



INTERSECT

Massachusetts
Council of
Churches
Spring 2009

Stop Predatory Gambling

Predatory Gambling...No way to raise revenue for the common good!

Once again, elected governmental leadership, challenged with economic hard times, are suggesting one of the ways to finance programs for the common good is by predatory gambling.

What is predatory gambling? Predatory gambling is the practice of using gambling to prey on human weakness for profit, and it has become government's version of sub-prime lending. Slot machines represent predatory gambling in its purest form.

Your Council, as part of the Casino Free Mass Coalition, is urging Governor Deval Patrick, legislative leadership and legislators to say no to predatory gambling. As people of Christian faith, we oppose such measures in that we know there is a human cost.

Proposals in this new legislative session all center on expanding gambling as a means to produce revenue for the Commonwealth. Many advocate slot machine parlors, maintaining that they would not generate any more social problems than Governor Patrick's proposal last year for resort casinos. We do know that both proposals have a revenue model that relies heavily on slot machines. The *Boston Globe's* front page headline of March 7th, "Glitzy video slots seen as particular addiction risk," underscores the fact that that slot technology gets people to play longer, faster, and more intensively. Known as "the crack cocaine" of gambling, slot machines and other electronic gambling devices are explicitly designed to be addictive. Eighty percent of all gambling profits are generated by these machines and 90% of casino profits come from 10% of the gamblers.

Consider the facts:

- Compulsive gamblers make up 1.5% to 2.5% of the adult population. That amounts to three to five times the number of people suffering from cancer.
- Compulsive gamblers generate from 30 to 75 percent of casino profits.



- Addiction rates double within 50 miles of a casino.
 - A casino within ten miles of a home yields a 90% increased risk of its occupants becoming pathological or problem gamblers. (Source: National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling.)
- As persons of the Christian faith, we are deeply concerned about the human tragedy of the individual who is a problem or addicted gambler. Our

concern is deeply embedded in the Christian ethic of our love for one another. The logic of raising revenue for the common good that has a social cost, a cost that hurts and, in some cases, destroys human life, is morally reprehensible. Yes, government needs revenue to provide services for the common good, but

not through a means that in fact hurts our citizenry.

We invite you to join with other Christians in making a difference in stopping predatory gambling.

Predatory gambling is the practice of using gambling to prey on human weakness for profit, and it has become government's version of sub-prime lending.

Take Action. Join Us Today By:

- **Contacting your state legislators.** To find out who your State Senator and State Representative in General Court are, visit www.wheredoivotema.com and then call the House switchboard at 617-722-2000 and Senate at 617-722-1276. You can call the Governor at 617-725-4000.
- **Offer to host a community meeting at your church.** MCC and Casino Free Mass staff are able to come lead a discussion on predatory gambling. To set up a meeting, please email louise@masscouncilofchurches.org.
- **Join our petition campaign.** A copy of the petition may be found at www.masscouncilofchurches.org. Print out the petition and invite member of your congregation to sign the petition. Forward signed petitions to the Council at 14 Beacon St., Ste. 416, Boston, MA 02108

Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light

Houses of worship leave a notable environmental imprint. Per capita, per hour of use, they are among the biggest wasters of energy, and the United States has more houses of worship than any other country! Many congregations recognize the moral imperative of stewardship, but don't always stand on the moral "high ground" when it comes to actual energy usage and environmental impact. Congregations need to become better environmental stewards and, in the process, encourage and inspire others to do better environmentally at home, school and work.

Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light (MIP&L), formed in 2002, is a non-profit mutual ministry which works to lead and inspire congregations to fulfill this need. MIP&L offers a variety of services which assist houses of worship and their members in reducing energy consumption, lowering operating costs, and promoting clean, renewable energy use. Membership has grown to over 160 congregations, with congregations in turn prompting their members and the broader community to effective environmental stewardship actions.

