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**World
Student
Christian
Federation**

**North
America**

**2013 Annual
Report**



UT OMNES
UNUM SINT

“So that all
May be one”

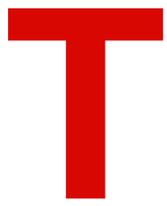


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North American Regional Committee

NARC in 2013

Linwood Blizzard, II Treasurer

Kelly Colwell, Bible, Theology and Innovative Liturgy

Brandon Cook, Executive Committee (ExCo) member

Sheryl Johnson, Executive Committee (ExCo) member

Smith Heavner, Lutheran Student Movement Rep

Luciano Kovacs, North American Regional Secretary

Hierald Kane-Osorto, Co-chair

Desireé Kameka, Communication Coordinator

Christianne McGinn, Women, Gender and Sexuality Coordinator

Shantha Ready, WSCF Vice-chair

Miriam Spies, Co-chair

Emily Tynes, Advocacy and Solidarity Coordinator

Bre Woligroski, Executive Committee (ExCo) member

NARC elected five new members in December, 2013

Jennifer Bailey, Advocacy and Solidarity Coordinator

Sonny Duncan, Women, Gender and Sexuality Coordinator

Laura Newby, Liaison to the Young Adult Networks of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Cydney Proctor, Canadian Co-Chair

Andrew Ponders Williams, US Co-chair

R

egional Secretary Introduction

Luciano Kovacs

(WSCF-NA Regional Secretary)

Dear friends,

I am delighted to introduce the 2013 annual report for the World Student Christian Federation-North America. This was a year full of events and activities as well as discernment and transition.

Following the 2012 national board consultations for both the Student Christian Movement of Canada (SCMC) and the Student Christian Movement (SCM) -USA, in 2013 the movements had each a national conference. The SCM of Canada held its national conference at Five Oaks in Paris, Ontario on the theme of *Re:Creation, ecology;movement re/building;personal restoration*. The SCM-USA held its first National Leadership Training Program (LTP) at the 4H Youth Center in Chevy Chase, MD on the theme of ***SCM Moving Forward: Empowering Christian Students for Progress and Social Change***



At both meetings, it was re-affirmed how unique and important it is to continue to offer a space like SCM to new generations of young adults and students that is meaningful and relevant for the 21st Century. Engaging young Christian students in progressive theological reflection, critical thinking and social justice activism in connection to a global community of justice seekers within the WSCF is a commitment we must nourish and renew in times of great social unrest, economic challenges, political ferment and dramatic change in the life of churches across the continent and the world.

The North American Regional Committee (NARC) met in Toronto in the month of June, 2013. The committee reaffirmed the priority emerged at the Assembly in 2011 of supporting movement building in Canada and the US. My office has been therefore heavily involved in facilitating the work of the core leadership group of SCM-USA and in supporting the board of the SCMC in promoting movement growth as well as planning the SCM-USA Leadership Training Program held in April. Currently, my office functions as the National Office for the SCM-USA.

Itang Young, SCM-USA Conference Coordinator, was instrumental in planning the SCM-USA national conference as well as helping the fostering of emergent local SCM unites their connecting to the national movement and the WSCF.

The SCM of Canada ended its jubilee year in 2013 and hired new General Secretary, Sarah Mikhael. Sarah lay the ground work for movement building in Canada in her first few months in the job.

In 2013, students and young adults both in leadership positions and emerging as leaders attended regional and global events, either organized by the WSCF or co-sponsored by the Federation, including the

Commission of the Status of Women at the UN in New York; the WSCF Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting in Seoul Korea, the World Council of Churches General Assembly and the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute in Busan, Korea; Peace For Life's Third People Forum in Jeju Island, Korea; the International Camps at the Ecumenical Center of Agape in Italy; Ecumenical Water Network Strategic

Consultation in Berlin, Germany and the Annual Meeting of the International Coordinating Meeting of Youth Organizations. Members of SCMs also attended local, thematic and denominational events such as Ecumenical Advocacy Days, the Wild Goose Festival, the Fund for Theological Education's Vocational Discernment Conference.

In this report you will find significant contributions by students, young adults and senior friends describing in details the events in which they have participated, they have planned and supported in 2013. I am sure you will enjoy reading about how the WSCF continues to be life-changing for so many people around the world and how its contribution to social justice and social change continues across the decades, borders and generations. A special thanks to all our partners who have generously shared resources, wisdom and friendship in our work in 2013.

In solidarity and onward to 2014!

Luciano Kovacs

North America Regional Secretary, World Student Christian Federation

“... the WSCF continues to be life-changing for so many people around the world and how its contribution to social justice and social change continues across the decades, borders and generations.”

2013

Student Christian Movement-Canada Report

Sarah Mikhael

STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT
OF CANADA **RADICAL FAITH IN ACTION • COMMUNITY IN DIVERSITY**

Annual Report 2013 Student Christian Movement of Canada

This year was a time of transition and renewal for the Student Christian Movement of Canada. We kicked off the year with our annual General Conference. This year, our theme was environmental justice and we called it Re:Creation. The Conference focused on environmental justice. We reflected on the linkages between social and ecological issues, lifestyle and political change necessary for ecological sustainability, and how Christianity can resource broader ecological movements through its rich heritage of eco-theological reflection. Workshops during the conference included a focus on bio-energetics, meditation and mindfulness, and strategic planning for SCM.

This year, we also hired a new General Secretary, Sarah Mikhael. Sarah joined SCM in 2010 when she participated in SCM's prayer vigil protest against the global summits of the G8 and G20 in Toronto. In preparation for the prayer vigil, she participated in the non-violence training organized by SCM prior the action. *Sarah has organized campaigns and actions with Health For All, G20 mobilization in 2010, Stop The Cuts and Rhythms of Resistance. Sarah currently lives in Toronto and grew up in Egypt and Kuwait.*

In the fall, the SCM activated SCM local units across the country and met with senior friends to reinvigorate the movement. In the fall, SCM also organized and supported senior friend and peace activist Audrey Tobias who was prosecuted by the Canadian government for refusing to fill out the national census form because of its links with weapons contractor Lockheed Martin. SCM helped mobilized senior friends to attend the court case in solidarity with Audrey

Tobias as well as organized the media campaign.



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Growth and momentum has been at the heart of the Student Christian Movement – USA (SCM-USA). In 2013, SCM-USA experienced a level of growth, and created an electrifying momentum that has allowed the movement to gain traction in ways never before imagined or experienced.

In April 2013, SCM-USA held the very first National Leadership Training Conference. The conference was held at the 4H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD. The conference was attended by more than 60 students and senior friends, who represented Texas, Illinois, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Montana, California, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, New York, Washington, D. C., and India. The conference theme was “*SCM Moving Forward: Empowering Christian Students for Progress and Social Change.*” The gathering was an opportunity for students, young adults, senior friends and partners at large to engage in conversations around movement building locally and nationally, to discuss global activism, and to reflect theologically upon the Christian faith and how it informs social and political engagement within the context of global grassroots organizing and movement building.

SCM-USA currently has eight chapters housed on the following campuses: Boston University, Pacific School of Religion – Berkeley, Colorado College, Hampshire College and the Five College area, Elmhurst College, Candler Theological Seminary –Atlanta, New York City (New York University chapter and the city-wide chapter) and Princeton University.

Efforts to expand the number of SCM chapters present on college campuses across the country was a major priority in 2013. Chaplains, campus ministers and students have shown interest for SCM activities at Elon College, Greensboro College, Guilford College, Maryville College, Stanford University, University of Kansas, Vanderbilt University and Wake Forest University.

To increase collegial engagement with the SCM movement, The World Student Christian Federation - NA and the Student Christian Movement (SCM) - USA extended invitations to submit proposals for the 2013-2014 SCM-USA **Seed Grants** cycle. SCM-USA offered \$1500 **grants** to individuals and organizations interested in establishing a SCM chapter on their campus or in their city. In December 2013, SCM-USA awarded four seed grants to emerging SCM-USA chapters at Boston University, New York University, SCM in the Five Colleges in Western Massachusetts and Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. The work that students on each of these campuses are engaged in will continue to allow SCM-USA to grow and expand.

The year ended with our attention focused on growth and programming. Special attention was given to the planning of the 2nd annual SCM-USA Leadership Training Conference, as well as establishing more SCM chapters on campuses across the country.

P

rogram and Activities, WSCF-NA 2013

2012 Strategic Plan for Student Christian Movement (SCM), USA and SCM Canada.

Following recommendations made at the North American Regional Assembly in 2011, the WSCF-NA has focused on supporting SCM-USA and SCM Canada in their national movement building strategies. It helped plan both national/general conferences.

*Indicates Student Report to Follow

Feb

13-20 WSCF Global Staff and Officers meeting and Capacity Building Training Cairo, Egypt

*The WSCF Global Staff Meeting took place jointly with Capacity Building Training around the Ecumenical Advocacy Program (EAP). The Annual Staff Meeting is attended by the 6 WSCF Regional Secretaries, the Gen. Secretary of the WSCF Inter-Regional Office (IRO), and the IRO officers of the WSCF. The Meeting provided an opportunity for the WSCF Executive Staff and Officers to share and discuss matters related to the daily work of the Federation, share reflections and evaluation of staff work and tackle the challenges staff meet in its work. This meeting also provided a space to work on follow-up strategies to the decisions made during the WSCF Executive Committee Meeting in Berlin in 2012. The meeting focused its work on the WSCF Strategic Plan, Global Fund-raising Strategy, Global Advocacy Work and preparations for the WSCF participation during the WCC assembly in Busan, Korea, preparation for the WSCF General Assembly in 2014 and the mandates of the Executive Committee. The **Capacity Building Training** is part of the Action Plan elaborated by the WSCF Executive Committee gathered in Berlin in May 2012. In this plan it was decided to have a training activity for the WSCF global staff team on the Ecumenical Advocacy Program as a project system, and the WSCF Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation system, from an outcome and impact orientation. The EAP is an instrument through which partner groups, churches and agencies can contribute to the movement building and activities of Student Christian Movements around the world.*

**12-18 Universal Day of Prayer for Students (UDPS)
Global**

The 117th Universal Day of Prayer for Students was celebrated on the third week of February 2012. The theme of the 2013 UDPS coincided with the 10th World Council of Churches' General Assembly theme "God of Life, Lead us to Justice and Peace". The WCC General Assembly took place in Busan, South Korea on October 30-November 8th, 2013. This year's material (Bible Study Guide, Liturgy, and Introduction) was prepared by the SCM of Cuba together with the WSCF Interregional Office in Geneva.

