs, including a book entitled *Becoming a New Church* [Pilgrim Press, 2000]. With nearly 40 years experience and involvement with theological seminaries, he has close contact with current trends and patterns of church life.

The 58th Assembly of the Kentucky Council of Churches will offer workshops and worship opportunities that will look at ways the church is "post-denominational" and how mission programs and mission itself are changing. [See page 3 for more information.]

## Archbishop Kelly to preach at KCC's 58th Ecumenical Community Worship Service at Historic Proto-Cathedral

The Most Rev. Thomas C. Kelly, OP, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Louisville, will offer the homily at the Ecumenical Community Worship Service as part of the KCC's 58th Annual Assembly, in Bardstown. The service will be held at 7:30 p.m., Thursday evening, Oct. 19th at the historic Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral, 310 W.



Archbishop Kelly, OP

Stephen Foster Avenue, Bardstown. The Proto-Cathedral is the first Roman Catholic Cathedral west of the Allegheny Mountains. The cornerstone was laid in 1816 and fully completed by 1823. Many of the paintings and interior decorations were donated by Pope Leo XII, and King Louis-Philippe of France.

Archbishop Kelly has served the Diocese of Louisville since appointed by Pope John Paul II in December, 1981. In July, 2006, he submitted his resignation to Pope Benedict XVI as required by Canon Law, but he will remain the Archbishop in Louisville until his successor is named by the Congregation of Bishops in Rome. As a stalwart supporter of Ecumenism, the KCC is honored that Archbishop Kelly has agreed to be the preacher for our 58th Assembly.



Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral



By Nancy Jo Kemper, Executive Director

The older I've gotten, the more weight I have stacked on my decreasing frame, that was never very tall to begin with. In a word, I've gotten fat. My doctor, kind man that he is, doesn't use the phrase "morbid obesity", but I can read the charts that are provided in magazines, newspapers, and on the internet. Having visited many denominational meetings this past year, to be a bit more polite with you than I am with myself, I don't think I'll be breaking any startling news if I tell you that many clergy and church leaders, in fact, probably a majority—over 50% of us—are, hmmm, on the more than pudgy side of what would be really healthy.

Our Annual Assembly in October will focus on how the Church is becoming a new: in terms of institution, theology, worship, and mission. Mission, as much as anything, is being impacted negatively by our shared weight problems and lack of healthy life-styles. Many of our denominations are facing such rapid rises in the cost of health insurance premiums that the only answer is to cut programs and missional activities so that health insurance can be provided to clergy and religious workers.

In an article in the most recent issue of *The Christian Recorder*, a publication of the AME Church, they cite a United Methodist physician who believes his denomination's clergy are among the least-healthy professional groups in the US. Dr. Scott Morris, a UMC pastor and Executive Director of the Church Health Center in Memphis, said pastors and church members need to realize that "the least healthy meal you eat every week is usually at your church." It shouldn't be that way. Morris reports that 50 years ago Methodist clergy were in the top five healthiest professions in America, and now they are in the bottom five least healthy.

For what it is worth, and from my observations at conventions of many of the KCC's member communions, the Methodists are not alone. So I'm not picking on them. What's true for Methodists is true for every denomination all across our state.

Last year the KCC launched a "church campaign for health", noting that Kentucky ranks #5 in the nation for obesity, with over 25% of our adults qualifying as overweight. We rank #3 in the numbers of overweight high school students. We are #7 in the percentage of adults with diabetes; #6 in the percentage of adults with high blood pressure. Our big problem with weight is costing the Commonwealth over a billion dollars a year.

Just in case you don't know whether you are merely over-weight, obese, or morbidly obese, go to: <http://health.com/dietfitness/bmicalculator.aspx>. Then you'll know for sure.

As Christians who believe that God was *incarnate*, enfolded in the body of Jesus of Nazareth, we affirm the worth and beauty of the body. It is a good gift, for which we are each stewards. Tending to our health, especially our weight, is a matter of primary stewardship; its neglect is a primary sin (see gluttony).

The Council believes this is one of the most critical issues facing the life of Kentucky Churches. Will you join me in an effort over the next three years to focus on honoring our own physical bodies, and those of our church members, by enlisting our congregations in programs of healthy eating, encouraging exercise for all ages of persons in our churches, and challenge especially our leaders and clergy to work to get their Body Mass Index (BMI) to a healthy range of 25 or below, by the year 2008? It won't be easy, but if we help one another, we can do it and be a model for the folk in our churches.