A good example is *St James Episcopal* in Cambridge, a big, old pile of holy stones built in the 19th century. In 2003



St James was among the first to have MIP&L complete an Environmental Stewardship Assessment. That study found old, hugely inefficient heating systems (boilers, controls, radiation) with steadily mounting use and even higher rates of increase in costs. Like many congregations, St James did

not have the funds to implement the findings at one time. Inexpensive actions (such as programmable thermostats and upgrade in light bulbs and fixtures) helped. Then the boiler failed for the funeral service of a beloved member. Action became essential both practically and spiritually. With MIP&L's help major changes were planned for and implemented. Financial help also came from both the gas and electric companies, which have financial incentives.

- **Heating** — The old oil-fired and very inefficient boilers were removed. New high efficiency (92%) gas-fired condensing mode hydronic boilers were installed. The entire facility was converted to hot water heat, eliminating steam. Many zones were installed, so that only what needed to be heated would be heated.
- **DHW** — Domestic hot water generation converted to indirect fired storage tank using the high efficiency boilers.

Results

- **Heating & DHW** — CO₂ generated for heating and DHW only about 120,000 lbs compared to over 248,000 lbs if the old oil/steam system were still in place, a reduction of over 50%!



Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light

- **Electricity** — Electricity use in 2008 was only 80% that of 2001.

Total cost in 2008 for all utilities was about \$25,000, compared to an estimated \$47,760 if still on the old systems. The CO₂ reduction is the equivalent of taking 14 cars off the road.

STEM for This Old House of Worship

Another technique that MIP&L uses to further its mission is *Savings Through Energy Management*. **STEM** is a 15 hour program for congregations that teaches skills needed to reduce energy consumption in their houses of worship and in their homes. **STEM** is taught in 5 three-hour sessions, with each session meeting in a different house of worship. At least 5 and as many as 10 congregations join in the training. Participants learn how to use professional equipment to test and measure the components of their buildings, and calculate the energy and fuel to be saved by implementing energy conservation. The program also includes information on energy rebates.

In Massachusetts, **STEM** is sponsored by MIP&L. Members receive a \$100 reduction in the **STEM** fee of \$3,000 total for all participants. (\$300 each if 10 congregations.) Members who are lead organizers also receive a \$25 fee reduction for each participating congregation which also becomes an MIP&L member.

Per capita, per hour of use, houses of worship are among the biggest wasters of energy in the US.

Clean Energy

As a strong proponent for clean energy, MIP&L is currently creating a Solar Energy program to make solar electricity panels affordable for member congregations. Through a tax-credit financing arrangement, the objective is to have a solar array

Continued on page 3



New Boilers at St. James Church.

Mass. Interfaith Power and Light, from p. 2

installation at little or no cost to the congregation for buying or installing the panels. The on-going cost would have been incurred in any event!

Part of knowing about clean energy is learning. MIP&L sponsors meetings, seminars and workshops of all sorts, such as the March 2009 4-part Renewable Energy: The Future for Massachusetts series in Andover, and the Ministry for Earth Community on April 24 at Harvard Divinity School. MIP&L works with communities (schools, local government) on various implementation strategies. MIP&L also strongly encourages congregations and all members to individually offset carbon footprints by opting for various “offsets”, of which the Massachusetts Clean Energy Choice program is direct, and easy. Just go to www.CleanEnergyChoice.org!

Summary

MIP&L is a great facilitator for the responsible use of energy by the community of faith. It is hoped that every congregation in the MCC community will take advantage of the many opportunities that MIP&L offers to become stewards of the gifts which God has given to all of us. For more information — including how to become a MIP&L member, and lots of practical information for your everyday Environmental Stewardship — visit the MIP&L website www.MIPandL.org.



Welcome Archbishop Vicken Aykazian

Representatives of the churches in Massachusetts welcomed Archbishop Vicken Aykazian to Massachusetts at an ecumenical reception on January 10 at Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge. Archbishop Aykazian, Legate of the Armenian Apostolic Church in America (Eastern Diocese), currently serves as the President of the National Council of Churches in Christ, USA, the national ecumenical organization of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, Evangelical, historic African American and Living Peace churches — including 45 million persons in more than 100,000 local congregations in communities across the nation.