Mar

**14-16 *UN Commission on the Status of Women,
New York, NY USA**

The WSCF brought an international delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, which the WSCF-NA hosted. The delegation joined a wider coalition called Ecumenical Women. This year the CSW's theme was 'Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.' Haley Mills represented the WSCF-N. The SCM-NYC hosted an evening of sharing with the WSCF delegation at Judson Memorial Church on International Women's Day on March 8th. Christianne WSCF-NA Women, Gender and Sexuality Coordinator visited delegation towards the end of the two weeks

April

**5-8 *Ecumenical Advocacy Days: At God's Table: Food Justice for a Healthy
World.
Washington, DC**

The WSCF-NA participates annually in the Ecumenical Advocacy Days. EAD's goal, through worship, theological reflection and opportunities for learning and witness, is to strengthen our Christian voice and to mobilize for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issues. This year's EAD theme was 'At God's Table: Food Justice for a Healthy World' The World Student Christian Federation-North America was a sponsor organization of Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2013 and was represented by Hialrd Kane-Osorto and Shantha Ready Alonso who participated in the young adult track of the gathering.

**12-14 * Student Christian Movement-USA Leadership Training Program
Washington DC**

The SCM-USA National Leadership Training Program was held at the National Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD near Washington, D.C on April 12-14, 2013. This gathering was an opportunity for students, young adults, senior friends and partners at large to engage in conversations around movement building locally and nationally, to discuss global activism, and to reflect theologically upon the Christian faith and how it informs social and political engagement within the context of global grassroots organizing and movement building. This event focused primarily on building up a more sustainable, stronger and firmly established SCM locally and nationally and provided participants with concrete skills and tools to do so.

May

3-5 United Church of Canada Chaplains Conference

WSCF-NA Regional Secretary and General Secretary of SCM Canada joined a group of chaplains and campus ministers affiliated with the United Church of Canada to share joys and challenges of student work on campus, to reflect together theologically and politically on faith-informed work on campus and worship together, to support one another and to plan future work. An update on SCM/WSCF was provided to the group. Four chaplains attended the SCMC conference held at Five Oaks, in Paris, Ontario on May 5-8.

**5 Global Gossip at Trinity St. Paul United Church of Canada
Toronto**

NARC member Kelly Colwell and Regional Secretary discussed regional and global work of the WSCF during Global Gossip at St. Paul United Church of Canada after Sunday worship.

**5-8 Student Christian Movement of Canada General Conference
Five Oaks, Paris, Ontario**

The Student Christian Movement of Canada General Conference 2013 revolved around the theme of Re:Creation, ecology;movement re/building;personal restoration. This annual conference, which has been taking place since 1921, is a key site for ecumenical and ecclesiastical leadership development in Canada. Each year the National Conference establishes a year-long plan for the Student Christian Movement, strengthens networks

connecting local SCM units, makes new expansions of SCM possible, and elects student leaders. For many attendees, the National Conference also provides a crucial introduction to leadership skills and consensus decision-making.

8 Student Christian Movement at University of Toronto –Emmanuel College Toronto

Participants in SCMC General Conference attended the annual gala organized by the SCM unit at University of Toronto. WSCF-NA Regional Secretary delivered remarks on WSCF involvement in the World Council of Churches' program "Poverty, Wealth and Ecology"

8 Kairos Canada 40th Anniversary Service at Church of the Redeemer Anglican Church, Toronto

Participants of SCM General Conference attended 40th Anniversary of Kairos Canada, a Canadian-based ecumenical justice organization.

9-18 Visits Partners, Toronto and Ottawa

The North American Regional Secretary visited students, senior friends and church partners in Canada following the SCMC General Conference.

June/July

10-14 *World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) Strategic Consultation, Berlin, Germany

To discuss this pivotal question of water justice, the EWN organized a Strategic Consultation to define the role of EWN post 2013 and beyond and prepare the road map towards "Universal access to water and sanitation". The EWN invited church leaders, participant/member organizations, strategic partners, UN representative, government officials, theologians, academicians and grassroots activists working on water issues. The WSCF sent a delegation to this consultation, which included one North American student Kaitlin Griffin.

29-30 *North America Regional Committee in-person meeting

The North American Regional Committee (NARC) is the highest decision-making body of the WSCF-North American Region in between Regional Assemblies. The NARC meetings are attended by the Regional Secretary, the Regional Officers (Co-chairs and Treasurers), the

North American EXCO members, the Programmatic Area Coordinators, the representative of the affiliated and associated Student Christian Movements (SCMs) in the region and the at-large members of the committee.

**July 12-14, People's Forum on Peace for Life, Working Group Meeting
Manila, Philippines**

WSCF-NA Regional Secretary represent WSCF on the Working Group of the People's Forum's Peace For Life, a faith based justice and peace movement and forum engaged in building interfaith solidarity and mobilizing the power of spirituality for the struggle against the life-threatening forces of Empire. The Working Group meeting took place in Manila in July

**July 14-18 International Colloquium on Transformative Ecumenism
Seoul, Korea**

Korea Instituted for Future of Ecumenism (KIFE) was organized in July 2012 by a group of Korean ecumenical theologians, activists, and pastors who have been deeply involved in the local and global ecumenical movement and who are deeply interested in building a new, transformative ecumenism in the 21st century. The vision of KIFE is to serve the ecumenical movement as a catalyst, an international think tank, a global ecumenical network hub, and a theological bridge between Korean ecumenism and the ecumenism in the Global South. One of the main programs of the Institute is organizing a series of international theological colloquia which will seek to develop a transformative ecumenical theology and present a projection of the future direction of the global ecumenical movement. North America Regional Secretary was invited to attend the first colloquium held in Seoul, Korea.

August

**8-11 Wild Goose Festival
Host Spring, North Carolina**

The WSCF is one of the sponsors of the Wild Goose Festival, a four-day celebration of music, art, and conversation at the intersection of justice and spirituality. Desiree' Kameka represented the WSCF.

**5-24 *Agape International Political, Theological and Workcamp Camps
Prali, Italy**

The WSCF has had a historical relationship with the international ecumenical center of Agape in Northern Italy, which helped build right after World War II as a symbol of reconciliation among the nations that had been at war in the conflict. Youth and students from different parts of the worlds, many of whom members of national SCMs across the world - including North America – were convened by visionary Waldensian Pastor Tullio Vinay to contribute their energy and vision to build the Agape center, which has been ever since at the forefront of

cutting edge theological, social, political and gender reflections. Every year in August three international conferences, one on theology, one on political issues, and one on voluntary work are held at the Center. Over the years, the WSCF regions have increasingly sent students to attend the camps and to participate in the community life as “workcampers”. The North American Region of the WSCF together with the American Waldensian Society sponsors a delegation to attend the camps in Agape.

The topic of the 2013 Political camp focused on the theme of eco-justice, one of the program areas for the WSCF. Cora Koehler, Noah Gillespie, Erick Jackson, Jenn Lindsay and Nolan Scharper, attended on behalf of the North America Region.

September/October

**September 21-22 Annual Meeting of ICMYO (International Coordinating Meeting of Youth Organizations)
United Nations, New York**

The Annual Meeting of ICMYO¹ was held in New York City from 21-22 September 2013, gathering international youth organizations from around the world in order to shape the future of a global youth movement capable of involving young people in the policies and work of the United Nations. The meeting revealed the great promise continued collaboration holds for the WSCF and other youth organizations, and the increasing interest the UN has shown in involving youth and hearing youths’ voices. Noah Gillespie from WSCF-NA attended on behalf of the WSCF.

**September 26 Board meeting of Alliance of Baptist
Nashville, Tennessee**

September 25-27 Campus Visits in Nashville Tennessee

**October 11-12 AD1+NYC Training, Advancing Youth Participation in the UN
United Nations, New York**

The AD1+ NYC training at the United Nations is geared to build capacity for young leaders to do quality advocacy work at the UN Centers in New York, Paris and Nairobi. This is the second training, following one in Nairobi earlier this year. The participants were trained jointly by experts from within the YMCA, World Organization of Scout Movement, World Students Christian Federation, UN system, and other relevant partners. Participants worked with other motivated young adults and peers, getting to know the UN and its systems better, interacting

with some quality resource people, and gaining skills and ideas for future advocacy and collaboration. WSCF is building a small team who can follow several UN processes and be available to represent it officially in an ongoing way. Eric Jackson from SCM-NYC attended this training. The WSCF is looking at the SCM-NYC as an important player in the global Federation and in the UN work as directed by the Advocacy and Solidarity Committee and the Executive Committee.

