

COMMAntary: an e-newsletter of the Minnesota Conference - United Church of Christ

God is still speaking,

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10 June 2009

Save the Date

Action at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ postponed a vote on the budget until a Special Meeting of the Conference. An official announcement of that meeting will follow. For now, please hold the following date and time:

**Saturday, September 26, 2009
beginning at 1:00 pm
@ Wayzata Community Church**

The Board of Directors considered several venues but chose one that was easily accessible, had adequate parking, and had room to accommodate the number of participants that might be expected.

News of the Conference

Joys and Concerns

1. Our prayers and best wishes are with the Rev. Rosanna Walker and the people of the Rainy River Regional Parish (Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Williams; United Congregational UCC, Birchdale; and First Congregational UCC, Baudette) as Rosanna retires from active ministry. The farewell service will be this Sunday, June 14, in Birchdale, at 10:30. Rev. Walker was called to the RRRP in 1992. She will be greatly missed, though we are happy to report that she will remain in the Minnesota Conference, living in Bemidji. Hey, Rosanna! How about starting a UCC church in Bemidji?

Coming to the Rainy River Regional Parish will be the Rev. Deborah Bartelt, who will begin her ministry there as Acting Pastor, effective July 1st. Deborah comes to us from Wisconsin, where she has been a settled pastor as well as an interim.

2. Please hold Rev. Muriel Hachfeld and Rev. Lanny Kuester in prayer as they undergo surgeries next week. Muriel, who had emergency abdominal surgery three months ago, is having a follow-up surgery next Monday, and Lanny is having a second corneal transplant eye surgery on Tuesday.

Children and Youth Formation News

**Youth Ministry Leader Training & Retreat
for Clergy & Lay Leaders (18 and older)
August 28-30, 2009 | Pilgrim Point Camp in Alexandria, MN**
\$100 for the first person/church,
\$75 for additional team members

Registrations are due by August 1, 2009
[Find Registration forms by clicking here.](#)

the Minnesota Conference presents the Fall 2009 CYE:

Pluralism: Putting God in More than One Box
October 9-11 or 16-18 | Pilgrim Point, Alexandria, MN
Early Registration: \$75/youth, \$50/adult

Registration after September 14 - \$85/youth, \$60/adult

Deadline for all registrations is October 2, 2009

[Youth registration form is available by clicking here.](#)

[Adult registration form is available by clicking here.](#)

We need to hear from you! Please take 15 minutes to complete this survey if you volunteer or are staff working with youth, are a young adult (19-30) or are a youth. This survey is being done by the national setting of the UCC but information from the MN Conference respondents will be sent to us to better serve the youth, young adults and leaders in our 139 churches in the MN Conference. Many thanks to those who have already filled out the survey.

<http://uccyyasurvey.questionpro.com>

Please forward this on to youth, young adults or youth leaders in your congregation. Your help is huge!

(BTW - there is a contest among the 39 UCC Conferences for responses and we are still in the lead, but by only 1 with Northern California coming on strong!)

Pilgrim Point Camp News

Pilgrim Point Camp will host a *new workshop* this fall. Come and "**Sing the New Century**" with us the weekend of October 3rd. Arthur G. Clyde, Union Congregational Church St. Louis Park, will led us in singing from the The New Century Hymnal with accompaniment of Diane Alveshere, First Congregational Alexandria on the keyboard. Come and stay overnight or just for the day of the workshop on Saturday. Lunch will be provided. Visit the [Pilgrim Point Camp website](#) to [download a brochure](#) with the registration form.

2008 Annual Reports

All Annual Reports received in the Conference Office are available for review on the Minnesota Conference website [by clicking here](#) or visiting www.uccmn.org/annualmeeting

Going to General Synod?

If you are planning to go to General Synod, please let Alison Bents (alisonb@uccmn.org) know. This will allow us to look for one another in Grand Rapids, to make contact about sharing experiences on River City Saturday, and gather for meals and/or a group photo. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Summer Institute in Spirituality and the Arts

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities presents its annual:

Summer Institute in Spirituality and the Arts
Tuesday through Friday, June 9-12, 2009
9:00 AM - 3:45 PM

The Summer Institute in Spirituality and the Arts provides a place to expand our awareness and knowledge about the intersections of art and religion. Participants are offered an opportunity to explore those intersections in their personal lives and faith communities. For full-day attendance, participants select one of two morning workshops and one of two afternoon workshops. For half-day attendance, participants select either one morning workshop or one afternoon workshop. For either, the theme of the workshop selected indicates the theme for all four days of study.

