

Sponsors of Public Education Sabbath

The North Carolina Council of Churches Committee on Public Education is an interfaith group with participants from the Council's membership, the Baptist State Convention, and Jewish and Islamic congregations.

"I am delighted the North Carolina Council of Churches has chosen to make education a priority in its work for social justice and encourage faith communities to participate in the Public Education Sabbath."

Tannis F. Nelson,
President of the North Carolina PTA

"All across this state, religious organizations are reaching out to children, parents, and teachers. These partnerships are benefiting our students and our schools. My hope is that this support will grow and grow."

Mike Ward,
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Facts & Figures about NC Public Schools

- North Carolina has 1,267,070 students in its public schools (grades K-12). North Carolina has 2,112 public schools. North Carolina has 94,354 teachers.
 - The state spends more than \$5.3 billion on public education, which is 37% of the total state budget. Local governments add more than \$1.8 billion, while the federal government contributes almost \$600 million.
 - More than 70% of students in grades 3-8 are performing at their grade level but nearly 30% are not.
 - Teachers' salaries in NC rank 21st in the nation.
 - 86% of our NC schools have Internet access.
- These figures are from the N.C. Public Instruction Information Office and Web Page:
www.ncpublicschools.org*

Member Communions of the North Carolina Council of Churches

African Methodist Episcopal Church
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
General Baptist State Convention
Moravian Church in America
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Reformed Church in America
Religious Society of Friends
Roman Catholic Church
United Church of Christ
United Methodist Church
Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches
Six Baptist Congregations

PUBLIC EDUCATION SABBATH



People of Faith Supporting Public Schools

North Carolina Council of Churches
1307 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 162
Raleigh, NC 27605 (919) 828-6501
e-mail: nccofc@nccouncilofchurches.org



PLEASE POST

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Join the
North Carolina faith
community in celebrating

Public Education Sabbath

WHY have a Public Education Sabbath?

- People of faith value education. The earliest schools and colleges were started by people of faith.
- Over the years public education has been given more and more responsibility for educating our nation's children. Now the education of 90% of our nation's children is entrusted to the public at large.
- Public education is the only institution that guarantees admission to everyone without regard to race, ethnicity, ability to pay, academic performance, or physical or mental challenges.
- People of faith are called upon to pursue justice. Justice requires that our public schools provide adequate educational opportunities for all children.
- The Public Education Sabbath is a small but meaningful step toward creating a just society.

WHAT is Public Education Sabbath?

A time for North Carolina faith communities:

- To affirm all who learn and labor in our schools.
- To call attention to the importance of public education in our state.
- To pledge ourselves to increased activity on behalf of public education.

Public Education Sabbath can be celebrated by a single congregation or by a group of faith organizations that choose to join in this affirmation of public education in their community.

*“Good background
for dialogue and
sermon preparation.”*

Michael T. Shannon,
Damascus Congregational Christian
Church, United Church of Christ,
Chapel Hill

WHEN is Public Education Sabbath?

We suggest you pick a date near the beginning of your community's school year. It is best, however, to observe this celebration whenever it is most appropriate for your congregation.

WHAT Resources are Available?

The Public Education Committee of the North Carolina Council of Churches has prepared a packet of worship resources—prayers from various faith traditions, suggested scripture and music, and ideas for sermons. Also this Committee has a packet of suggestions for ways that religious and faith communities can give ongoing support to public education. You will find these resources at:

www.nccouncilofchurches.org

Or write or phone the North Carolina Council of Churches for a copy.
E-mail: nccofofc@nccouncilofchurches.org