

Vermont Ecumenical Council and Bible Society

The purpose of the Vermont Ecumenical Council and Bible Society (VECBS) is to promote unity in Vermont's Christian churches, especially among its nine member denominations. The leaders of these denominations, or their representatives, are members of the VECBS Board of Trustees. The Board meetings provide an opportunity for the leaders to meet and have fellowship, to worship together, and to find ways to cooperate and work together.

The Council has three standing committees. One of these committees is Peace, Justice, and the Integrity of Creation. In 2008, this committee studied the issue of racism and wrote *A Statement on Racism: Brothers and Sisters Together* (at www.vecbs.org). They then began an in depth study of water, both from a Christian perspective with its significance to the Christian faith, and from an ecological and justice point of view as an essential element for life to survive.

The Council's Faith & Order Committee members are completing their study of the World Council of Churches' paper, *The Nature and Mission of the Church*. They plan to submit their comments about this paper, first to VECBS Trustees and members, then to WCC in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Prayer & Worship Committee organized and led the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service that was held at the Dormition of the Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church in Burlington in January. Greek Orthodox theologian, The Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald, was the homilist.

In 2008, the Bible Society part of VECBS distributed a total of \$6,376 worth of free Bibles through its Greenleaf Fund to Vermont ministries including to churches, prison ministry, soldiers, youth groups, high school students, refugees, and more.

The Council serves as a communication link in the faith community. An email newsletter is sent monthly to all who want to receive it (to subscribe, email info@vecbs.org or call 802-434-7307).

The Council helps to get the word out to faith communities throughout the state about events, services, issues of concern and more.