**October 20-27 WSCF Executive Committee (ExCo) in-person meeting
Seoul, Korea**

The Executive Committee of the WSCF, the highest decision-making body of the WSCF in between General Assemblies, meets every 18 months to process, evaluate and plan the work of the Federation. These meetings are great opportunities for leadership training and for programmatic/thematic reflection. This year the meeting took place prior to the 10th World Council of Churches' General Assembly. The ExCo stayed on to attend the Assembly. KSCF, the SCM in Korea hosted the ExCo meeting. On October 26, ExCo joined KFSC for a peace symposium on the border between North and South Korea.

**October 23-26 * Peace for Life (PFL)'s Third People Forum
Jeju Island, Korea**

PFL's Third People's Forum was held in Jeju Island, Korea on October 23-26, 2013 just prior to the 10th WCC Assembly in Busan. The forum followed the militant yet celebratory tradition of the First People's Forum in 2004 in Davao City, Philippines and the Second People's Forum in 2009 in Bogotá, Colombia. The quadrennial People's Forum is a space, a tribunal where stories about people's struggles and aspirations are articulated in various creative forms, such as dance, music, drama, or narrative. It is also an arena for discourses and debates, a seat for reaffirmation of our common humanity. It is the coming together of people of faith particularly of the Muslim-Christian tradition and serves as a regular assembly where members, partners, and representatives of local people's movements gather to address emerging global issues and formulate new strategies that would enable us to achieve our mission and goals. The venue was Jeju Island, home to one of the planet's most spectacular soft coral forests and other coastal treasures. It is also the site of a widely-contested U.S. naval base, which threatens numerous endangered species and will lead to the destruction of a 400-year old sustainable community of local farmers and fishers. Strategically located in relation to China, Japan and North Korea, the new naval base signifies the East Asian pivot in the new U.S. geopolitical strategy and thus poses a challenge to mobilize the larger faith community in confronting the Empire's renewed focus on Asia Pacific. Louis Tillman and Ashley Katz represented the WSCF-NA.

**October 24-26 Fund for Theological Education Conference
Stony Point, New York,**

This was a retreat designed for young adults who are leaders in Christian faith communities, particularly those who are passionate about the connection between faith and justice. The

retreat was created to inspire them, provide tools for ongoing discernment, and perhaps most importantly, introduce them to a group of peers with similar passions. This event gathered a diverse group of young adults in an ecumenical meeting with Christian leaders who are engaging the world through their faith. The Leadership Discernment Conference offered an opportunity for young adults to discern their purpose and call through worship, conversation with peers and leaders in ministry and exposure to innovative models of ministry. Andrew William Ponders, Carter Habeeb and Cora Kohler attended the conference on behalf of the WSCF.

October/November

October 30/Nov 8 World Council of Churches (WCC) 10th General Assembly: “God of Life, Lead us to Justice and Peace”.

Busan, South Korea

The 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches will take place in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 30 October to 8 November 2013. The assembly has the mandate to set the future agenda of the council, to elect governance officials and to speak with a public voice on behalf of the churches. It is also a unique moment for the whole fellowship of member churches to come together in prayer and celebration. Korea was selected to host the assembly because of the unique ecumenical “horizon” that the witness of the Korean churches offers the wider ecumenical movement. The assembly theme, “God of life, lead us to justice and peace” is not merely a slogan for the event, but provides a focus for theological reflection, worship and meditation, as well as for planning programmatic activities before, during and after the assembly. Staff and Executive Committee members will be attending the Assembly. Some of the stewards will be coming from Student Christian Movements around the globe.

October 25/Nov 9 Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI)

Busan, South Korea

The Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) is a major event for about 150 younger advanced theology students from all regions of the world and all Christian denominational traditions. It will take place in Seoul and Busan/Korea from the 25 October to 9 November 2013, alongside the World Council of Churches’ 10th Assembly. The project aims to bring young theologians to the Assembly for an intensive theological course program for a period of 2 weeks. Its curriculum focuses on “the future of ecumenism and the transformation of World Christianity in the 21st century” and will be geared to the theme of the WCC Assembly “God of life, lead us to justice and peace”. GETI will be a place for ecumenical leadership formation, intense theological learning and mutual dialogue as well as inter-generational dialogue with important leaders of the ecumenical and evangelical movement. The program will also include excursions such as a visit to Gwangju, which is a cultural, social and political Korean city with great significance for Korean history. Furthermore, participants will have an

opportunity to take part in some major Assembly events. Kelly Colwell and Sheryl Johnson will represent the WSCF-NA at the GETI

15-17 *SCM-USA Delegation to Facing Race Conference

Baltimore, Maryland

Facing Race is largest US, multi-racial gathering of leaders, educators, journalists, artists, and activists on racial justice. Attendees shared their knowledge on advocating for racial justice in all walks of life. The SCM brought together a delegation of four students and young adults to attend this conference, including Heral and Kristen Kane-Osorto, Itang Young and Eric Jackson.

Ongoing

***WSCF US Trustees Meeting**

Winter meeting (February 28-March 1), Spring meeting (May 30-31), Fall meeting (November 14-15) New York, NY USA

The WSCF US Trustees is a group of Senior Friends from the US whose lives have been dramatically changed by their involvement in SCM/WSCF in their youth and student years. The WSCF US Trustees meet three times a year to discuss ways to support the WSCF at the national, regional and federal level. They maintain a data base of US SCM/WSCF alumni and organize fundraising campaigns to support financially the Federation. The North American Regional Secretary and other NARC/SCM USA members attend the US Trustees meeting on a regular basis.

***University/College Campus and Partner Visits**

USA and Canada

The North American Region visits campus ministries, church and other partner organizations around North America on a regular basis.

***WSCF-NA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) outreach and advocacy program**

Thanks to a grant from the Carpenter Foundation, in the summer 2011 the WSCF-NA expanded its commitment to LGBT rights by hiring an LGBT outreach coordinator and launching a fully-fledged LGBTQ program. 2013 was a transitional period for the LGBTQ program, which will enter a new phase in early 2014. Such program is intended to reach out to LGBT students in North America and empower them to advocate for LGBTQ rights in the church and society.

Program Area Coordinators

The work of the WSCF' North American Region is supervised by its North American Regional Committee, the highest decision-making body of the region in between

assemblies. The current board consists of two co-chairs, a treasurer, two representatives to the WSCF global Executive Committee (ExCo), five program area coordinators, at large representatives from member movements, any North American officers to the ExCo and the North American Regional Secretary as ex-officio. The Program Area Coordinator are include: Advocacy and Solidarity, Bible, Theology and Innovative Liturgy, Communication, Fundraising, Women, Gender and Sexuality. The North American Regional Secretary staffs the North American Regional Committee to ensure programmatic cohesion of the Region.

Advocacy & Solidarity

The Advocacy and Solidarity coordinator is responsible for the region's advocacy and solidarity work by connecting with communities in North America and around the world and by standing in solidarity with other SCMs and regions and other partners. Through its Advocacy and Solidarity Program, the WSCF-NA responds to issues on which the Federation encourages SCMs to be active, follows up on the plan the global Advocacy and Solidarity Committee puts forth and plans for creative action throughout the region.

Communication

The Communication coordinator is responsible to facilitate the crafting and to maintain the region's website and the creation and editing of publications and reports, and to facilitate other communication tools including social network the region is in need for its functioning. An e-newsletter was launched in the fall of 2012 thanks to a new contact managing system developed by Ammon Ripple, who manages on a very part-time basis the database of the region and the websites of WSCF-NA and SCM-USA

Fundraising

The fundraising coordinator is responsible to support the North American Office in networking, grant writing, developing a donor database and finding new areas of funding and to help the region to raise funds for WSCF programs and events. Currently this position is vacant.

Bible, Theology and Creative Liturgy

The Bible and Theological Coordinator facilitates the biblical, theological and liturgical life of the WSCF- by encourages students to find good news in the scriptures, to engage various author/text/reader-oriented hermeneutics, to dismantle hurtful Bible-bashing of others, and to think critically about how the Bible speaks to our modern-day context. The Bible and Theology program engages the region in its call to be God's agents in addressing the world's current challenges such as war, poverty economic injustice and the threat to our planet.

Women, Gender and Sexuality

The WSCF has worked on gender parity and women issues since its inception. The Women, Gender and Sexuality coordinator facilitates the work of the region addressing women's issues and issues related to sexual minorities and people oppressed and marginalized on the basis of gender, sexual orientation and the hegemony of the gender binary. The WSCF-NA intends to have prophetic and affirming voice of faith on these critical issues.

Programming Committee/“Prepcoms”

Prepcoms (planning committees in WSCF jargon) are students- led groups intended to envision craft and plan WSCF regional and global events. PrepCom were formed for the Cuba program and the Eco-justice symposium.

Overcoming Violence and Peacemaking, Identity Diversity and Dialogue and Eco-Justice (ecological and economic justice) Programs Global, Ongoing

Overcoming Violence and Peacemaking, Identity, Diversity and Dialogue and Eco-Justice are the overarching themes the WSCF has grappled with since its General Assembly in 2008. All national, regional and global events have some components that resonate with these programs.

UN work

Global, Ongoing

The WSCF is an accredited NGO to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (UN ECOSOC). Other than the Commission on the Status of Women, the WSCF engages at different levels of the United Nations. The North American Regional Secretary is officially the main contact to the UN in New York, the outgoing US Co-chair has been WSCF Student Representative. The Advocacy and Solidarity Committee of the WSCF continues to discern WSCF involvement at the UN.

New Fire

Ongoing, USA

Formed in 2008, New Fire is a forming cohesive cadre of organizations that work with young adult leadership in the Church or in Church-associated endeavors in order to identify and support currently involved and potential young adult leaders in the US and Canada who will provide new vision and new methods for invigorating the Christian community in the 21st Century. New Fire holds an annual event in which the WSCF-NA participates. In 2012, New Fire did not organize an in-person meeting, but met on-line. Desiree' Kameka represent SCM and the WSCF to the New Fire Steering Committee.

