

# NEWS from NAEIS

National Association  
of Ecumenical and  
Interreligious Staff  
February 2010

## From the President

## NAEIS President

### Just Selling Signs?

In a story attributed to the 19th century Danish philosopher Kierkegaard a man is wandering the streets of Copenhagen trying to find a place where he can get his pants pressed. After what seems like hours he finally comes to a store window with a sign that says "pants pressed here." He goes in and puts his pants on the counter. The person behind the counter looks quizzically at the man and the pants but says nothing. After a long silence the man with the pants growing more and more impatient blurts out: "I see the sign in your window, and I want my pants pressed!" The person behind the counter responds, "I'm sorry, we only sell signs here."

Are there times in your professional career when you feel like you're simply going through the motions and have lost focus on what you're doing and what your mission and purpose are? It's easy to lose focus, I think, and before you know it find yourself in a manner of speaking "just selling signs." Of course, we want to read and try to keep up with the literature in our field of study and work, and we try our best to be conscientious in our day to day routines and appointments. The pace can be hectic, and it's not always easy to pay attention to our personal, emotional and spiritual needs. How do you tend to yourself and care for yourself?

More and more I have found it very beneficial to take time away and join with my colleagues to share, tell stories and to recover the vision for my life and work. I have found the annual NAEIS conference to be one of those events where personal and professional renewal can occur. Some planning is necessary, and it means finding the money, taking the time away, and finally going through with my plans. If you haven't already decided to attend this year's NAEIS conference, please give it some more thought. I hope to see you in Baltimore.

Dan Krutz



Rev. Dan Krutz  
Executive Director  
Louisiana Interchurch  
Conference

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
**NAEIS Annual  
Gathering**  
**March 16-19, 2010**  
**Holy Trinity Spiritual  
Center**  
**Baltimore, MD**



## Joint Planning Committee Formed for November Consultation

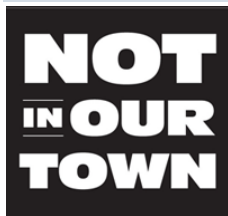
This Joint Planning Committee is responsible for planning the consultation on local and regional ecumenism which will take place Friday, November 12 in New Orleans. The committee includes representatives from NAEIS, from the State Ecumenical Executives (SEE), and from the NCC Ecumenical Networks Standing Committee (ENSC). If you have questions or suggestions about this consultation please contact one of the following committee members:

Don Anderson; David Baak; Stephen Copley; Arlene Gordon; Dan Krutz, Carlos Malavé; Marilyn Meham; Chris Morton; Gary Reiersen; Ammon Ripple (Convener); Rebecca Tollefson; Ron Quay; Angelique Walker-Smith; Alice Woldt

For general information, contact Ammon Ripple at [aripple@nccusa.org](mailto:aripple@nccusa.org).

Participants in this consultation are encouraged to attend the larger Centennial Ecumenical Gathering hosted by the National Council of Churches, taking place November 9-11. The programming about the future of the ecumenical movement on November 11 will be of particular interest.

## NEW RESOURCE: Not In Our Town Initiative Launches [NIOT.org](http://NIOT.org) on April 6, 2010



**No hate, no fear, no violence.**

**Not In Our Town: standing together for safe, inclusive communities.**

The Not In Our Town initiative has developed a new online resource for individuals and groups working to build and sustain safe, inclusive communities and schools. For 15 years, Not In Our Town has used media, grassroots events and educational outreach to provide over 100 communities and schools with real tools to fight hate and intolerance. With the launch of [NIOT.org](http://NIOT.org), Not In Our Town resources are available to people everywhere - whenever they need them - and local stories of success and innovation help educate and inspire others to stand up in their own communities.

*(continued)*

You and your staff are invited to our next annual gathering. The general theme will be **Ministries that Work Towards Ending Poverty: A Moral Call to Care for the Poor.** Location: Holy Trinity Spiritual Center - Baltimore, MD

Among the presenters are:  
**Mara Vanderslice** - Deputy Director  
White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives  
**David Beckman** - President Bread for the World  
**Michael Kinnamon** - General Secretary National Council of Churches  
**Joan Rosenhauer** - Catholic Relief Services, Executive Vice President for U.S. Operations  
**Shannon Daley-Harris**, author of *Our Day to End Poverty: 24 Ways You Can Make a Difference* ...and others!

