

North American Academy of Ecumenists

From the NAAE website (<http://naae.net/site/>)

We invite you to participate with us in the realizing the gift of unity with which Jesus Christ establishes the church and by which the Holy Spirit sustains it. The annual conference is open to all who are interested and involved in ecumenical work.

The Academy gathers at an annual conference gathered around presentations from leading theologians and ecclesiastics on the ecumenical issues of the day. Its membership includes teaching theologians, church officials, and clergy, religious and laity actively pursuing Christian unity.

NAAE membership provides a subscription to the Journal of Ecumenical Studies in which conference presentations are published. Membership also helps support the expenses of the essay contest and providing the conference at the end of September.

The membership period follows an academic year of June through May, while the JES subscription is a calendar year beginning in January. Each annual volume includes four separate issues, one per season, with NAAE papers appearing in either the Summer or Fall issue; roughly a year after presentation.

The next event will take place September 25-27, 2015 at Niagra Falls

The outcome of the conference will generate an ecumenical response to the World Council of Churches convergence document *The Church: Towards a Common Vision*.

As you see from the NAAE website, everyone interested in pursuing Christian unity is welcome to attend this conference. Shirley Paulson will attend this one, so feel free to be in touch if you would like to consider attending. (You can reach her at shirlpaulson@gmail.com.)

A little history of Christian Science involvement in NAAE

In September 2013, Shirley was invited to present a paper on Christian Science in ecumenism at the NAAE conference in Chicago. After that meeting, she was elected to its Board of Directors, and she is now serving a three-year term on that board.

Her paper is published in the Journal of Ecumenical Studies, Spring 2014, p. 285.

As a result of this meeting, in February 2014, Shirley met with John Armstrong, and Evangelical from Wheaton College, who also spoke at the 2013 NAAE conference. The conversation led to a larger conversation between Evangelicals and Christian Scientists in Chicago in April 2014. Both Shirley and John blogged about the relationship:

See Shirley's blog:

<http://christianscience.com/community/circle-of-faith/blog/143.-an-evangelical-christian-voice-friends-like-you/%28language%29/eng-US>

See John's blog: <http://johnharmstrong.com/?p=6065>

In September 2014, Madelon Maupin was invited by her Southern California Faith & Order Commission to present a paper for the NAAE panel studying the same document that will be further studied at the NAAE conference September, 2015. Madelon's paper will be published in the Journal of Ecumenical Studies, Spring, 2015.