

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

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God is still speaking,

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Volume 6, Number 01

06 January 2010

## News of the Conference

### Joys and Concerns

1. St Paul's UCC, Eyota, requests prayer from our fellow conference members for our pastor emeritus, Reverend Everett E. Schoessler.
2. In sadness we relay that Rev. Gordon Goodfellow died on Christmas Eve. Rev. Goodfellow served St Paul's UCC in Eyota from 1968-74 (as well as Grace UCC, Millville, and First Cong. UCC, Baudette). To read the full obituary, [please click here](#). Interment will be in the St Paul's churchyard with his first wife and daughter in the spring.
3. Parkview UCC, White Bear Lake, in a special congregational meeting on January 3, 2010, voted unanimously to call the Rev. Debi Hasdorff as their next pastor. Rev. Hasdorff is currently the pastor of Cheney UCC in Cheney, WA. She will be starting at Parkview in early March. The congregation also expressed its appreciation for the 3 year, 4 month interim ministry of Rev. Cindy Mueller.

### Five for Five 2009 Deadline: Monday, January 11

#### Five for Five 2009 Deadline set for Monday, Jan 11

Checks with gifts for UCC Basic Support (Our Church's Wider Mission), One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and The Christmas Fund will need to be **received at the Conference Office by Monday, January 11** to be counted toward your 2009 Five for Five tally!

Offerings we receive after Monday, January 11 will be credited, with gratitude, to your 2010 giving. Please help us with your understanding and your support, and by meeting this deadline for 2009 Five Funds gifts.

Questions? Please e-mail Sian Nelson, Conference Business Manager at [siann@uccmn.org](mailto:siann@uccmn.org).

### News from Pilgrim Point Camp!

The January "News from the Point" newsletter is now available [on the Pilgrim Point website](#). You can find it from the front page at [www.pilgrimpoint.org](http://www.pilgrimpoint.org). If you browse through the site you can see several updates including a [site map](#) with links to all that we have to offer your church or other group to come and spend some time at the point!

You can also see some very nice photos of Pilgrim Point

[Minnesota Conference Calendar](#)

[National UCC Website](#)

[Join the emailing list of UCNews: Keeping You ePosted](#)

Camp in the winter. [This link](#) will take you directly to the picture page.

Enjoy!

Dee Ellen Dressler, Managing Director of Pilgrim Point Camp

### Justice and Witness Offering!

It is time again to support the justice mission and ministry of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ through the annual Justice and Witness Offering. The traditional ingathering day is the Sunday of the the weekend of Martin Luther King Jr. Day - this year, January 17th, 2010 (January 18th is Martin Luther King Jr. Day). Download the materials here ([www.uccmn.org/ministrygroups/justicewitness](http://www.uccmn.org/ministrygroups/justicewitness)), and please participate in this offering. By supporting this offering, your congregation ensures the continued funding of your Justice and Witness Team's grant program and the mission of justice.

### Seminary Sunday is February 28th

Please plan to participate in celebrating the work of CUE, (Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries) on **Seminary Sunday, February 28, 2010** (or any Sunday that is convenient for your church). The role of our seminaries in the life of our churches is critical. Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries train individuals for ordained ministry, and they provide resources for lay leadership programs, Christian Education and youth programs. In addition, our seminaries provide leadership, preaching, and continuing education opportunities at conference and association meetings. All of our churches are enriched by the work of our UCC seminaries.

**If you would like CUE brochures, posters, or offering envelopes, or if you would like a student from United Seminary to speak or preach at your church, please email CUE Development Coordinator, Kiely Todd Roska at [cueseminaries@yahoo.com](mailto:cueseminaries@yahoo.com).** Printable bulletin inserts will be included in the COMMAntary in early February, or can be emailed directly to your church.

### Friends of the Conference

As you may know, the work of the Minnesota Conference can no longer be adequately supported solely by Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and per capita Covenant Dues from local churches. For the past few years we have undertaken an intentional approach to individuals who care deeply about the ministry of the Conference and who might choose to support the conference financially. The conference has a growing list of such persons, and those persons are currently receiving [our annual fund raising solicitation letter](#). If you are not currently in our database of donors, but wish to offer a contribution for the support of the ministries of the Minnesota Conference, please send your check to the Minnesota Conference United Church of

Christ, 122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 323, Minneapolis, MN 55404 and indicate "Friends" on the memo line, or give online at [www.uccmn.org](http://www.uccmn.org). Please be sure to indicate whether you'd prefer your gift be used entirely in Minnesota, or whether you'd like it shared with the national setting of the church. We'd also be interested in receiving the names of persons you know who might appreciate our ministries and be willing to consider support.

