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From: Lydia Veliko

Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 7:48 AM

To: National Offices

Dear national setting colleagues:

I'm writing to share with you the news that I have informed Geoffrey that I plan to conclude my ministry in the national setting at the end of the summer. My reasons for making this decision at this time are personal ones – not professional – and this decision is very much the right thing for me at this time.

As I begin to make plans to depart, I want to offer two words of gratitude. The first is to Geoffrey, both for his support of my ministry this year, and for his constant and enthusiastic support for our ecumenical vocation. This is not a gift to be taken for granted in this day, and I am profoundly grateful for his unwavering commitment to our work in this area – and for his collegial support.

The second word is to each of you. I have been so unbelievably grateful for your partnership for 10 years. The ecumenical and interfaith commitment, energy, wisdom and expertise of those of you in the national setting, and the grace with which you've helped me do my own work, makes me prouder than I can say to have been a part of this national staff. For your friendship, collegiality and support, I will always be deeply thankful. Your continued ministry will be in my prayers.

I'll be working with Geoffrey and members of the Council for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations in the coming months to provide for a smooth transition. The ecumenical scene is at this time a very different place than it was when I first began this job in the summer of 2000. I am absolutely certain that there are tremendously gifted persons ready to emerge in leadership, and will look forward to what new leadership, and new skills and gifts, will offer to a new era. God's blessings,

Lydia

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