Back Row: Yn. Arpi Kouzouian (Chair of the NCCC Nominating Committee); Deacon James Kalustian (Deacon at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge); Dr. Tony Vrame (Chair, NCCC Faith and Order); Dr. Brian Flanagan (Editor, NCCC 'New Horizons' Ecumenical Journal); The Rev. Joel Anderle (Vice President, MCC Board of Directors).

Middle Row: Ms. Polly Hamlen (Chair, MACUCC Council for Ecumenism and Interreligious relations); Mr. Richard Harter, Esq. (President, MCC Board of Directors); Fr. Arakel Aljelian (MCC Board of Directors); Fr. Martiros Hakobyan (St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, Watertown).

Front Row: Fr. Vasken Kouzouian (Host Pastor, Holy Trinity Armenian Church Cambridge); The Rev. William Bergmann (MCC Board of Directors); The Rev. Jack Johnson (MCC Executive Director); Archbishop Vicken Aykazian (NCCC President); Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Metaxas (Pastor Emeritus, Taxiarchae/Archangels Greek Orthodox Church, Watertown); Dr. Charles Dickinson (MCC Board of Directors); Seminarian Kostas Kollias (Holy Cross Theological School); Chancellor Fr. Theodore Barbas (Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston); Ms. Laura Everett (MCC Associate Director).

SAVE THE DATE

2009 Annual Ecumenical Dinner
October 29, 2009
5:30PM

Keynote Speaker
The Reverend Canon Sally G. Bingham
Founder and President of Interfaith
Power and Light Campaign

Co-sponsored by

 **Massachusetts
Interfaith Power & Light**

You are invited
WE ARE ONE

Bicentennial Worship Celebration of the Massachusetts Bible Society

The Massachusetts Bible Society invites you to join in celebration of our 200th anniversary by joining with us in a worship celebration on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street, Boston. Remembering our ecumenical heritage.

MCC Annual Meeting 2009



Your Council leadership for 2009. Seated, the Reverend Karen Coleman, Secretary; the Reverend Joel Anderle, Vice President; Standing (left) the Reverend Ken Grant, Treasurer; (right) Mr. Richard Harter, Esq. President, Board of Directors.



Over 150 delegates and guests gathered in Wilson Chapel at Andover Newton for the 2009 Annual Meeting whose theme "New Beginnings: Our faith witness in the Historic moment" engaged the audience in worship, dialogue and proactive presentations.



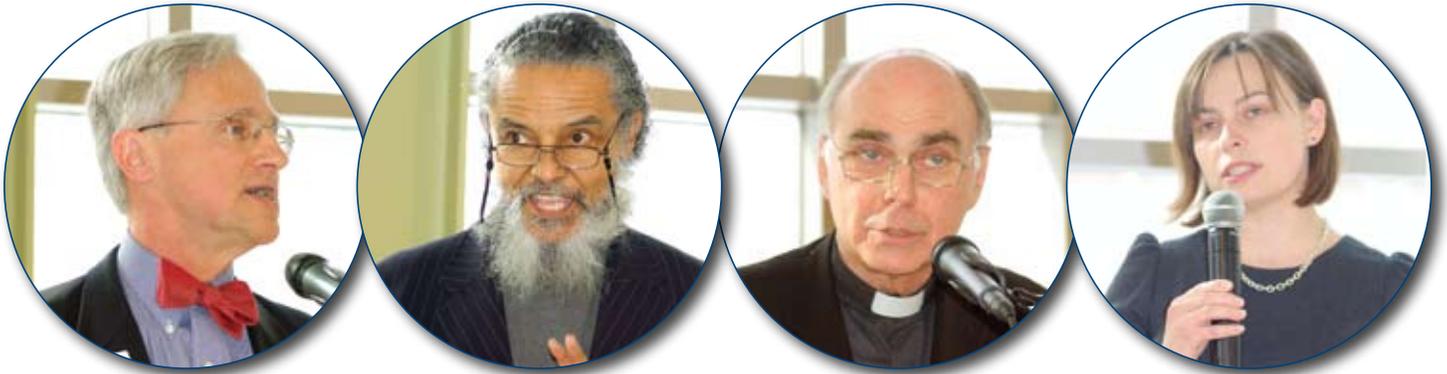
Rev. Dr. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, challenged us in his sermon, stating "there is a Gospel for the Church to proclaim that is not divided but that is power to all who believe. Is not this the vocation of the ecumenical movement today and tomorrow?"