God bless you!  
Rev. Dr. Karen Smith Sellers  
Conference Minister

### **A Minnesota Without Poverty**



**2020 Vision  
A Minnesota Without  
Poverty Action Alert  
December 30, 2009**

You are receiving this information because the Minnesota Conference voted to sign on with A Minnesota Without Poverty at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

#### **MATCHING GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

The Board of A Minnesota Without Poverty has been given the opportunity to secure a grant of \$20,000. Of course there is one catch; \$10,000 of it is a matching grant. That means if we can raise \$10,000 we will end up with \$30,000. The time frame for raising the match is six months.

The source of this grant is the Half in Ten Campaign, sponsored by the Center for American Progress, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and Coalition on Human Needs. AMWOP will continue our statewide focus and add a national focus to make our work more effective. (For more info. on the Half in Ten Campaign, see <http://halfinten.org/>)

We ask you to do what you can and consider giving financial support to A Minnesota Without Poverty. We have already received \$1200 which will go toward the \$10,000 match. Thank you for what you have already been doing, and, please, only if you can, send a gift of any amount to:

A Minnesota Without Poverty-NDC  
663 University Avenue, Suite 200,  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Peace to All,  
A Minnesota Without Poverty Board  
Kathy Tomlin-Office for Social Justice, Catholic Charities  
(Co-chair), Mark Rogosheske-Saint Paul Area Synod, ELCA  
(Co-chair), Peg Chamberlin-Minnesota Council of Churches,  
Alexandra Fitzsimmons-Minnesota Catholic Conference,

Mark Peters-Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota, Brian Rusche-Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Seth Skora-Jewish Community Relations Council, Teshite Wako-Neighborhood Development Center, Nancy Maeker-A Minnesota Without Poverty (Director)

### Antiracism resources and an invitation

Antiracism resources and an invitation to participate in antiracism learning are again being extended by ASDIC, which is under the leadership of Herb Perkins (Cherokee Park United Church) and Margery Otto (Mayflower Congregational UCC). Click to find:

- [a letter describing an upcoming ASDIC Decolonization Retreat](#) on Feb. 13th and 14th,
- [spring Antiracism Study Dialogue Circles](#) beginning in February,
- two documents about whiteness and its implications ([document 1](#), [document 2](#)), and
- [a registration form](#) for the retreats and circles.

Clergy and lay leaders are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to strengthen our capacity for becoming true multicultural/antiracist communities of faith. For more information you can also go to [www.Cherokeeparkunited.org](http://www.Cherokeeparkunited.org) and click on ASDIC.

### High School Youth Event



**High School Youth Event**  
**March 5-7, 2010**  
**Camp Koinonia, South Haven, MN**

**Early Registration:** by Feb 1, \$75 youth \$50 adults

**After Feb 1st:** \$85 youth, \$60 adults

Deadline for all registrations: Feb 26

Senior High Youth (grades 9-12 only) and their Adult Leaders (21 and older) are invited to attend this event. Registration begins at 6:30pm on Friday, March 5 (dinner will not be provided that Friday evening). The event will conclude at Noon on Sunday.

Questions? Call Leah Springer or Wade Zick at 612-871-0359 or email: [leahs@uccmn.org](mailto:leahs@uccmn.org) or [wadez@uccmn.org](mailto:wadez@uccmn.org). Many thanks to the Youth Event Planning Team for their leadership! Registration forms now available [HERE](http://www.uccmn.org/childrenandyouth): [www.uccmn.org/childrenandyouth](http://www.uccmn.org/childrenandyouth)

### News from our Local Churches

**St. Paul's UCC, St. Paul**

**EPIPHANY SERVICE TONIGHT**  
**6:45pm-7:25pm at St. Paul's UCC on Summit Ave.**

Join us this evening for a simple, contemplative service with our Evensong Ensemble (folk harp, hammered dulcimer, cello) as we celebrate the Feast Day of Epiphany! Call 651-224-5809 for further information.

### Mayflower

**Guatemala/Honduras Human Rights Activist  
to Speak at Mayflower UCC  
January 10, 2010 at 1:00 pm**

Grahame Russell is the US and Canadian director of Rights Action. He will speak about his experiences in Honduras as well as about his ongoing work in Guatemala taking delegation/seminars there to learn about the human rights abuses that are ongoing and how the US and Canada are involved in this. [Click here to read more.](#)

### Union Cong. UCC, Elk River

**Eco-Justice/Eco-Injustice:  
A Discussion with Chris Smith  
Sunday, January 10th 2:00pm**

Through visual art, poetry, internet resources, and conversation, we will explore different approaches toward creating greater ecological justice. We will critically examine our own theological assumptions about the relationship between humans and the rest of creation, and expand our strategies for engaging religious communities in the struggle against eco-injustice.