## KCC Member Denomination Statistics Worth Noting

The Kentucky Council of Churches represents 2025 congregations in 24 "judicatories", or administrative units. There are an estimated 749,649 members in these congregations, using the reports of each denomination, which may vary significantly in how membership is counted. One judicatory has not yet reported in.

<u>Rank by # of Congregations</u>	<u>% of Congregations</u>	<u>Rank by # of Reported Members</u>	<u>% of All KCC Members</u>
941 congregations = United Methodist	46.47%	382,000 members = Roman Catholic	50.96%
325 congregations = Roman Catholic	16.05%	254,503 members = United Methodist	33.95%
235 congregations = Christian Church (Disciples)	11.60%	31,941 members = Christian Church (Disciples)	4.26%
190 congregations = Presbyterian Church, USA	9.38%	26,146 members = Presbyterian Church, USA	3.49%
110 congregations = Cumberland Presbyterian	5.43%	19,199 members = Episcopal Church	2.56%
66 congregations = Episcopal Church	3.26%	9,719 members = Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	1.30%
46 congregations = Christian Methodist Episcopal	2.27%	8,000 members = AME, W. Ky Conference	1.07%
37 congregations = Evangelical Lutheran Ch in America	1.83%	6,300 members = United Church of Christ	.84%
29 congregations = United Church of Christ	1.43%	5,240 members = Cumberland Presbyterian Church	.70%
23 congregations = AME Zion	1.14%	4,590 members = Christian Methodist Episcopal	.61%
23 congregations = AME, W. Ky Conf. Only	1.14%	2,011 members = AME Zion	.27%

**KCC'S MISSION: to promote the visible unity of Christ's church and serve**

## Celebrate Children's Sabbath October 20-22

Children's Sabbath, celebrating its 15th year, is a project of the Children's Defense Fund. It provides churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques with the opportunity to celebrate children. Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund, says: "Let thousands of congregations of every faith in communities across the nation unite to proclaim all children are precious to God and to us. Pray and sing and preach and teach and act. Respond to meet immediate, urgent needs of children....Most importantly, let us strengthen what each of our places of worship is already doing with and for children while considering what more we can do to bring health and hope to children.."

A multi-faith resource manual provides everything you need to know to plan and promote your Children's Sabbath celebration. It has worship services for Christian communions as well as interfaith programs, lesson plans, clip art, ideas for hands on service and children's advocacy projects. This year's theme is: "Congregations Stand for Healthy Children: Bringing Hope and Healing." You can order it on-line at [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).

## Kentucky's children fairing worse according to new data

According to new data released on Aug. 29 by the US Census Bureau, 75,000 children in our state had no health insurance during 2004-2005. Kentucky Youth Advocates Director Terry Brooks stated "that level of children at risk is unacceptable and demands prompt and intentional response from the state's leaders."

Other data reveal that Kentucky ranks 42nd on child well-being. In 2004, 25% of Kentucky children under 18 were living in poverty, a 14% setback from 2000. The child death rate increased by 9% between 2000 and 2003, ranking the state 36th in the nation.

Kentucky did improve its teen birth rate by a 9% decline between 2000 and 2003.

Yet Kentucky ranks 41st in the nation for the share of high school dropouts, and was one of only nine states that did not reduce its teen high school drop-out rate.

To learn more about Kentucky's children, get the Kids Count 2006 Data Book (free) from Kentucky Youth Advocates, at 502-895-8167.

## *Your help is still needed... You now may give on-line*

Would you rather support the work of the Kentucky Council of Churches by giving \$12.50 a month instead of \$150.00 per year in a one-lump sum? Would it be easier for you to give \$25 a month instead of \$300.00 all at once?

One quick phone call is all it takes, OR **you can now use our quick, convenient, and secure online form.**

If you prefer the convenience of secure, online credit card contributions, you can make a single contribution (or an automatically recurring donation) at <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/KentuckyCouncilofChurches/OnlineGiving.html>.