Workshops

1. Bibliodrama - **Marilyn Salmon**
2. Exploring the Landscape of Art and Reconciliation - **Chuck and Peg Carlson-Hoffman***
3. Playing with Art to Create Poems of Vision and Spirit - **Susan Deborah (Sam) King**
4. Creating Significant Worship: Weaving Together Imagination and Practical Skills - **Arthur Clyde**

COST/CEUs

Participants can receive CEUs. Inquire at check-in.

Full-day Registration

Fee: \$225

Full-time seminary student: \$75

Half-day registration

Fee: \$150

Full-time seminary student: \$50

*There is an additional \$15 supply fee for the workshop Exploring the Landscape of Art and Reconciliation.

MORE INFORMATION AND Registration

www.unitedseminary.edu/CommunityPrograms/summerinstitute.asp
or 651.255.6138.

Prayer Service

Prayer Service
Honoring and Remembering
Fallen & POW/MIA Heroes

Central Presbyterian Church
500 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota
Saturday June 13, 2009 - 9:00 a.m.

As part of the Minnesota Honors Vietnam Era Veterans celebration, special time has been dedicated for the families of our fallen heroes and POW/MIA heroes to join together for an inter-faith prayer service. This service will enable families to meet and get to know others who have experienced the same loss. This time will also allow us to give thanks for, to praise and honor these heroes.

All Families of Minnesota Vietnam era fallen and POW/MIAs are invited.

Families can register by sending an email to:
MNVietnamHeroes@gmail.com.

A registration form and more information about the prayer service will follow. A complete schedule of events is available at:
www.MNHonorsVietnamVets.org

For more information on the prayer service contact:
Merrilee Carlson, Mother of Sgt. Michael Carlson, KIA 1/24/2005
Iraq @ Merrilee@FamiliesUnitedMission.com Ph: 651-319-1194

Immigration News

Last week the Rev. Loren McGrail, convening chair of the Conference's new Immigration Task Force, was among more than 800 leaders from faith, community, labor and immigrants rights groups gathered in Washington DC for the Reform Immigration for America Campaign Summit.

You may already know that President Obama will gather Congressional leaders in the White House on June 17th for an important meeting to discuss how to move forward on a comprehensive immigration reform bill this year. This is a critical moment for communities of faith to let our elected leaders know that we are, indeed, praying and organizing for comprehensive immigration reform, and that we will be watching to see what the fruits of the June 17th meeting will be.

Faith leaders from across the country met at the Summit last week and made plans to act together in this important moment. We invite you to take part in this national prayer action for comprehensive immigration reform:

Sometime between Sunday, June 14 and Wednesday, June 17, lead your faith community in prayer that God would guide the deliberations of our elected leaders on June 17th, and that they would show moral courage and leadership in enacting humane immigration reform this year. You can include these concerns in the prayers during your regularly scheduled worship service, or host a community vigil in support of immigration reform.

In addition, this weekend we have a unique opportunity to learn more about immigration:

Community Assembly on Immigration

Sunday, June 14th, 2:30pm
Incarnation Church
3800 Pleasant Ave. South, Minneapolis

Listen to diverse personal stories on the impact of a broken immigration system. Take action through multi-cultural, inter-religious and multi-partisan solutions. Participate in a national movement to change our immigration system.

Hosted by: U.S. Representative Keith Ellison - Minnesota, 5th District; Featuring: U.S. Representative Luis Gutierrez - Illinois, 4th

District

Familias Unidas/United Families

Familias Unidas/United Families

A Community event and vigil urging a stop to the separation of families.

**Sunday, June 14th, 2:30pm
Incarnation Church, 3800 Pleasant Ave S, Mpls, MN**

The Interfaith Coalition on Immigration invites you to attend this historic upcoming event on immigration in our community:

Families United is a 20 city national tour led by Rep. Guterrez from Illinois and leader of the Hispanic Congressional Caucus. Guterrez will be joined by Rep. Keith Ellison and other MN legislators, community members and faith leaders. The event will highlight the impact of our broken immigration system on families and the moral imperative to change it. We will hear first hand testimonies from multiple immigrant communities. The event will include music and dance from our diverse community and prayers for healing and justice from our faith leaders. Please join us and become part of the movement for humane immigration reform.

