



## **THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Attention UCC Minnesota Conference Congregations – Prepare for renewal!**  
**You are hereby called to the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting,**  
**June 5-7, 2009, at the College of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota:**  
***“Together, We Will Be Renewed!”***

Rev. Dr. Paul Nixon, pastor of Epicenter Church in Washington, DC and author of *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*, plus UCC minister Rev. Dr. Susan K. Smith, lead pastor of Advent United Church of Christ in Columbus, OH, are our keynote speakers. Smith has taken her congregation from five to 300 members, and is president of BREAD, “a multi-racial, multi-ethnic social justice organization comprised of over 50 different religious denominations in the city of Columbus.” Paul Nixon consults with churches and conferences, and has “a special passion for coaching...churches” to reach out to new demographic groups.

Malcolm Anderson and Scott Dorff, of the musical duo CODA, will complement our speakers as we journey through a thematic series of scripturally based worship moments and services. Several styles of music will characterize this year’s gathering, allowing other musicians to lead group singing.

Our schedule for 2009 again includes an early start Friday afternoon, with a special address from our Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Karen Smith Sellers, at 1:00pm. At 2:00pm, the first Business Session begins, and includes honoring anniversary churches and clergy. Further awards and celebration moments then and throughout the weekend will allow voting to begin Saturday evening, to offer adequate discussion time for resolutions, and ease duress on Sunday’s agenda.

Hospitality gatherings for new delegates at Saturday morning breakfast will encourage newcomers toward better integration into the weekend’s activities. Friday and Saturday “after hours” will include refreshments in Gorecki Center, where Saturday evening’s atmosphere will feature the smooth jazz of CODA.

This year, the Benedicta Arts Center Lobby and adjacent classrooms will house Registration and all Exhibits. Workshops will abound Saturday afternoon, in two sessions. And our children’s program will again feature “Peace Camp.” The College offers a discounted suite rate for families with children. Suites are also available at a regular rate for those desiring toilet facilities “en suite.” And please remember, beginning this year, you are encouraged to send a young adult (or youth) delegate from your congregation, to Annual Meeting.

We request the honor of your presence at our 2009 Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting. When it comes to church vitality, “together” is crucial. For indeed, it is “Together, we will be renewed!”

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Rev. Mark Kuether

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Annual Meeting Planning