

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Joan Brown Campbell **General Secretary**

The Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, is chief executive of the nation's leading ecumenical organization, a position she has held since 1991. Ordained a pastor in both the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the American Baptist Church, Dr. Campbell is the first woman minister to serve as General Secretary of the NCC.

She works with the 33 member communions of the NCC and the staff to oversee the Council's varied programs, focuses on relationships that build toward Christian unity, and works tirelessly to show the nation how religion and public life are related in the pursuit of the common good.

Dr. Campbell directed the World Council of Churches' U.S. office for six years prior to election as General Secretary and before that was Associate Director of the Greater Cleveland Interchurch Council and pastor of Euclid Baptist Church.

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

THE REV. DR. JOAN BROWN CAMPBELL

AT THE NCC:

Joan Brown Campbell, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, is a spiritual leader as well as chief executive officer of the nation's leading ecumenical organization. Under her guidance, the Council works for greater Christian unity and toward justice and peace in the United States and the world.

The Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell has headed the NCC since 1991. She is ordained as a minister in both the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the American Baptist Church, and is the first woman minister to serve as General Secretary of the NCC.

Dr. Campbell represents the Council nationally and internationally, and is in demand as a speaker because of her dynamic style and the moral force of her message.

She works with the 33 member communions of the NCC and with staff to oversee the Council's varied programs and is a leader in efforts to open channels of cooperation with other churches, faith groups and related organizations. Relationships built through that work energize her ministry and are key to her success as the National Council's chief executive.

In her first term, Dr. Campbell's vision led the Council through a transformation process that gave it a more coherent public voice, greater program coordination, and an improved ability to serve member communions and their congregations. Under her leadership, the Council has achieved greater financial stability. Her vision led to creation of the Ecumenical Development Initiative, a joint project with the World Council of Churches, which seeks to raise \$150 million to support various aspects of the councils' work.

PUBLIC MINISTRIES

Dr. Campbell works tirelessly to show the nation how religion and public life are related and makes a compelling case for the common good, particularly as she leads the churches to speak on behalf of the vulnerable and those pushed to the margins of society. She has led the Council to strengthen its National Ministries programs in ways that emphasize racial justice and focus attention on initiatives that affect the quality of life.

At the invitation of the President of the United States, Dr. Campbell was a delegate to world conferences in Cairo (population) and Copenhagen (social development) and was present when Yitzhak Rabin and Yasir Arafat shook hands at the White House. She also accompanied the President on the sad journey to Israel for the funeral of the assassinated Prime Minister Rabin.

HISTORY

Joan Campbell's leadership has been shaped by a ministry in which she has helped churches throughout the world work for the common good. She directed the World Council of Churches' U.S. Office from 1985 until she elected NCC General Secretary. From 1973 to 1979 she was Associate Director of the Greater Cleveland Interchurch Council, serving concurrently as pastor of Euclid Baptist Church for several years. Earlier she directed the Council for Action in Public Education, a program of the Ohio Synod of the former United Presbyterian Church in the USA.

In Cleveland, she also held executive posts with the Action for Change Program of the Catholic Diocese, the Welfare Action Coalition, Community United Headstart and the Action Training Network of Ohio. From 1954 to 1967 she was a homemaker, mother and community volunteer.

SERVICE TO ORGANIZATIONS

Joan Campbell is a leader in professional and community organizations concerned with church unity, racial and cultural diversity, poverty, the environment, education and other issues. She is on the boards of more than 20 institutions, including Union Theological Seminary in New York City, the Christian Children's Fund, and the Fund for Education in South Africa, and is President of the Board of the World Conference on Religion and Peace. She is a life member of the NAACP and the Council on Christian Unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

HONORS

Dr. Campbell has received dozens of awards, including two for service on behalf of women: the Outstanding Woman Award from WomenSpace, a coalition of Cleveland women's groups that she helped found, and the YWCA's Woman of Achievement Award. Her honors also include induction into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers, Sponsors and Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College, Atlanta.

EDUCATION

In addition to several honorary doctorates, Joan Campbell has earned degrees from the University of Michigan. She completed the Graduate Clergy Internship Program at Case Western Reserve School of Social Work and studied at Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Geneva, Switzerland.

PERSONAL

Joan Campbell has three grown children and five grandchildren. She is a member and elder at Park Avenue Christian Church, New York City.