Check out the [flyer by clicking here](#), For more information about the event, please contact; Familias Unidas/United Families MN Committee briana.familiasunidas@yahoo.com

For more information about the Interfaith Coalition on Immigration, please contact Rev. Loren McGrail at interfaithonimmigration@gmail.com

Power & Boundaries Training - Save the Dates!

This training is offered on three different dates in three different regions of Minnesota. All sessions are from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Lunch and materials are included.

- Thursday, October 8th 2009 - Fergus Falls, MN
- Thursday, October 22nd 2009 - Hinckley, MN
- Thursday, November 5th 2009 - Lakeville, MN

For more information or to register contact Aundrea Billings at aundrea.billings@mchurches.org or 612-230-3236 or visit www.mchurches.org

Employment Opportunities

Organist & Choir Director

St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ seeks Organist and Choir Director to lead the music ministry of the congregation. [Additional information available by clicking here](#). We are an Open and Affirming congregation. Visit www.sapucc.org to learn about us.

Send cover letter and resume by June 30, 2009 to:

Organist/Choir Director Search
St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ
2129 Commonwealth Ave, St. Paul MN 55108
or Rev. Victoria Wilgocki at pastor@sapucc.org.

Seeking Children's Ministry Coordinator

Join up with the creative energy unfolding at St. Paul's UCC in St. Paul as we seek to revitalize the ministry of this congregation. We're located in a vibrant city neighborhood and seek to nurture our small band of children and reach out to more families in our area.

If you have:

- passion for children,
- creative energy especially around music, arts and drama,
- interest in Godly Play and Our Whole Lives,
- ability to connect well with adults who teach and shepherd,
- relevant background, experience and/or professional study in education and/or Christian education,
- desire to be part of an emerging progressive faith community,
- limited time but dedicated commitment to an 8 hour starting position with a Sunday morning focus,

You may be the right match at this time in the life of our faith community. We're looking for you! Position to begin in August with competitive pay.

Please contact the church office at spoffice@comcast.net or 651-224-5809 to receive an application. Contact Rev. Norma Rae Hunt, Lead Pastor for Revitalization with questions at: sppastor@comcast.net or 651-224-5809.

Seeking Minister of Education

First Congregational Church of Minnesota, UCC is searching for a Minister of Education. This position seeks experience and dedication to the education of children and youth and an ability and willingness to work with and support teachers. We are searching for a person with experience in Christian Education or a deep commitment to learning more. This could be accomplished through consultations, taking a course or other creative ways.

The task of faith formation for children requires creative energy and passion and an excitement for working with kids. This is a permanent, part-time position of 20 hours per week for 10 months each year, with salary and benefits. If this sounds interesting to you, please send a brief resume to:

First Congregational Church of Minnesota, UCC
500 Eighth Avenue SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Or to the Rev. James Brasel, at jbrasel@firstchurchmn.org.
Closing date for receiving resumes is June 20, 2009.

Supply Pastor needed

Medford Congregational UCC seeks 3- 6 month, part-time supply Pastor for on-going preaching, teaching, worship ministry, and pastoral care. We are more "conservative/traditional" and appreciate a warm personal style. Candidate must have or obtain current boundary training and background checks. Contact Elena Larssen (elenal@uccmn.org or 612-871-0359) to submit profile or learn more.

Have Enthusiastic Youth, Need Youth Ministry Director

Associated Church in Owatonna, MN seeks a staff person with experience and training for a part-time position as Youth Ministry Director. This person will be Spirit-filled and have a heart for youth.

He or she will want to "hang with kids" and also be able to effectively engage parents and other adults. Being a motivated self starter, the successful candidate will have a vision for ministry with youth in the church and community, passionately lead volunteers who are called to share this ministry and work well with staff colleagues and the Youth Ministry Team to enhance our ministry with youth in grades 7-12. A working knowledge of computers/media is certainly an asset. Visit

www.AssociatedChurch.org and send your resume to: Ron@AssociatedChurch.org

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