



Executive Director:
Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith

Organizing, Energizing and Mobilizing the Faith Community Since 1912

**Denominations and
Congregations represented:**

- African Methodist Episcopal Church
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.
- Assemblies of God Church
- Church of God, Anderson
- Church of God in Christ
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- Church of the Brethren
- Church of the Living God
- The Episcopal Church
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Greek Orthodox Church
- Independent Baptist
- Independent Christian
- Interdenominational Community Churches
- International Council of Community Churches
- Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod
- Mennonite Church
- Moravian Church
- National Baptist Convention of America
- National Baptist Convention, U.S.A.
- National Missionary Baptist Convention
- Pentecostal Apostolic
- Pentecostal Assemblies of the World
- Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
- Progressive National Baptist Convention
- Reformed Church in America
- Roman Catholic Church
- The Salvation Army
- Society of Friends
- Unity Church
- United Church of Christ
- The United Methodist Church

Mission:

“Striving to make visible God’s gift of unity in Jesus Christ and the quality of community God wills for the human family.”

Spiritual Outlook

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Unity?

By Rev. Dr. Angelique
Walker-Smith

Today there is much discussion about unity—“Unity in the community,” as the slogan goes. To be sure, this is an important principle for the benefit of the common good. But people of faith also understand that the unity Jesus prayed for was not only intended for today, but for the eternal.

Jesus points to the unity of the Father, Son (Jesus the Christ) and Holy Spirit as the most holy illustration of what unity means for Christian people (John 17:20-23). Revelation speaks of this trinity when it refers to the Alpha (beginning) and the Omega (end). Here the writer dares to present a dramatic visual image of the eternal community most often referred to as “heaven.” At the same time, St. Paul speaks of the crucified Jesus (Jesus the Christ) as a stumbling block for the natural man or woman so it is no wonder that the unity that Jesus prayed for is often a stumbling block for both believers and unbelievers of the Christian faith. Still, we are reminded that unity is what Jesus prayed for before he was arrested, imprisoned, and ultimately crucified and resurrected.

So what does this unity mean for us today, given the scriptures that suggest that by faith, what we do in unity today is not only important for today, but for the long term? Consider the anointing of the unity found in the leadership of our Christian brother, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, and many others who dared to dream another world situated in a vision of a beloved community presented in Scripture. People like me and many others have benefited from this and so will our children. Consider our ancestors who not only survived the enslaved journey across Atlantic

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Ocean but who dared to seek any opportunity to reunify their families against tremendous and brutal odds in this country.

These examples were and still are witnesses to the power of the spirit of unity. During Black History Month, we are left with the question of "Where is the spirit of unity today?" The Spirit of unity is a movement of love, mercy, long-suffering, justice, kindness and vulnerability. At the same time, the Spirit of unity is not a movement of uniformity, but of these shared core values that affirm the beauty of God's creation. Scripture even speaks of the loveliness of this. The Spirit of unity dares to suggest a willingness to wrestle with both the pain and joy of our diversity.

Your Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis is one of the oldest vehicles of Christian unity in our nation and world. In 2012, we will celebrate our Centennial! We are currently discerning our way in our next strategic/business plan for 2008-10. May I invite you to not only seriously consider your leadership for unity in your congregation and local community, but across the racial-ethnic, theological, geographical distinctions all of us find in our community. God bless you in your call and commitment to the prayer of Jesus for unity.