**Here is the [retreat schedule and registration form](#)**

*Our Day to End Poverty: 24 Ways You Can Make a Difference*  
by Shannon Daley-Harris  
will be available at the Gathering

**You're invited: NCC Ecumenical Networks Standing Committee meets after NAEIS Gathering**

As you register for the NAEIS Gathering in March, please consider staying on through lunch on Friday, March 19 to meet with the NCC Ecumenical Networks Standing Committee. We will be discussing the current landscape of local and regional ecumenism and begin to envision the future as we prepare together for the local and regional ecumenism consultation on November 12. Lunch is provided by the Ecumenical Networks Committee.

NAEIS members and friends are invited to participate in this project before the public launch on April 6th by visiting the preview site at <http://preview.niot.org> now. Interfaith and ecumenical coalitions are essential leaders in anti-hate organizing efforts across the country; this is an opportunity to connect people currently active with your groups with others at the local level committed to a common mission. Some ways to participate include: create a group and post details about your upcoming public events; screen Not In Our Town videos for your group and community; submit a blog entry about your local activities and current issues; share information with your local network about this new public resource.

The need for a community-based movement to promote inclusion has never been more urgent. Recent statistics show that 210,000 people in the U.S. annually are the victims of hate crimes - 86% of which are violent crimes. By focusing on positive stories of action and community cohesion, [NIOT.org](http://NIOT.org) supports and promotes dialogue and collaboration - and connects isolated individuals and communities into a vital network of people saying "Not in our town, not in our school, not on our campus, not in our world." Together, we can map a path to a more inclusive future.

For more information, please contact [NIOT.org](http://NIOT.org) organizer Libby McInerney at 213-268-2906 or [LibbyMcInerney@att.net](mailto:LibbyMcInerney@att.net).

## NAEIS Membership Dues REDUCED RENEW TODAY! For 2010

As a member or friend of National Association of Ecumenical and Interreligious Staff (NAEIS), you know that you are part of a community. At NAEIS you will find supportive relationships, innovative ideas, and new strategies for your work with religious communities.

**Enroll or renew your membership today.** It is simple and inexpensive and your continued membership in NAEIS is critical to our continued common work. As you may know, at the last Winter Retreat business meeting, NAEIS members present voted to return to a calendar year for dues so your membership will now be on an annual basis by calendar year instead of from September to August.

**Annual Membership for 2010:** \$75 for executive directors and ecumenical officers ; \$50 for program staff; \$25 for new members; maximum membership dues for an organization \$250; those from agencies with budgets under \$100,000-- \$50

[NAEIS Membership Form](#)

### Receiving this newsletter for the first time?

NAEIS is in the process of updating its national data base. In the last four months we have added over 200 new local, regional or national ecumenical/interreligious staff people with e-mail addresses. Welcome to our on-line community!

### Passages? Job Announcements? Transitions?

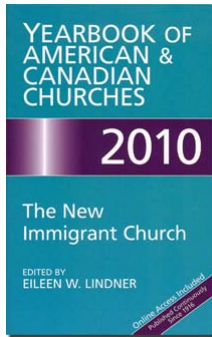
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## 2010 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches Now Available



The *2010 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches* is now available for ordering. In addition to providing directory and statistical information on denominations and seminaries, the Yearbook also includes directory information on 232 local and regional ecumenical and interfaith organizations in 45 U.S. states.

If you have not updated the Yearbook entry for your organization recently, please contact Yearbook staff at 888-870-3325 or [yearbook@nccusa.org](mailto:yearbook@nccusa.org).

The Yearbook is available for purchase from Cokesbury.com or amazon.com, or you can order it directly from NCC using the form at <http://www.nccusa.org/pdfs/2010yearbookorder.pdf> .

More information about the 2010 Yearbook is at <http://www.nccusa.org/news/100204yearbook2010.html> .

**News From NAEIS** is published monthly. News items should be sent to newsletter editor Scott Anderson at [sanderson@wichurches.org](mailto:sanderson@wichurches.org).