You may also send a check payable to the "Kentucky Council of Churches" in the mail to:

The Kentucky Council of Churches 1500 Leestown Rd., Suite 108 Lexington, Kentucky 40511

Join the good people listed below who have already contributed. Categories of givers include:

**Ecumaniacs:** \$83.33/mo; or \$1000 + /yr; **Witnesses:** \$50/mo or \$600 + /yr; **Activists:** \$25/mo or \$300 + /yr

**Advocates:** \$10/mo; or \$60 +/yr; **Friends:** any amount at any time.

DONORS TO DATE in 2006: **Ecumaniacs:** Nancy Jo Kemper. **Activists:** Kathryn Johnson; Mark Henderson. Lucinda Laird. **Advocates:** Pax Christi Christian Unity Worship Service; Margaret Hickman; Highland UMC Women; Curt & Jan Ehrmantraut; Jim & Marilyn Powell. Bishop (ret) Wm A. Hughes; Robert Stauffer; Fred Whitmore; Loris & Phil Points. **Charles Brooks:** Gene & Jean Cravens; Nick Kafoglis, Bob Nesmith; Arlyn & Elizabeth Wagner; David Westerfield; Lil & Len Press; Charles Shearer; Barbara Roche. **Friends:** Woodland Christian CWF; Church Women United, Louisville; Ruth Beeman; Harlan Beckemeyer; James Gregory; June F. Miller; John & Ruth Porter; Evelyn Vance; Michael Ward; Kathy Miles; Armin Reitz; Guy Waldrop; John Bare; Myrtle Bingham; Mary Ruth Clark; Megan Conway; Jennifer & Glenn Payne; Mrs. Leonard Preston; Betty Schroder; Charles Williamson; Charles Wilson; Church of our Savior; J. Gregory Alexander; Rebecca Curry; Maryrhea Morelock; Ben & Nina Poage; Anne O'Brien Riley; Sidney Simandle; Suzanne M. Warner; Jerry & Rita Cambron; Freddy Riggs; Candy Simms; Chris Skidmore; Debra Taylor; Joseph & Sandra Trestor; Patricia & Donald Waggener; Gary Pennington; Jim Naive; John Rosenburger; Nancy M. Kratt; JoAnn Smith; Martha Kannapell; Alfred Mattingly; Rice Sutherland; Lucinda Beck; Lisa Lewis-Balboa.

as the voice of the churches for unity, justice and peace in society

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## KCC Assembly delegates to vote on policies on earth care, immigration Visitors, seminary students welcome to attend

The 58th Annual Assembly of delegates from member denominations and congregations will gather on Thursday, Oct. 19, at First Christian Church in Bardstown. The Assembly is the final authoritative decision making body for the Kentucky Council of Churches, and each member denomination is represented by a number of delegates determined based on the size of their denominational unit. The focus of these Assemblies is always more on providing opportunities for decisions about new public policies or Christian unity documents, and dialogue with one another, than on the administration of the Council. Administrative oversight is provided by an Executive Board, made up of denominational executives or their appointed alternates, and by an Administrative Committee composed of officers and commission leaders.

Two new public policy papers will be voted on by delegates to the Assembly. The votes must be unanimous, or the documents will be sent back for further work. Each delegate is responsible for ensuring that the policy is not contrary to any existing policy of their denomination. The two policies to be presented this year include one on the “care of the earth, and sustainable local economies”, and one on immigration issues. Denominational groups meet at dinner-time on Thursday, prior to the worship service, to review the policy papers from the perspective of their denomination. The votes are held on Friday morning.

The new paper on “Care of the Earth” addresses the farm and rural economy crises and the needs for environmental justice. It calls for support for rural economies; viable systems of family farming; preservation of woodlands, wetlands and karst; opposes raising domestic animals in inhumane living conditions; ending mountaintop removal—among the 20 recommendations. The paper on Immigration Reform calls for an immigration system that will facilitate a just system and serve the God-given dignity and rights of every individual. It calls for legislative and other solutions that will accomplish a broad-based legalization of the undocumented, a temporary worker program with protections for both US and foreign workers, changes to the family-based immigration system to reduce waiting times; restoration of due process for immigrants; and wages and benefits commensurate with US workers.

Workshops on these proposed policy papers, and on the themes of the Assembly, will be part of the day and a half long gathering. Seminary students may attend without paying a registration fee, but should register. Registration for others is \$50, and may be paid on-line at <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/KentuckyCouncilofChurches/OnlineGiving.html>. Be sure to write “Annual Assembly Registration” in the comment box. If you are a seminary student, also indicate which seminary you attend. Although there is no registration fee for seminarians, lunch on Thursday and Friday will be available for \$17.00.