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Student Reports of Activities

Commission on the Status of Women, UN New York March 4-16



A Reflection from the End of CSW Week 1 and International Women's Day, by Haley Mills, from the Student Christian Movement USA and part of the World Student Christian Federation delegation to the 57th Commission on the Status of Women

Friday ended week one of the 57th Commission on the Status of Women. Appropriately, Friday was also International Women's Day. A march was held to celebrate this day. Women and men marched bringing human rights theory to life and truths of the power of women to voice. Banners displayed, voices raised, and smiles flashed as rainy snow fell.

Simultaneously, in offices and meeting rooms, women and men discussed proposals, language, and strategy. I sat surrounded by smart phones, legal pads, and coffee cups rather than banners, signs, and chants.

I'm willing to admit that I was not sorry to not be in the cold or wet, but I was a little disappointed not to join the visible, palpable camaraderie of so many spirited women and men united to celebrate women. Nevertheless, the work of words comprises an integral component of the CSW. From the words of the resolution (and proposed agreed conclusions) to the words of sacred texts, these writings influence the lives of women across the globe, for better or for worse.

For me, that is why I enter these textual worlds. Diving into the biblical interpretation reveals the work of the Holy Spirit and the ways in which the text has been manipulated. The Bible invites me into the conversation with the God who created this world and the people who have walked with that God. Following the path blazed by of the Communion of Saints requires discernment, humility and community to enter this conversation. Voices from all corners of creation must be joined to see the Spirit working.

In the same way, wrestling with the agreed language cannot be done alone. All voices must

"Banners displayed, voices raised, and smiles flashed as rainy snow fell. "

be present to ensure the full protection of women and the comprehensive recognition of their rights. I must listen to my sister, whether I fully agree or not. As a Christian delegate, I pray to recognize the liberating work Jesus the Christ at work in the deliberations, discussions, and debriefs continuing to “proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Lk 4:18b-19, NRSV).

For an interview of Haley Mills on You Tube:

<http://ecumenicalwomen.org/2013/03/14/an-interview-with-sophy-kengoo-and-haley-mills/>

Student Christian Movement, Leadership Training Program *April 12-14, Chevy Chase, MD*

The April 12-14 weekend marked an exciting time in the history of the World Student Christian Federation-North America (WSCF-NA) and the Student Christian Movement-USA (SCM-USA) as we held the first SCM-USA National Leadership Training Program (LTP) since the rebirth of **SCM**-USA in 2010.

The conference theme was “*SCM Moving Forward: Empowering Christian Students for Progress and Social Change.*” The gathering was an opportunity for students, young adults, senior friends and partners at large to engage in conversations around movement building locally and nationally, to discuss glo-cal activism, and to reflect theologically upon the Christian faith and how it informs social and political engagement within the context of global grassroots organizing and movement building. The event focused primarily on building up a more sustainable, stronger and firmly established SCM locally and nationally while providing participants with the concrete skills and tools to do so.

The conference featured a challenging keynote offered by WSCF Senior Friend Rev. Dr. Rebecca Todd Peters from Elon University on the interconnectedness of justice issues affecting the US and the world and the power of the Student Christian Movement in confronting them, followed by an inspiring Bible Study by Rev. Dr. Gay L. Byron from Howard University School of Divinity, who led participants in reflecting on the prophetic tradition in the Bible emulated by historic WSCF figures such as influential African American author, philosopher, theologian, educator and civil rights leader Howard Thurman. A panel of social justice activists illustrated the strengths of community organizing in social change and offered examples of movement building at the local, national and global level. Panelists included Eitan Pauland Nada Zohdy from the Interfaith Youth Core, Rachel Mandelbaum from 350.org, Sophy Kengoo Kashung, from the WSCF Asia-Pacific Region and Aaron Stauffer from the Student Christian Movement-NYC. WSCF-NA Regional Secretary Luciano Kovacs moderated the panel. The round table was followed by small group discussions where students had the opportunity to interact with the speakers and delve deeper into the topics discussed and in movement building strategies. Rev. Michael Ellick, Pastor at Judson Memorial Church in New York City and Rev. Erick

Jackson, Community Minister at Judson Memorial Church in New York City led together with Dr. Peters and Dr. Byron a two-parts workshop called SCM World Café: Faith and Organizing while Rev. Ellick facilitated a final session leading participants in framing innovative justice-oriented actions to implement on campus. At the end of the conference, a task group was formed to craft later in the year and in more detail one of the projects (on Eco-justice) to be a unifying action for SCM in the fall. A parallel event for Senior Friends living in the DC area took place during the gathering and during a joint session with students, Senior Friends of various generations shared their story of involvement with SCM and the WSCF.

Following are some testimonies from conference participants that very well elucidate the spirit of the conference.

The leadership conference was organized through the efforts of the SCM-USA Steering Committee, the North American Region of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF), the SCM-USA Conference Organizer, and supported by the WSCF Trustees and a host of financial supporters. We had over 50 participants converge at the 4H Conference center from places across the world to work towards social progress and change. The conference workshops and bible studies not only highlighted the many issues that stand before us while we work to rebuild the movement in North America, but reminded each of us that we carry a power and conviction within that will continue to inspire and motivate us to be agents of change and sources of light in a society that seems to be increasingly



overcome by darkness.

I believe that the LTP is exactly what was needed to ignite the flames of passion that lies within each person who participated. While the LTP was a success, we cannot lose sight of the work that still stands before us as there is much for us to do. The most immediate task that awaits us to determine how to keep the fire burning in our hearts and communities through mobilizing efforts and programming such as the LTP. Going forward, we have to be very intentional and strategic in our efforts towards rebuilding a global student ecumenical movement.

Itang Young, SCM-USA Conference Organizer

The World Student Christian Federation-North America and the Student Christian Movement -USA held the first SCM-USA National Leadership Training Conference on April 12-14, 2013 at the 4H National Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD. The weekend was filled with courageous stories of pain, struggle, victory and triumph. We had over 60 participants who represented Tennessee, Minnesota, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., New York, North Carolina, and India. 24 participants completed the evaluation survey. The following reflections give insights about their experience at the SCM-USA LTP.

WSCF creates opportunities and creative space for young people who otherwise might not be challenged to learn and grow in their faith. At the training, I shared my story about graduating with my Master of Social Work and Pastoral Studies in the heart of the recession. During the nine months I was unemployed and under-employed, WSCF gave me a chance to be innovative, build community with students and young people across the world. Instead of languishing in front of a computer waiting for someone to hire me, I filled my days with global community-building, prayer, and experiments in ecumenical world-changing work. It energized me to meet many of the students and young people from all walks of life and across the country gathered for worship, theological and Biblical study, and creative activism. It is my hope that both in good times and bad, WSCF can be a light of hope and opportunity for them as it has been for me.

Peace,

Shantha Ready-Alonso
WSCF Vice-Chair

My name is Emma Sackeyfio and I along with other Christian students attended this year's Student Christian Movement's Conference held in Washington D.C. by the World Student Christian Federation, for the weekend of April 12th – 14th. I for one was so excited to be a part of this conference gathering, and am very grateful that it was made possible through the scholarships offered to me through SCM. I was so glad to be in the midst of people my age who shared the values and visions that I do, and adults who were ready to listen and help us bring our visions to life. I loved the experience and can't wait till the next time another opportunity arises to be a part of such an event.

Attending this SCM Conference did so much for me as a young visionary. It allowed for me to get into the heads of the other students there and learn from each other. I was able to share ideas and brainstorm on the topic of solutions. It also gave me and the others a means of communicating with the world around us. In the sense that If we as individuals all stand on our own roof-tops and shout out to the world all our concerns and solutions, who would hear us but a few passerbys. However when we all gather together in the name of Christ, and strategically plan under the umbrella of an organized body, and take that into the world, like SCM has given us all who attended the chance to do, we become very difficult to ignore. After-all, it is written where 2 or more are gathered in my name there Jesus is in their midst; and with Jesus everything is possible. So for that I am very grateful.

My favorite parts of the entire conference were the periodic times set aside for praise and worship. I enjoyed it due to the fact that it kept us focused on the foundation of our movement, which is Christ. For it is not by our power or our might but by his grace alone that we were able to gather. Not to mention the fact that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. I also really liked the safe space rules and enjoyed the fact that we got to get to know each other on a personal and vulnerable level. It was an intense moment to witness honestly at its highest level. I am very sure others could relate to me on those levels, in the sense that, when asked to reiterate their conference experience. Without a

doubt it was unforgettable, and I am grateful to God for this opportunity to be a part of this movement which is bigger than myself and affects so many in a positive light.

Thank God for WSCF,
Emma Sackeyfio
SCM-LTP Participant

Presence and participation at the SCM-LTP inspired hope for a world where justice will reign. It was both a pleasure and an honor to work with such a dynamic group of leaders. It was diverse, communal, and brought together a unique group of growing prophetic voices.

I would say that there was participation from almost every social location and geographical region represented. The conference itself promoted a sense of unity and openness to embrace diversity outside of what one would see in our respective local communities. This type of harmonious engagement made the conference a safe space where all participants were free enough to have conversations that may or may not take place in our local communities. There was an expression that embodied the true meaning of full inclusion.

The content was well connected with a clear message. Every event was relevant to the larger message and purpose of the conference. Talking with participants from Montana, Europe, New York, and other places during meals, I sensed a certain sense of hope for many who felt excluded or were in communities where they felt powerless. What was articulated was that we are not alone and change is possible!

