

Ecumenical and Interreligious Service Recognitions The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Ecumenical and Interreligious Service Recognitions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are a public acknowledgement of the significant service to the causes of Christian unity and interreligious relations rendered by individuals, congregations, and presbyteries. Awards are made in every general assembly year and announced to the whole church at the General Assembly.

Purpose

The purpose of the Ecumenical and Interreligious Service Recognition is threefold. In making these recognitions, the General Assembly:

- bears testimony to its belief that the Church of Jesus Christ is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic; that the Lord of the Church wills that it be visibly one in the world; that Christians ought to be in relationship with people of other religions; and that it is the duty of believers to be obedient to that Divine will;
- affirms its commitment to presbyteries and congregations as the most appropriate means whereby the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may demonstrate its obedience to the divine will that the Church be visibly one in each place and in all places and that faithful Christians relate fruitfully to entities of other religions;
- gives help and encouragement to those within the Church who are looking for practical examples of ways the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) can move beyond affirmation to action in manifesting the unity that we both have and seek in Jesus Christ.
- advocates positive relationships with people of other religious traditions. We have seen these relationships as a specific instance of Christ's universal command to "...love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37, 39).

Selection Process

The recipients of Ecumenical and Interreligious Service Recognitions are selected by the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (GACEIR).

Nominations of suitable candidates (individuals, congregations, and presbyteries), are being requested and can be made by any entity. The nomination must state clearly why the nominee should be selected, how the nominee meets the criteria (listed), and what difference the reported action or activity has made with respect to the visible unity of the Church or nurtured interfaith relations. Nominations may include additional supporting material, if available.

Criteria for Selection

- Growing the Ecumenical and/or Interreligious Vision
- Facing and Overcoming Obstacles to Christian Unity and/or Interreligious Relationships
- Bridging the Gaps between the Local and the Global, Individual Congregations, and the Denomination
- Enlarging the Table of Ecumenical and/or Interreligious Relationships
- Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth
- Covenanting for Peacemaking in a War-Torn World
- Meeting Human Need in Partnership with Ecumenical and Interreligious Neighbors

- Celebrating Gifts We Receive and Share
- Revitalizing Practices of Ecumenical and/or Interreligious Formation

Specific Criteria will include the following indices. These indices will be weighed according to their ordering below.

- Effectiveness: Demonstration that the effort makes a difference or has contributed towards progress in the unity of the Church and/or interreligious cooperation.
- Creativity or innovation: Demonstration of a new or freshly conceived means to contribute to the unity of the churches or interreligious relations.
- Usefulness as a model for others.

Deadline for nominations: January 30, 2022