

- This interreligious cooperation arose from the common ground of religious concern on social justice issues, particularly labor issues and civil rights. This engagement, which often began locally, sparked national institutional commitments to interreligious understanding. In 1923 the Federal Council of Churches (the FCC, precursor of today's National Council of Churches, <http://www.ncccusa.org/>) established a sub-committee, the Commission on International Justice and Goodwill, to reduce anti-Jewish, anti-Catholic and racial prejudice. This Commission worked throughout the 1920s to promote increased local contacts among the three major faiths. This led to the founding of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ; today called the National Conference for Community and Justice, <http://www.nccj.org/>) in 1928. The NCCJ promoted a number of initiatives to foster interreligious understanding, ranging from pulpit exchanges to discussion groups where Catholics, Protestants, and Jews explained points of doctrine to one another. Early Christian and Jewish leaders who were involved included FCC president Rev. Samuel Cavert and the Rev. Everett Clinchy (president of the NCCJ), Rabbi Stephen Wise, Jonah Wise and Felix Warburg.