**Union Congregational Church UCC  
1118 4th Street, Elk River, Minnesota  
(763) 441-1203 [churchoffice@elkriverucc.org](mailto:churchoffice@elkriverucc.org)**

### Grace Community UCC

Grace Community UCC's Annual Black History Month Concert will take place on February 28 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. Put it on your calendar now!

## Upcoming Events

### Northeast Clergy Cluster

The Northeast Clergy Cluster will meet at 11:30am, Thursday, January 7th at First Congregational UCC, Brainerd

### Service of Installation

**Service of Installation for Rev. Amy Wick Moore**  
Sunday, January 10, 2010, 4:00 PM  
United Church of Christ in New Brighton  
1000 Long Lake Rd., New Brighton, Minnesota 55112

We have the opportunity as neighbors and partners in ministry within the Minnesota Conference UCC to join with Rev. Amy Wick Moore and UCC New Brighton on Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 4:00pm in the Service of Installation

for Rev. Wick Moore. Clergy are invited to robe and wear red stoles. Refreshments will be served after the service. Please RSVP directly to the church at 651-633-1327. We urge you to have your church represented by lay and clergy persons, and to announce this event in your church bulletin. If you are unable to attend, you are encouraged to send letters of greeting to Rev. Wick Moore at the above address.

### No Human Being is Illegal

#### **No Human Being is Illegal: Mobilizing for Humane and Just Immigration Reform**

With Noted Liberation Theologian Dr. Miguel De La Torre  
author of *Trails of Hope and Terror: Testimonies on Immigration* and Director of the Peace and Justice Institute  
at Illiff Seminary, Denver, Colorado

Explore the faith foundations of immigration reform  
Mobilize in support of humane and just immigration reform

#### **Day 1 - January 30, 2010**

7:00-9:00pm  
at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Keynote: Dr. Miguel De La Torre

#### **Day 2 - January 31, 2010**

at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church  
10:30am - Interfaith Service followed by lunch  
1:00-5:00pm Community Forum

**Learn more and register in advance by clicking here:**  
[www.uccmn.org/ministrygroups/immigration](http://www.uccmn.org/ministrygroups/immigration)

### Day on the Hill Training

The Justice and Witness Team of the Minnesota Conference UCC will be offering a **Day on the Hill Training, Saturday, March 13, 2010 at Mayflower Community UCC, Minneapolis**. Save the date now! More details to come.

### 2030 Clergy Network

#### **UCC 2030 Clergy Network: Shepherding the Shepherd**

June 1-3, 2010 | Chicago Theological Seminary  
Save the date. [Find out more here.](#)

### The Academy for Vital Christianity

#### **The Academy for Vital Christianity United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities**

What is the Academy for Vital Christianity? A chance to take seminary-level classes on religion and faith at a convenient time and place.

The Academy offers short-term classes in churches around Minnesota. Classes focus on topics like evil and suffering,

understanding the Bible in contemporary terms, and sacred music and arts. Taught by United faculty members and regional experts, the 10-hour classes are offered evenings and weekends. Among this spring's offerings:

- Professor Christine Smith leads discussions on how we can respond to "Eco-Injustice."
- Gail Anderson explores the Metro area's growing communities of non-Christian faiths.
- Dean Richard Weis shares a 21st century perspective on the writings of the prophets.

An interactive format encourages a lively give and take, and United's tradition of hospitality creates a sense of inclusiveness.

**Early registration:** \$175 (up to 2 weeks before the class)  
**Regular registration:** \$225

For more information, including class details and registration, [just click here](#). Questions? Contact Renee Flesner at 651.255.6138 or [rflesner@unitedseminary.edu](mailto:rflesner@unitedseminary.edu).

## Classifieds

### Job Opportunities

Check out the Employment Opportunities portion of the Minnesota Conference Website. [Click here to see listings.](#)

#### *Current listings:*

- Interim Pastor - First Congregational UCC, Faribault
- Interim Pastor - Peace UCC, Minnesota Lake
- Pulpit Supply - Zoar UCC, Waldorf
- Pulpit Supply - First Cong UCC, Hancock
- Part-time Pastor - St. Matthew's UCC, Forest City & Peace UCC, Eden Valley
- Community Nurse - First Cong UCC, Anoka
- Director of Children's Ministry - Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, Edina
- Director of Outdoor Ministries - Illinois South Conference ([click here for this position only](#))

### In Search of New Century Sampler

Back in 1994 or 1995 when the New Century Hymnal was first rolled out, there was a "sampler" of the variety of hymns and songs in the hymnal. It was about sixty pages, glossy black softcover with stapled binding. First Congregational UCC of New York Mills is interested in finding some copies of this sampler. Churches or individuals can contact Rev. Randy Hachfeld at [rhachfeld@arvig.net](mailto:rhachfeld@arvig.net)

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