One of the things that made the conference go well was effective planning and strategizing of the committee. What I believe made our committee an effective one was consistent communication, missional unity, and keen attentiveness to details.

With Eyes Forward and Ears Open,

Rev. Eric C. Jackson

Training young adults in Christian leadership is something I truly value. What I value more, is watching these young adults exercise their training. A solid foundation was laid on the weekend of April 12-14, 2013 at the Student Christian Movement's Leadership Training Program that was held in Washington, DC. The students came from across the nation, this vast and diverse land of United States, for a common goal, and that goal was to lead together as a movement of student Christian groups on various campuses. For the time I spent at the conference, I experienced strong, unifying energy from those who attended.

The diversity of thought and backgrounds created a wonderful space for sharing ideas and, ultimately, for being honest with one another. The conference opened a needed door to deal not only with the world that surrounds us, but also to deal with ourselves individually and collectively. Part of training leaders is making good followers and learners who can do introspective reflection. The conference emphasized biblical, theological, and social themes

that moved from outward reflection, to inward reflection, and back to outward reflection. The moderation and facilitation of such a momentous time came through the hard work of the planning team, with emphasis on Itang Young; a team that created a cohesive, flowing, and organized conference. I commend the work that has been done to create stronger cohesion among these groups that came together in DC as the United States Student Christian Movement. It is our hope that this energy continues beyond that moment, place, and space to work together throughout the upcoming year in preparation for the next gathering.

Min. Linwood Blizzard, II, M.Div.

World Student Christian Federation

Treasurer, North American Regional Committee

Chair, Global Bible and Theology Working Group

Co-Organizer, Student Christian Movement at Boston University

Student Christian Movement-USA Local Chapters' reports

To the Student Christian Movement USA national committee:

This was the second year of Student Christian Movement at Colorado College. This year was once again a year of trying new things, and rethinking how our group should function on campus. It was also a year where we gathered a few new members, and some new leadership.



In the previous year, the group of only four or five consistent members would meet occasionally, but really became the steering committee for a major project at the end of the year. We hosted a discussion about LGBTQA individuals and the Church. It was a wonderful success and I wanted to continue programming along that line. We continued with the small group model for most of fall semester with one larger evening event. We hosted a listening party of good Christianity-inspired music (in the opinion of myself and the other co-chairs). The album was Gungor's Ghosts Upon the Earth and with a turn out of about 15, it was a success.

The second semester suffered from a lack of leadership, but did yield some success in transitioning to next year, when I will no longer be leading or present. We also hosted two events. The first was a discussion about progressive Christianity and what the phrase really meant. Our guest for the

evening was Rev. Ben Broadbent of a local United Church of Christ church. Ben, in the summer of 1995, was a delegate from the United States to the Centennial gathering of the WSCF in the Ivory Coast. To make that tie was fantastic and I hope it helps solidify SCM at CC. We also helped put on an event that explored Monastic Brewing Traditions. This event explored, over a tasting of beers, the historical and current traditions of brewing within Christian monasteries, mostly in Belgium. It was a huge success and one professor wants to see it as a recurring event on campus. Part of my work at CC over the four years has been to eliminate the "Christian, but" from campus. Often, any Christian on CC campus has to qualify their Christian identity with: "but I don't hate you," "but I don't hate homosexuals," "but I'm not really conservative" etc. Thus, most of the events that I have tried to organize have been around tearing down negative stereotypes and walls between Christians and large populations on campus.

There was one final exciting event on campus, and that was that CC hosted a Brian McLaren lecture. The focus of his lecture and the workshop that he hosted the next day was on what the left and right wings of the Church in the U.S. can learn from each other. Post the workshop the next day,

I was able to snap a very exciting picture with Brian after a conversation about SCM. It is the attached photo sent with this letter.

Despite all of these successes, SCM at CC is still wary of on-going problems with starting a new campus group that has the goals of SCM at heart. Starting a new religious group on any college campus is a challenge, but Colorado College is especially agnostic and planning events that attract and inform a larger audience has proven difficult. Many students flee at the mention of Christ in any form. What has also been hard is integrating ourselves with the already existing Christian groups on campus. Something that was suggested at the beginning of our year was to coordinate a night with each of the group to inform and converse with them about Student Christian Movement. This unfortunately didn't take place, but only due to a lack of trying.

The other primary challenge has been finding one goal for our group. It has often been observed that SCM is "ecumenical" but functions on our campus as the group for progressive Christians (which *is* sorely needed at CC). As one of my friends pointed out, "so it's open to anyone except conservative Christians, fundamentalist Christians, and Evangelicals." While this statement is not wholly true, it is a tension that exists. Are we to be perfectly ecumenical or are we to be the student movement that promotes progressive Christianity (and as such, a value of inclusion of all denominations and church unity). With this tension still not resolved, it has been hard to move on as a chapter.

Other than that, we have existed as a small presence on campus and worked occasionally with SCM national talks. Hopefully in the future, our ties with SCM national will become stronger. I have hope in this, as one of our new co-chairs is meeting Christina Housel this summer.

Please contact me with any questions about the first two years of Student Christian Movement at CC. For information and contact with SCM at CC in the future please contact Emily Powers-Beck at Emily.PowersBeck@ColoradoCollege.edu, Anya Powers at Anya.Powers@ColoradoCollege.edu, and Megan Salazar at Megan.Salazar@ColoradoCollege.edu.

With Peace, Blessings, and Love,

Trevor Johnson

Co-Chair Student Christian Movement at CC

Co-Chair Liturgical Brewing Club at CC

(Future Co-Chair SCM in Philadelphia)

Campus Work at Hampshire College and Umass Amherst

Leah Gregg

I lead or co-lead a weekly bible study on both campuses. At Hampshire we studied the Parables and at Umass issues of Wealth and Poverty. We also took students to the National training. We sponsored Little Mercies some of the publicity from which I include below. Next year we hope to be increasingly visible on both campuses through talks, publicity and presence at other events like this especially in the area of sexual violence. We are beginning to see fruit in all of these areas as we explore the word of God together in community. Challenges include students' overbooked schedules and the sometime hostile attitude on campus and the many struggles economic, spiritual, and cultural that surrounds us here. We may do some more public events in Northampton this coming year but are waiting to hear about space. We are also collaborating with different ministries and communities in the area.

Little Mercies: Rising from the Ashes of Abuse, Violence and Trauma

Tuesday April 23rd 7-9 pm Merrill Living Room

Hosted By Hampshire Christian Student Movement

*Trigger Warning (Sensitive Material)

An autobiographical performance piece by Nick Wedlake, "Little Mercies" takes us into the violent, brutal shadows of male sexual exploitation that few people know of. It is also a journey of the innocent, uncomplicated faith and hope implanted in him as a boy by his Aunt Hazel, who introduced him to his "little one:" The keeper of the make-believe, the wonder, and the curiosity of childhood.

"We all have a little one inside us, and little ones have little ones...All the way up to God." -Hazel Wedlake to young Nick

Student Christian Movement at Boston University (Activity for March - May 2013)

The Student Christian Movement at Boston University (BU), launched in October 2012, is still in the formative stages. For the stated time period, the group emphasized participation in the SCM-USA's Leadership Training Program (LTP) in Washington, DC, the "Charles River Earth Day Cleanup," and commitments by student organizations. In regards to the SCM-USA's LTP, two BU students attended the conference on April 12-14. They gave positive feedback about the conference. The desire is to send more students in subsequent years. In regards to the "Charles River Earth Day Cleanup," the program was part of a Marsh Chapel program, held on April 20, 2013, where ten students participated.

In regards to commitment by student organizations, we are concentrating our attention on organizations in the School of Theology. Our focus for the summer, in preparation for the fall

semester, is to solidify the commitment of three student organizations at BU to form the movement. These three organizations include Theology, Christian Activists United for Social and Environmental Justice (CAUSE-J), and the Hispanic and Latino/a Student Association (HLSA). With organizational emphasis on environmental, social, and racial justice, respectively, the aim is to emphasize ecological, gender, sexual, and racial justice as the Student Christian Movement at Boston University. Summer planning will take place in July - August for a September launch.

Linwood Blizzard, II

Co-Organizer, SCM at Boston University

WSCF Executive Committee In-Person Meeting

October 10-27, 2013 Seoul, South Korea

The retreat center where the Executive Committee met for the 2013 meeting in Seoul was built in the traditional Korean style. There were no bed frames, only bedding on the heated floors. We sat on the floor to eat at the low tables. It was a strong reminder as we began our meeting that we were coming from very different places. Every person came from a different lifestyle and was bringing her or his own understandings and worldviews. This is the beauty of the Federation at its best: Opening up space for people to come together and seek out God's calling in our lives. And I will admit that after returning to the especially bitter winter in Chicago, I often longed to lay on those warm wood floors.

Of course, one of the most important conversations was about the General Assembly to be held in August 2014 in Bogota, Columbia. The Executive Committee is working hard to ensure that the General Assembly will be a launching point. As the Federation enters a new quadrennium, we hope that it moves with a new purpose and energy. The General Assembly theme of "We Are Many, We Are One: Affirming Identities, Uplifting Diversity, Sent to Build God's Peace" lifts up many of the values the WSCF seeks to cultivate in its members. The idea of plurality in unity evokes the image of Jesus praying that his disciples "may all be one". The WSCF has always striven not to create one way of being Christian, but to create a place where we can come together to understand the faith of people in other cultures and contexts.

