

People

News in the [September 18, 2007](#) issue

The National Council of Churches has appointed its deputy general secretary to serve as the organization's acting general secretary. **Clare Chapman**, who has handled finance and administration for the New York-based ecumenical organization, will serve until a successor for Bob Edgar is chosen. Edgar, who led the NCC for almost eight years, left the organization officially last month to become the new president of Common Cause, a Washington-based nonpartisan advocacy group. Said Michael Livingston, NCC president: "Clare will carry us through to the end of the year, when we expect to have our next general secretary in place." A search committee began this summer to discuss possible candidates for the position.

Samuel Kobia, general secretary of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches, has been appointed chancellor of St. Paul's University, a 100-year-old multid denominational Christian institution in Limuru in his home country, Kenya. Kobia, a Methodist, is the WCC's first African general secretary. He began his academic training in 1969 at St. Paul's United Theological College, which is now acquiring the status of a university and will receive its charter from Kenyan president Mwai Kibaki this month. The post of chancellor is an honorary position.

Brian Blount, a New Testament scholar and Presbyterian minister, took over this month as the president of the two campuses of Union Theological Seminary-Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia, and Charlotte, North Carolina. Blount, who previously taught at Princeton Theological Seminary and is the author of, among other books, *Can I Get a Witness?* was named Union-PSCE president in March.