The Inner Strength Gospel Choir from Boston University lifted our spirits by their musical anthems during our prayer service of Christian Unity.

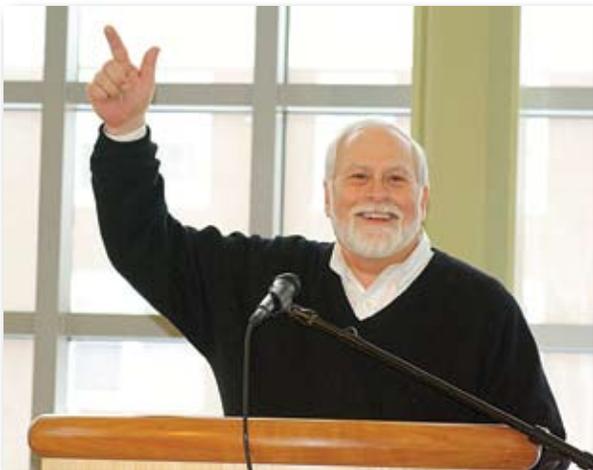
Our worship service was an occasion to "remember our Baptism." The Reverend Dr. Everett Frye, President of the Council of Churches of Greater Springfield, an American Baptist (left) was joined by the Reverend Dr. Martin McLee, District Superintendent of the Boston Metro Hope District of the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, in leading our gathering in this special moment of worship.





Roundtable Discussion: Challenging Issues that Face us as Christians in this Moment of History

(Four panel members from left to right) Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, Minister and President of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ; the Honorable Byron Rushing, a member of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts House of Representatives; Father Brian Hehir, Kennedy School Professor and Secretary of Health Social Services for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston; Rachel Hope Anderson, Co-founder and Executive Director of Boston Faith and Social Justice Network. Right: Rev. Joel Anderle, Council Vice President, moderated the panel. Their presentations may be found at www.masscouncilofchurches.org.



President Rev. Dr. Nick Carter, of Andover Newton Theological School, provided a warm welcome and gracious ecumenical hospitality. Andover Newton celebrated it's 200th anniversary in 2007.



Major Raphael Jackson, of the Salvation Army, Massachusetts Divisional Headquarters, leads the congregation in the singing of hymns praising God and affirming our unity in Christ.

Gaza Offering: Three truckloads of equipment and supplies put together by the Church World Service-supported Action by Churches Together international coalition were sent to the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza in January. The CWS-supported transport included 12,000 cartons of high protein biscuits; 20,300 liters of fortified milk; blankets and quilts; and nearly \$68,000 worth of medical supplies in the first shipment. The Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, continues to receive and care for numerous patients who are injured, wounded or burned. Over \$1,200 was donated from the offering taken at the Annual Meeting for Gaza relief through Church World Service.





Ministry for Earth Community

A one day conference on the implications
of ecology for the practice of ministry

Friday, April 24, 2009
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Harvard Divinity School
45 Francis St., Cambridge, MA
Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts
Council of Churches

For further information and registration
pgriffin@hds.harvard.edu



Darfur: Renewing our Commitment An Intergenerational Symposium

Sunday, May 3, 2009
2:00 PM

Andover Newton — Hebrew College Campus

Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Council of
Churches in cooperation with Andover Newton
Theological School, Cooperative Metropolitan
Ministries, Hebrew College, Jewish Community
Relations Council, and the Physicians
for Human Rights

For additional information and registration:
www.masscouncilorchurches.org



2009 Christmas Season Aardvark Jazz Orchestra

37th Annual Christmas Concert
To benefit the Massachusetts Council of Churches
Sunday, December 20, 2009
7:30 PM
Emmanuel Church, Boston



Mark your calendars
now. An opportunity for
members of your local
church to gather as a group
as we celebrate Christmas
and be supportive of the
Massachusetts Council of
Churches.