The final component of the theme is to point towards peace as a primary concern in the life of the Federation. I remember distinctly the General Assembly six years ago, when the Middle East Region and the North American Region sat down to talk about ways to work together in the future. Part of that meeting was acknowledging that there were representatives from movements in countries that were at war with each other. It is not a unique situation in the WSCF. To say that we are "Sent To Build God's Peace" is a radical claim to devote ourselves to become peacemakers in a violent world. Related to this idea was our exposure trip to the border between North and South Korea. In hearing stories and seeing the scars of war, we were reminded that the dividing line between friend and enemy is never as far as we think. One speaker said that it is difficult for South Koreans, because they often see North Korea as an older brother, and are continually hurt by the tension between one people cut into two.

The General Assembly was not the only business of the Executive Committee. Regional Secretaries and the Co-General Secretary gave reports on their amazing work. The committee sought to improve the financial stability of the WSCF, especially approaching the General Assembly, which is often has a significant impact on funds. Additionally, the committee ratified an Equal

Employment Opportunity Policy, formalizing the practices among the regions. The policy stresses non-discrimination and creates a system for addressing any complaints of bias.

As many of the members of the Executive Committee near the end of their term, including both of the North American Representatives, there is great hope in the future of the WSCF. The entire committee is eagerly awaiting the General Assembly, and the challenges and blessings that will meet us there.

Consultation

Berlin, Germany June 10-14

Article from Katie Griffin



Someone asked me after the event had concluded if about my first EWN experience and if it was beneficial. I told him there was a bit of jargon I didn't get, but generally it was very beneficial and inspiring. I learned a lot. It is one thing to know how desperate the water situation is for many, but it's another thing to understand it, to see it in facts, figures, charts, and pictures. Despite how desperate the situation is, it only through understands the situation well, that we can begin to devise a solution, and give hope to so many who

cling to it. I often get overwhelmed at the enormity of our world's problems; there is a lot to do and never enough time to do it. Climate change is taking its toll and people are suffering even more than they already do as a result. Then it hit me: Yes, I get overwhelmed sometimes, but what is the alternative? Are we to go home, shut ourselves off from the world, and take a nap just because we're scared? That isn't who we are called to be. If the kingdom of God is ever to be realized here on earth, we have to stand up, face our fears, and be the people God continues to call us to be everyday. This is what the Ecumenical Water Network is striving to do. The World Student Christian Movement contributes a vital voice in the conversation, inviting young people such as myself and so many other passionate leaders to the Table. Prior to the event, EWN requested that each participant in the meeting would bring a bottle of tap water from their home country. We then combined that water into a large basin, which was then dispensed into these small jars and given to each participant, so now I have a jar that is filled with water from 24 different countries, from my 30 new friends and colleagues as we work for water justice.



Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI)

Sheryl Johnson

The World Council of Churches held its first GETI program alongside the 10th General Assembly of the WCC in Busan, Korea. The program brought together about 200 young adults who are theological students or recent graduates from around the world. The



program began prior to the Assembly in Seoul, Korea before moving to Busan. The program involved lectures, small group discussions, papers and presentations, daily prayer in various traditions, exposure visits, and involvement and participation in the main events of the WCC Assembly.

The program was very full, but also very positive. It was unfortunate that we had to miss a fair bit of the Assembly due to lectures/group discussions taking place during many of the WCC workshop sessions. However, it was very

helpful to have the opportunity to discuss and delve deeper into some of the issues, themes, and history that emerged during the WCC Assembly. Many participants felt that these were the best parts of the program – other parts that seemed relatively disconnected from the WCC experience were more difficult to appreciate, particularly when the program was already so full and we often had to miss really meaningful things taking place in the Assembly to attend them.

The participants were very diverse, coming from Catholic, Orthodox, and a wide variety of Protestant backgrounds. WSCF sent one person from each of its regions, and several others had WSCF/SCM connections as well. This was really great particularly for the large group of US students, many of whom had not previously heard of WSCF and were able to get a sense of its breadth globally during the program. Christine Housel also led a session during the GETI program which further helped to introduce participants to WSCF.

For me, one of the best parts of the GETI program was our small groups of about ten students and at least one professor who met daily, sometimes multiple times each day, to engage together in the issues and present papers to one another about issues of interest to us as well as our home contexts. It made me think that providing students more opportunities to share their own research/papers/areas of interest/context with each other during SCM programs might be quite worthwhile and interesting, particularly in a home group environment where there is trust built and the expectation that all will share, rather than just those who decide to sign up to lead a workshop.

Overall, the experience was very positive and we are hopeful that the GETI program will continue to be offered alongside all future WCC General Assemblies, perhaps also meetings of the WCC Central Committee.

Agape International Political, Theological and Workcamp Camps

Italy August 5-24

Agape Reflection 1

Cora Koheler

When I think back to my summer in Agape, a multitude of experiences explode in my mind. I think about the friendships that were created across various languages. I think about the exuberant task of beginning to understanding the vast differences between the global north and global south- and at the same time the thrill to discuss political action across those barriers. And of course, I think of the magnificent Alps- those mountains really have a way of steeling my heart. For some reason, I can talk for hours about my experiences, but I find it very difficult to articulate them on paper. I feel as if I do not want to leave anything out or sell my adventures short, so you'll have to forgive me as we proceed.

My travel to Prali, Italy engulfed my first trans-Atlantic adventure. In early July 2013, I was contacted by the World Student Christian Federation and the Student Christian Movement -USA to travel as a representative to Agape. Can you imagine my joy? I remember examining the Agape website in Italian for hours before I discovered the simple way to translate the whole website to English- this small incident gave me a taste of what was to come. Just weeks before my travels would begin, I received an extremely generous grant from the United Church of Christ to help finance the trip and WSCF and SCM USA were kind enough to match their donation. Before I knew it I was boarding my flight and exploring the country of Italy as I made my way north to Prelim. I remember feeling like one of the luckiest people on the planet- I had never felt so encouraged to travel, explore, and find the world and myself. One of my most important discoveries is as follows.

After a few weeks at the Agape Ecumenical Center, a new understanding of what it means to be in the minority can be anticipated. In one of the week-long conferences thirty five different countries were represented. Fortunately, in a room with a variety of native tongues, we were all able to communicate through a large staff of dedicated translators. Many of my brothers and sisters spoke multiple languages, and to my benefit, English was in their various lexicons. Then something changed in me and I began to examine my own limited speech. I am a native English speaker. I understand some Spanish and French, but actually conversing, not to mention really understanding, is very difficult. This is a common dilemma for most Americans. I currently live in an English-dominated world. A world where others work to learn my language, but in my privilege I have not taken the time to learn others' languages fully. At Agape I was the minority, one of a handful that

only spoke one language with confidence and skill.- I cannot blame my lack of knowledge to lack of resources, I can only blame myself. After my travels, I am committed to learning world languages because if I learned one thing at Agape this summer, it's the obligation of organizing across language and cultural barriers in our movement for justice, mercy and peace.

On paper I can say that Agape is this brilliant oasis of progressive thinkers and educators in northern Italy, but to me it's so much more than that. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the global WSCF delegation. Without my participation in such a group, I would not have the opportunity to study and learn with SCMerS from all pockets of the world. I never realized how lucky I am to know so many diverse faces walking a similar justice-seeking path. Through these relationships and encounters I have learned to care so much deeper about world struggles- I now have a name, a face, a memory from much of these places. But all of these are my experiences- and believe me, these are just a short few. In the end, what it really comes down to is my encouragement for all who are able to travel to Agape and find their own journeys. Agape as a place is a gift to the ecumenical community, but it really comes alive when our minds, hopes, and dreams enter into its space.

Agape Reflection 2

Nolan Scharper

When I first came to Agape I felt like the airlines had made a flight miscalculation and actually ended up in Middle Earth rather than Northern Italy. Sublime mountains surrounded the little dale where the village of Prali luxuriated and the scene was so picturesque and tranquil that it rivaled even the most imaginative of Tolkien's landscapes. It was quite a departure from my college in northeast Ohio where you're lucky if you can find a hill let alone the slopes of mountains. Yet this sense of displacement was not unique to my experience.



I came to Agape as North American representative from the World Student Christian Federation for their political camp which drew together Student Christian Movement chapters and other regional WSCF representatives from around the world. Others who joined us at Agape came from countries as diverse as India, Guatemala, Mexico, Cameroon, Kenya as well France, Germany, Austria, and Turkey, bringing with them a myriad of global perspectives. They did not all come at the same time however, as those from nations of the "global south" often had inevitable visa hassles and custom problems that delayed their arrival, harbingers of the global inequalities and examples of bigotry that were to become the central topic of our discussions at Agape.

I had the opportunity to hear these people speak, each weaving a different yet similar tale of oppression and coercion. A friend of mine from Guatemala spoke about the violence against her people on the part of the government and mining industries, while another friend discussed the displacement of native Indians for their land. Still a third friend from the United States spoke to me about how fracking companies were trying to buy land near to where her mother lived.

I remember that we did a roll-playing exercise where one team of us pretended to be a fracking corporation who were trying to buy the land rights of Prali in order to start drilling wells. We had to convince the city counsel to sell their lands while another team of activists attempted to discredit us. I was on the team of fracking industry and we used bribes, threats, and even paid pro-fracking "protesters" to swindle the town into giving us their land claims. It was a fun and lively exercise but was also very disturbing. We, as corporate actors, truly experienced the efficacy of industrial manipulation, as we insidiously convinced the town into accepting an offer they could not refuse while we muzzled any and all voices that opposed us. We preyed upon the community's greatest asset: the impulse to preserve and improve itself.

This impulse was what strengthened my friends' resolve to travel to Agape and tell the stories of their communities, and it disheartened me to see how it could be so opportunistically exploited. Yet my experience at Agape taught me how this impulse could also become a tool for resisting exploitation. During the theological portion of the Agape workshops, we hosted an Italian priest who had been ex-communicated from the Catholic Church for performing his son's same sex wedding. I was struck by his commitment to the deep values of his faith, those of love, compassion, but also justice and his willingness to uphold those values in the face of a Vatican that had undermined them in favor of conservative dogma.

