

2010 Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting Workshop Schedule

1:00-1:45pm Saturday

1. Resources for Planned Giving and Endowments

Room: Ardolf Science Center 104

MN Conference Development Committee

Plans, processes, draft documents, marketing materials and information sources shared at North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy will be made available

2. Dakota History & Issues: How White Allies Can Help

Room: Ardolf Science Center 105

MN Conference Emmaus Anti-Racism Team, Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa & Prof. Mary Beth Faimon, SW Minn. State Univ.

The 45-minute session will discuss what happened in 2008, the year of the Sesquicentennial, Minnesota's 150th birthday; the upcoming year 2012, the 150th year of the Dakota-US War of 1862; and how white allies can help. 25 minutes will be spent on issues and 20 minutes on how white allies can help. Some of the issues are: Truth-telling – what really happened in the state of Minnesota with the Dakota People; Justice – land reparations and restitution; and Mutual Respect. Other issues are: the Treaty of 1805, Cold Water Spring, Broken Treaties, Massive Land Theft and Genocide. Finally, how white allies can help will be discussed. Participants: Chris Mato Nunpa, PhD and Professor Mary Beth Faimon, Social Work Program, Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN.

(offered twice)

3. Sharing... to the ends of the earth!

Room: Ardolf Science Center 107

Susan Sanders, Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ

One Great Hour of Sharing offering resources are shared around the world all year. Health care, education, agricultural development, disaster response, refugee welcome – OGHS gifts make all these critical UCC ministries possible. Come learn how your gifts to OGHS are changing lives every day.

4. Marching for America: Is reforming immigration our number one issue?

Room: Ardolf Science Center 121

Rev. John Guttermann, Church World Service's Minnesota Field Director for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

This workshop will review the immigration system now and the challenge given people of faith to change that system. There are 11-12 million undocumented people living in the shadows of our nation. Many came with valid visas. They have citizen children and citizen spouses. At the extreme, undocumented parents have had their children taken away as a consequence of being deported. In some cases, citizen children have been effectively deported with their parents. If congress does not act this year, it could be 1 or 2 or 3 or more years before CIR happens. Most studies have concluded that without CIR the economy will be weakened. There is also the challenge given people of faith by their Biblical heritage: "You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt." (Leviticus 19:33-34)

5. Our Changing Climate: A Climatic Disaster

Room: Ardolf Science Center 127

MN Conference Justice and Witness Team

Our climate is rapidly changing. A changing climate could lead to an ecological disaster for plants, animals and humans. "Got you" moments, personal attacks and selective use of scientific facts to support a point of view are not part of the scientific process. They are distortions of the truth. There are many real world examples of changes in our climate. Many areas of scientific endeavor point to a changing climate. The Theory of Global Warming is based on collections of data that has been peer reviewed. It is time to remind the public of the robust data that is available to the scientific community.

(offered twice)

6. Wider Church Ministries – UCAN: UCC HIV and AIDS Network

Room: Ardolf Science Center 142

Rev. Mike Schuenemeyer, Wider Church Ministries - UCAN

Every 9 ½ minutes someone is infected with HIV in the United States. Although HIV deaths have been dramatically reduced, the pandemic continues to grow here and throughout the world. Faith communities and the UCC, in particular, have a vital role in stopping HIV and caring for those who are affected. What is that role? How is the UCC responding? What does ONA have to do with it? Come with your thoughts, questions and a readiness to engage this discussion with friends and colleagues.

7. Benefits of Being a VIP Congregation

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 101

MN Conference Evangelism Team

Panelists from some of our Vitality Initiative Pilot (VIP) churches will speak about how this pilot has positively impacted their churches and themselves personally.

8. ONA 101: Open and Affirming Basics

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 102

MN Conference ONA/LGBT Team, Leslie Amundson & Marc Blakesley

Facilitated by two of the MN Conference's ONA Consultants, this workshop will go over some of the basic materials and processes available to leading a congregation to declare themselves open to and affirming of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members, as well as how to live out their commitment after their declaration. The consultants will be joined by representatives of three ONA congregations who will share a bit of their stories.

9. Resolution hearing regarding Marriage Equality

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 106

MN Conference ONA Team, Martin Erickson III presenting

Participate in a discussion and feedback on this resolution. The intent of this resolution is to place the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference UCC on record as supportive of marriage equality for couples regardless of gender. Its focus is on the UCC Minnesota Conference's prophetic voice to its member churches and to the general public, particularly in the State of Minnesota.

10. Faith Practices

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 107

MN Conference Partners in Education

The new UCC resource now available for your church. Come here and experience the new **FAITH PRACTICES** resource!

