Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism

John U. Miller, both executive director of the Capitol Area Council of Churches and pastor of the Evangelical Protestant UCC in Albany, New York, worked with others to design a program that celebrates baptism as an incorporation into the full body of Christ. At a congregation’s request, the “Witnesses of Baptism” program, sponsored by the area council of churches, will send representatives from the wider church to participate in any baptism. Often, four participants may include representatives from among the Roman Catholic Church, Presbyterian Church USA, United Methodist Church, Reformed Church in America, or Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Each congregation that invites the representatives may involve them in a variety of ways in the service—from mere witness to liturgist. Often, it is the ecumenical representative that offers the baptismal certificate to those baptized.