It was a wonderfully hopeful moment for me as it allowed me to call myself a Catholic without shame. I had always struggled with the label of Catholicism which had always seemed to be somewhat of a black mark on my religious identity. I learned about the religious persecution and other atrocities committed historically and contemporarily by the Catholic Church and was appalled by them. Some friends even asked me why I still identified as a Catholic, why I didn't just leave the Church.

I think I can answer that question now after hearing that priest. My Catholic community is not limited to the papal hierarchy or stain glass windows. It is catholic in the broad sense of the word, extending beyond simple doctrinal parameters. Like so many other communities it faces the oppression of elites albeit internal rather than external ones. It embraces liberation theologians such as Oscar Romero and theological reformers such as Pope Francis as its examples to follow in striving for environmental and social justice.

I cannot "stop being" Catholic as for me it represents more than just a religious denotation. It is a faith that is profoundly and inseparably intertwined with my ethical outlook on the world and is the driving force behind my impulse to preserve and improve the global community that I find myself in.

Agape Reflection 3

Noah Gillespie

Amidst green mountains and clear sky, five SCMerS from North America joined other SCMerS from around the world and many others at the agape Centro Ecumenico (Agape Ecumenical Center) outside of Turin, Italy in August. Surrounded by this verdant setting, the participants grew in their understanding of struggles in many parts of the world, and were challenged to consider the fate of our environment.

Together, through plenary and small group sections, through lecture and individual reflection, with simultaneous translation between four languages, the group learned about the impacts of our modern society on the ecologies that surround us.

It is key to understand that the environmental situation is urgent. Many "points of no return" have already been crossed and many more are soon to come. Action is needed on an immediate and widespread basis to reverse these trends and save as much ecological balance as we can.

At the core of these devastating effects are the results of capital: where profit and wealth are all that motivate people and companies, where the person is a consumer first and a human being second, overuse, abuse, and destruction of the earth follows. The examples are commonplace. Must-have electronics--such as our cell phones, that take up so much of our lives while being built to last less than three years, even though the technology exists to make much more lasting devices--epitomize the culture of wastefulness.

Therefore, we need a widespread and dramatic cultural shift that changes our way of being in the world, so that we can save it and save ourselves. Not only in a spiritual sense, but in the very practical terms of survival.

In the face of this crisis, we do not despair, but we do redouble our efforts and our commitments to urgently bring about this essential rethinking of our common life.

In this way, Agape remains an important part of our life in WSCF North America. By being present at these gatherings, to learn from others who are not part of the WSCF, to learn from our fellow SCMerS from other regions, and to share our insights with others, we are enriched deeply.



Peace For Life's Third People's Forum,

*Jeju Island, South Korean
Louis Tillman*

This past October I was granted an opportunity of a lifetime. I was a delegate representing the World Student Christian Federation of North America at the Third Annual Peace for Life Forum in Jeju, Island, South Korea. Prior to this event I was also attending the Women's Led Peace for pilgrimage and Mission to solidarity event too. This was called "Echoing Women's Voices for Peace". This was a fast action packed weekend of events for me in this weeklong event in Asia. I learned so much as an American looking into what was going on with the social justice issues in Jeju Island, South Korea.

As a person in the overall group of participants of the 3rd Peoples Forum of Peace for Life gathered at the April 3rd Peace Park in Jeju Special Self-Governing Province in the Republic of Korea from 23rd to 27th of October 2013. We had a women-led solidarity mission to Jeju and to Gangjeong Village, and shared common experiences of threats to life in our respective societies and throughout the world. Inspired by our faith traditions' shared affirmation of life, we issue this call to solidarity and action.

My first few days at the Women-Led Peace Pilgrimage and Solidarity to the Mission of Jeju Island, South Korea event opened my eyes to a lot dealing with Jeju Island. The island is known for its three main things which are: Wind, Water, and Women. At my time on the island I definitely experienced how these three things are all in full effect and very important too. I had an opportunity to see why the women are so valued in South Korea, they were essentially the "men of the house" while the men were away at war. They were known for diving into the ocean and sea to grab clams and squids for their meals on a daily basis. They would do this from sun up until sun down every day. We went to see how impactful their works are to the island, as they are highly respected for their works and all that they do in the community too. I witnessed how important their skills sets are used and respected in the community. There we visited the Haenyeo Museum and experienced the history of the women divers and their strong impact on the island. This was something that made me also want to advocate why there should not be a US naval base built in Jeju Island.

This theme was echoed by Dr. Chandra Muzaffar in his keynote address which challenged Christians, Muslims and other faith groups who are committed to peace founded upon justice "to transcend their religious affiliations and evolve a response to the imperial challenge rooted in their common humanity". According to Muzaffar, "this calls for a metamorphosis from a deep attachment to a particularistic tradition to an all-embracing devotion to a truly universal spiritual heritage". In another keynote presentation, Dr. Hans Koechler underscored that US global imperial rule is intrinsically opposed to human dignity and people's self-determination. The imperative of interfaith solidarity was also the focus of Ulrich Duchrow's panel presentation which argued that "liberation theologies in the Abrahamic faiths and the liberation philosophy of

Engaged Buddhism can be regarded as forceful efforts to retrieve the original resistance of their founders and their Scriptures against Antiquity's emerging imperialist money-civilization the climax of which we are experiencing today." In a similar vein, Jewish liberation theologian Marc Ellis said, "Rooted in the prophetic, Jews of Conscience press forward. But Jews of Conscience can only move forward with others of different faiths – who likewise press forward... Christians, Muslims, Buddhists and others of conscience..." He cautioned however that the main function of normative religiosity is to discipline and eviscerate the prophetic. In his talk on "In Defense of Radical Islam", Junaid Ahmad warned that we should be vigilant and careful in analysing Islamophobia and "not fall into the trap of racist and misogynist tendencies".

As an African American young male, it was an honor and privilege to represent the WSCF-NA and the United States of America too. I really enjoyed having an opportunity to be considered as allies because I was able to be respected and seen in a different limelight as other Americans who visit on this island. As an African American it was very concerning and displeasing to hear a workshop on one of the reasons as to why the people of the island do not want to have a US Naval base built do to African American naval soldiers. We were informed that African American Naval soldiers that were stationed there would go there and have sexual relations with the Korean women and they would have biracial babies. These inter racial relationships and babies are not welcomed at all in the country at all. This to me this seemed unique and yet racist because there are several Caucasians that are involved in the US Navy and I'm more than certain that they are having sexual relations and babies with these women of Korea as well. As an African American male, I could tell that I was treated and looked at differently from the islanders. In addition, as a racial justice and social justice advocate I was trying to understand all of the reasons as to why a US Naval base should not be built, but over all I was still in favor of the decision of the people of Jeju Island.

As participants in Jeju Island, we drew attention to emerging global realities particularly the US security strategy which seeks to maintain and consolidate American supremacy in Asia-Pacific. As the Forum concept paper underlined, the new security strategy, while not reducing its strong influence elsewhere such as Europe and the Middle East, identifies the Asia-Pacific region as the centre of economic growth fraught as it is with power competition, territorial tensions and an emergent regional power, China, seen as challenging US supremacy and hegemonic rule. The multiple economic, financial ecological, military and nuclear crises besieging the US and its allies, highlighted by the panel composed of Dr. Pamela Brubaker, Dr. Lee Hong-jung and Johanathan Fierichs, can only prompt the empire to resort to more militarism and outright aggression.

We noted with concern that the government of the Republic of Korea has enforced a naval base construction in Gangjeong village, Jeju Island since 2007, without proper consultation with villagers and consideration of villagers' right to environment, land and peace. We are distressed

to witness how a large-scale development profiting big corporations can destroy peace in a village under the name of protecting national security. For seven years the people of Gangjeong village have resisted the base construction and suffered unjustly from abuse by authorities in response to their non-violent campaign against the construction of a naval base which will militarise the sea of East Asia. We witnessed the strong resistance of the historic tradition of Jeju women lived out in the Gangjeong village struggle against the base construction. They have been accompanied by activist groups from around the world. The Catholic Church, in particular, has been a presence for the last two years, offering mass every day to draw attention to this travesty. As participants of the 3rd People's Forum, stand in solidarity with the people of Gangjeong village in their peaceful struggle against maritime militarisation. Jeju people have a full right to resist the repeat of the last century's tragedy, the April 3rd massacre in 1948 of tens of thousands of Jeju islanders. The people of Gangjeong village present a strong call to open a new era of peace and cooperation in East Asia for themselves and for all of us.

Overall, my impressions of this experience in South Korea representing the WSCF-NA were tremendously high. It was an honor to be in conversation and deep communication with the mayor of Gangjeong village. This was an opportunity of a lifetime to fight for social justice in the world. I feel that I will learn a plethora amount of information about myself which will ultimately help me with developing my ultimate call for Christ. I want to be able to help others by utilizing my spiritual gifts. This will be beneficial to all whom I pastor because I am hoping to confidently be able to communicate with all individuals that are in need of my assistance. I understand that working as a delegate for the WSCF-NA will be challenging at times, but I am certainly up for the challenge. This step in my life will be crucial and vital for my vocation in the ministry. My ultimate goal after my time served as a WSCF-NA delegate is to see how I can implement all of what I learned into the rest of my time at seminary. This experience will certainly help in transforming my faith and develop my call into a positive life lesson for me to live with for the remainder of my time on the Earth.