Ecumenical Institute 2009: Formation for Leadership

May 17–20, 2009

Graymoor Spiritual Life Center
Garrison, New York



The Ecumenical Institute
provides introductory
instruction on the history, theory
and practice of the ecumenical
movement offered in the context
of ecumenical prayer and
companionship.

For registration and further information go to
www.masscouncilofchurches.org
or call 617-523-2771.

The MCC Commission on Christian Unity is pleased to present:

“The Authority of the Church in the World” Plenary with Dr. Antonios Kireopoulos

***Tuesday May 5, 2009 10 AM,
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston; Lunch to follow***

The Massachusetts Council of Churches Commission on Christian Unity is pleased to host Dr. Antonios Kireopoulos to speak on the topic, “the Authority of the Church in the World.” Dr. Kireopoulos is the Senior Program Director for Faith and Order and Interfaith Relations of the National Council of Churches. All are welcome to attend.



World.” The CCU is the ‘Faith and Order’ arm of the Massachusetts Council of Churches. It enables the churches and other members to seek to manifest ever more fully the work of reconciliation, renewal and unity in the faith. MCC member denominations and partner denominations appoint commissioners to represent their tradition.

With the potent mix of religious and political hot topics as of late, there have been many questions about the authority of “the Church” to witness to God’s will for the world. How does the Church claim this authority? Where does it come from? Who has the authority when different Christian churches are making conflicting claims? How do the continual divisions among the body of Christ compromise our witness? As the NCCC text on this topic states, “At stake is the ability of the Church itself to proclaim, in word and deed, the good news of Jesus Christ in the midst of a fractured society.” Please join us for this plenary address and lively discussion.

Dr. Kireopoulos has been closely associated with the Faith and Order Commission and has spent most of the last 20 years in ecumenical dialogue. This began with a seminary internship and continued through his membership on the Commission, where he represented the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. We are honored to have Dr. Kireopoulos with us to deliver the plenary address.

For the past year, the CCU commissioners have discussed and prepared a response text to the National Council of Churches study text, “The Authority of the Church in the

Each year, the MCC Commission on Christian Unity Plenary provides an opportunity for an esteemed ecumenist to speak to Massachusetts Christians about an important aspect of our lives together. Please RSVP by Tuesday April 21, 2009 to louise@masscouncilofchurches.org or call 617-523-2771. For directions to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston, visit www.boston.goarch.org.



Executive Director, Rev. Jack Johnson, was joined by Dr. Abdul Cader Asmal, Past President of the Islamic Council of New England, at an interfaith gathering on the Boston Common. They shared in the reading of an Interfaith Declaration for Peace, a joint statement by members of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities in Greater Boston, anguished by the events that unfolded in Gaza and Israel in early January. The letter appears on our web-site.



Shane Claiborne, founder of an international service community in North Philadelphia, and an up and coming prophetic speaker, addressed some 500 young people at the Park Street Church on the occasion of the Gratitude and Creation gathering presented by the Council and The Boston Faith and Justice Network on February 21st. (Photo by Lauren Ulm)



OUR FATHER'S WORLD

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Edward R. Brown,
author of "Our Father's World: Mobilizing the Church
to Care for Creation" and Executive Director of Care
of Creation, Inc., an evangelical environmental
missions organization

Thursday, April 23, 2009
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Park Street Church
One Park St., Boston

RSVP: green@parkstreet.org



The Gospel of Mark

The Gospel of Mark
Told from memory by
Rev. Bert Marshall

Hear Mark's whole incredible
story come to life in a live
story telling performance!

Friday, May 8, 2009
7:00 PM
Old South Church, Boston



The Prioress' Tale: A scene
captured the intensity about
the power of forgiveness for
healing wounds of religious
intolerance. The new chamber
opera written by Boston-
based composer, Delvyn
Case, sponsored by the
Massachusetts Council of
Churches, was performed at
Andover Newton Theological
School. (Photo by L.K. Case)



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Massachusetts Council of Churches
2010 Annual Meeting
Saturday, January 23, 2010, 9:00 am
Assumption College
Worcester, MA

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