11. College Chaplaincy: Minnesota United Ministries in Higher Education

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 119

MUMHE, Rev. Al Thompson

Making a difference, touching lives through faithful, unique ministries on five state university campuses

12. Faith Based Congregational Organizing

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 128A

Mayflower UCC: Mike MacMillan, Sarah Campbell, Dwight and Jean Wagenius (MN State Representative)

Learning and honing the tools of organizing to enact societal transformation

13. Hearing regarding Philippine Partnership Statement

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 128B

MN Conference Global Partnerships Team, Rev. Kathy Nelson presenting

Participate in a discussion and feedback on this partnership statement.

14. Hearing regarding changes to the MN Conference Bylaws

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 002

MN Conference Board of Directors, Dawn Schilling presenting

Participate in a discussion and feedback on the changes to the MN Conference UCC Bylaws.

15. Hearing regarding changes to the Compensation Guidelines

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 003

MN Conference Professional Development of Authorized Ministers Team, Rev. T. Michael Rock presenting

Participate in a discussion and feedback on the changes to the MN Conference UCC Compensation Guidelines.

2:00-2:45pm Saturday

1. Equipping Leaders of Generous Congregations

Room: Ardolf Science Center 104

Participants in Foundations of Fundraising Workshop, Revs. Sandy Johnson, Beth Donaldson and Ron Meyer

Primarily for clergy, this workshop will address some of the pitfalls, mythology and graces of giving in the church. Why is money such a taboo topic? How did we learn about giving (and from whom)? What is the clergy's role with money and pastoral care?

2. Becoming an Antiracist Church: First Steps in an Ongoing Process of Spiritual Growth

Room: ASC 105

New Brighton UCC, Rev. Amy Wick Moore & Gary Kwong

New Brighton UCC from May 2009 until May 2010 has gone through the initial steps in becoming an Anti-Racist church which may be a useful model for any church planning a similar journey of spiritual growth.

(offered twice)

3. Sharing... to the ends of the earth!

Room: Ardolf Science Center 107

Susan Sanders, Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ

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4. Justice LED: Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing

Room: Ardolf Science Center 121

UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, Rev. John Guttermann

Learn about the new and biblically grounded UCC program inviting people to become leaders for justice.

5. Transgender Inclusion

Room: Ardolf Science Center 127

MN Conference ONA/LGBT Team & MN Conference Justice & Witness Team, Barbara Satin presenting

Barbara Satin will lead a discussion about expanding our ONA welcome to transgender people. She will also introduce the resource, "TransAction: A Transgender curriculum for churches and religious institutions."

(offered twice)

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7. Who's your neighbor?

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 101

MN Conference Staff, Rev. Rick Wagner and Alison Bents

We'll take a good look at MissionInsite – an excellent new tool available to all in the Minnesota Conference. This demographic mapping program has the ability to help you really see those in your neighborhood.

8. The ABCFM's Dakota Mission: 1835-62

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 102

Thomas Shaw and Rev. Elizabeth Mahan

This workshop will present a history of the Congregational and Presbyterian missions to the Dakota people, from its inception to the Dakota Conflict and War in 1862. Come and learn the history!

9. Shout Out – Church Revitalization and New Starts!

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 106

MN Conference Evangelism Team

Several individuals from the Minnesota Conference who attended the New Church Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA will be sharing their experiences and insights into New Church Starts and Church Revitalization. Here is your chance to get excited about growing the UCC and reaching out to the spiritually homeless in our great state of Minnesota!

10. Planting Seeds for Progressive Conversation

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 107

Yes! Magazine/Living the Questions

This workshop provides adult education resources that empower local churches to think outside the box to start progressive conversation with the community on issues that concern everyone.

11. Ministry to Military Members and their Families

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 119

Minnesota Army National Guard Chaplaincy, Rev. Grant Speece

This workshop is for churches to learn how to minister to members of the military and their families especially before, during and after deployment

12. Making Marriage Equality a Reality in Minnesota

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 128A

OutFront Minnesota

Please join a discussion about how supporters of justice and equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people can mobilize the support needed to make marriage a reality in the near future. Information about the lessons learned in marriage campaigns in California, Maine and other states will be presented.

13. Hearing regarding changes to the National UCC Constitution

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 128B

Rev. Dr. Clyde Steckel presenting

Participate in a discussion and feedback on the changes to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws.

14. Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

Room: Henrietta Academic Building 002

MN Conference Board of Directors, Phil Hatlie, Conference Treasurer presenting

Participate in a discussion and feedback on the changes to the MN Conference UCC Bylaws.

15. Requiring CEUs for Standing in the MN Conference: Reward or Punishment?

Room: HAB 003

MN Conference Professional Development of Authorized Ministers Team

Our team has recognized a need to follow some professional guidelines for those called to Ordained Ministry. The academic background and responsibility is often equated with those in the legal and education professions yet after graduation no further education is asked for or required. This is a great workshop for clergy and lay leaders to talk about a future of requiring Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and the system of implementation. What would be the costs and benefits of this system? How do we recognize that our most vibrant and growing churches are served by ordained ministers who continually seek new educational opportunities?