This was an overall life changing experience for me as a young adult in the World Student Christian Federation. I felt that my spiritual gifts and works have been affirmed and exemplified through all of these events that I have just finished. I just wanted to give thanks and honor for being able to be involved in this phenomenal event and for granting me with this opportunity of a lifetime to come and be a part of the 3rd People Forum in South Korea. I have learned so much and have been able to bring many new gifts and ideas to the table as well. I honestly feel that God has truly led me here for a reason!

I have been doing extensive research and studies on the WSCF and other social advocacy justices groups too. I wanted to reach out to you and see if there are other ways that I can be more involved with either the WSCF or the WSCF-NA. Since I'm in seminary for the next 4 years, this will certainly be a wonderful opportunity for someone like me to be a great asset to this organization. I am very infatuated and intrigued with the overall purpose and mission of

Experiential Statement:

WSCF-NA from the reach and documents that you have sent to me during this month and many months to come. Hopefully, I have made a good impression and great impact at the Third People's Forum. I'm very blessed to be involved in this initiative and happy to represent not only students, but African American's and ELCA Lutherans too. As an inner city African American male in the United States, we are underserved and underrepresented. I wish that this experience could be granted to all of the impoverished and lower opportunity people that I have encountered in my path. This has honestly been a dream come true and a life changing experience along the way. I'm eager for you to read my report on this journey! I have been telling my story about this experience and how WSCF has changed my life in so many ways. I want to be 110% fully committed to all of this and the WSCF organization. I feel that God has truly called my gifts to be with this organization.

Respectfully Submitted,
Louis Tillman

Experience with FTE

Carter Habeeb

It was a beautiful autumn Saturday afternoon in the Hudson River Valley. Fallen leaves covered the ground at the Stony Point Conference Center. I was reading a book that I had just bought at the Stony Point bookstore when some children playing in leaves caught my attention.

Earlier that day, I had attended one of my Fund for Theological Education Conference's workshops where one of the speakers at the workshop talked about what it meant to spiritually play. At the time, the comments automatically made me think back on my years of involvement in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) where we would do "energizers" in the mornings at retreats. This had always been my best way of connecting my spirituality to playing.

But as I watched the children play in a giant pile of leaves, I noticed my FTE peers join in as well. This simple action made me think back to the morning's workshop. What was stopping me from playing in the leaves as well? I realized at that moment that we are never too old to play, and we are never too young to follow God's calling. I thought more about what it would take for me to discern God's calling on my life and to follow it with my whole heart. Eventually, I realized that God was not calling me to rake away the leaves; instead, I was being called to play in them.

I am so thankful for all who contributed to give me the opportunity to attend this FTE Conference. I can already sense that as I'm looking back on my life many years from now, I'll be able to point to this event as being the one to fling the doors wide open on my journey to fulfill God's calling of me. I really and truly do look forward to taking on more leadership roles in the World Student Christian Federation in the years to come, as well as giving back to those who generously allowed me to participate in this conference which has started an exciting new chapter in my life's story.

Trustee's Report

2013 Annual Treasurer's Report

Summary

For the calendar year of January 2013 – December 2013 the North American Region of the World Student Christian Federation generated an income of \$183,818.65 and expenses totaling \$156,775.13. As a result, the net income for 2012 was \$27,043.52.

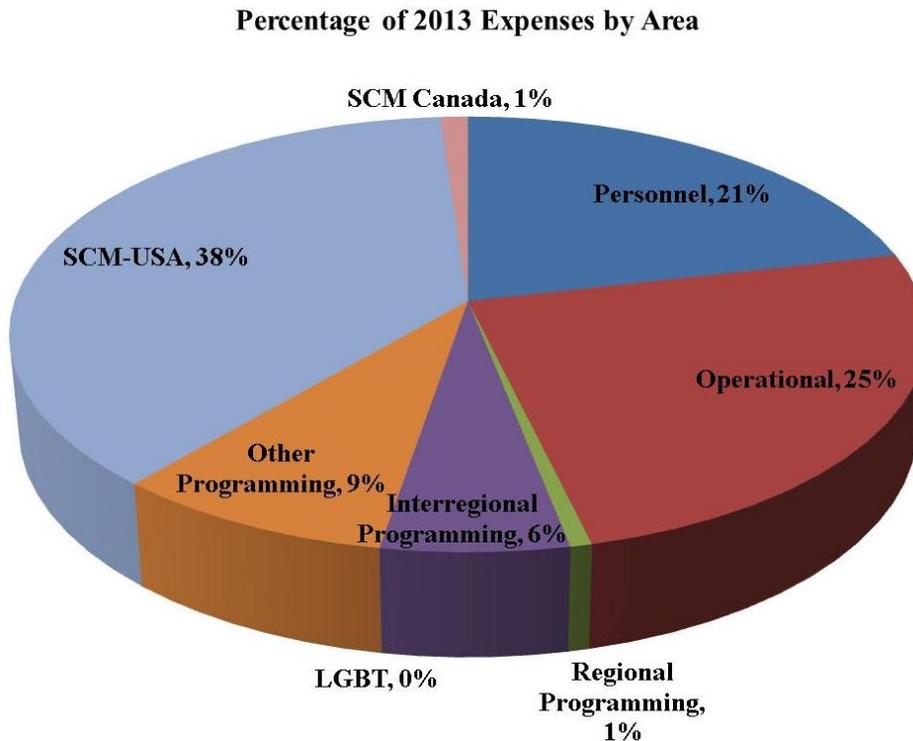
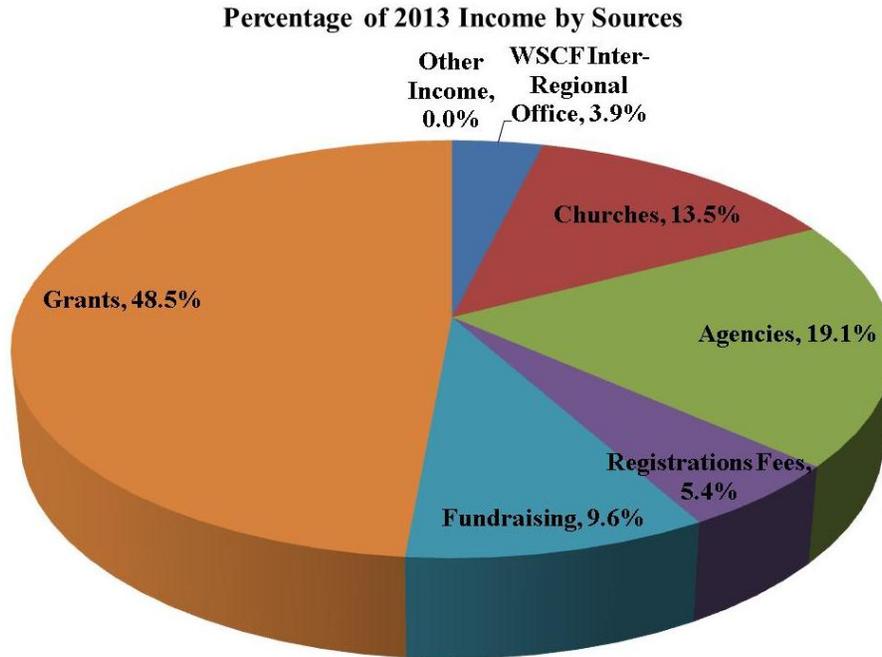
Income Detail

The income for 2012 came from four major areas: the WSCF Inter-Regional Office, churches and agencies, fundraising and registration. The churches that supported the North American Region financially are the Waldensian Church of Italy, Episcopal Church USA, the United Church of Canada, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). The agencies that financially supported the North American Region were the Trustees of the World Student Christian Federation and the National Council of Churches. As shown in the chart below, denominations contributed 13.8% and governing bodies contributed 19.1% of the income for the North American Region. The greatest contribution, 48.5% came from grants.

In addition, nearly \$20,000 was given as in-kind support or raised by participants for numerous programs: the WSCF Global Staff and Officers Meeting in Cairo, Egypt; the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York, New York (USA); Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC (USA), WCC Ecumenical Water Network Strategic Consultation in Berlin, Germany; the Working Group Meeting for the People's Forum on Peace For Life in Manila, Philippines; the International Theological Colloquium for Transformative Ecumenism in Seoul, Korea; the Wild Goose Festival in Hot Springs North Carolina (USA); the Agape International Political, Theological and Workcamp Camps in Prali, Italy; the Annual Meeting of the International Coordinating Meeting of Youth Organizations at the United Nations in New York, New York (USA); the WSCF Executive Committee in-person meeting in Seoul, South Korea; the Fund for Theological Education Conference in Stony Point, New York (USA); the World Council of Churches (WCC) 10th General Assembly in Busan, South Korea; the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) in Busan, Korea. Global.

Expenses Detailed

The expenses for 2013 fall into four major categories: personnel, operational, programming and Student Christian Movement (SCM) support. As shown in the chart below, the personnel and operational account for nearly 46%, programming accounting for nearly 15% and SCM support accounting for 39% of the expenses.



Conclusions

The North American Region continues to receive denominational support and support through various bodies and organizations. The aim is to provide more SCM support with emphasis on a National Coordinator for the SCM-USA. This will require an increase in fundraising to compensate for fixed personnel and operational costs to increase the SCM support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linwood Blizzard, II
World Student Christian Federation
Treasurer, North American Regional Committee



Thank You

WSCF-NA extends a warm thank you to our generous donors:

Carpenter Foundation

Episcopal Church USA

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Advent, New York City

Grace Episcopal Church, New York City

General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church

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United Church of Christ

United Methodist Women

Waldensian Church of Italy, Otto Per Mille Fund

World Day of Prayer USA

WSCF Canada

WSCF US Trustees

and the many individuals who contributed through our appeals



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UNUM SINT

“So that all
May be one”