

## eCourier June 15, 2009

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### Donate Electronically!

The Missouri Mid-South Conference, United Church of Christ, depends on the generosity of members and friends to fund its ministries.

Please use the link below to contribute electronically to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) or to The Friends of the Missouri Mid-South Conference.

### GENERAL SYNOD 27

Just a week away! We ask that you keep in your prayers the delegates and visitors from the Missouri Mid-South Conference as they travel to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Even though an estimated 4,000 UCC members and guests will converge on western Michigan next week, the UCC's Stillspeaking Ministry wants to make sure that the UCC's imprint there is not short-lived, but long-lasting.

"In recent years, we've come to understand that General Synods are not just a time to gather, worship and celebrate internally as a church family," says the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, the UCC's director of communications. "But it's a great evangelistic opportunity to tell the UCC's story to the widest possible audience, to share our unique identity with others, and to invite them to learn more about us and to visit our local churches."

[Read more](#) about plans to educate folks in Michigan during General Synod.



### DISASTER COORDINATION

No doubt you have questions about what to do now that the H1N1 Flu has been declared a pandemic. Please help by sharing this information within your church. Follow this link to National Disaster Ministries resources with CDC facts that were posted previously:

<http://www.ucc.org/disaster/national-disaster-resources.html>; and, an update from the CDC as of this date:

<http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1FLU/> Also information received from the NVOAD about what it means to declare a pandemic is found on our website at [www.mmsucc.org/mission/disaster.asp](http://www.mmsucc.org/mission/disaster.asp)

### MISSION MOMENTS

**Church World Service** Hotline for the week of June 15, 2009

## Donate Now

[www.churchworldservice.org/hotline](http://www.churchworldservice.org/hotline)

- Making bread for soup kitchens in Bosnia
- Assisting families fleeing conflict in Pakistan
- H1N1 flu pandemic

For resources for World Refugee Day, June 20, please visit

[www.churchworldservice.org/refugees](http://www.churchworldservice.org/refugees)

### **Deciding if You Should Set Social Policy**

Should Your Church or Organization Set Social Policy for the Use of Twitter, Facebook, and Other Internet Technologies? [Read an excellent article](#) on this topic.

**Red Cross offers some free preparedness resources** to Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ congregations either through email or through a quick presentation at an upcoming meeting. The Red Cross thinks congregations in St. Louis City, County, St. Charles, Franklin and Jefferson Counties could be a good fit for two FREE programs they (Red Cross) have to offer. [Find out more...](#)

**A Note from David Thompson:** "Thank you for your letters and emails in support of Campus Ministry on the campuses of St. Louis Community College. They were inspiring to read. I presented 34 letters from students, past students, church members and church officials to the Chancellor and to the Board of Trustees. I was told "We'll look into it."

"I invite you to be present and back me up at the next Community College Board of Trustees meeting, Thursday, June 25 at 7:00 p.m. In Room 200 of the Student Center on the Meramec Campus. The campus address is 11333 Big Bend Drive, St. Louis, MO 63139."

### **SUMMER READING**

[Attached](#) is a list of books that pastors in the Eastern Association have read over the last year. If you are looking for some good reads for the summer, we thought you might consider some of these.

### **MINISTRIES**

#### **Implementing**

The Missouri Mid-South Conference Minimum **Compensation Guidelines** for 2009-2010 are now available on our [website](#). Thank you to the Implementing Ministry Team.

#### **Gathering**

Meets on June 17 in Fulton to visit the site of the next FaithWorks Meeting.

#### **Administrating**

Meets on July 11 at Columbia UCC

#### **Coordinating**

Meets on July 18 in Wentzville

## HABAKKUK PROJECT

The reports of the Habakkuk project task group are now ready. This group has been engaged in an evaluation of our conference structure and staffing and has been working to discern strategic priorities to guide our conference ministry.

### Regional Meeting Dates:

June 20th, Saturday, 10am - 12:30pm, at St. Luke's UCC, Independence

June 27th, 10am - 12:30pm, at Evangelical UCC in Cape Girardeau

July 11th, Saturday, 10am - 12:30pm, at Zion UCC, Union

July 25th, Saturday, 10am - 12:30pm, at Parkway UCC, St. Louis

August 8th, Saturday, 10am - 12:30pm, at First Congregational UCC, Lebanon

August 15th, Saturday, 10am - 12:30pm, at St. Johns UCC, (5<sup>th</sup> St.) St. Charles

Plan to attend one of the Regional Meetings to discuss the Report.

Copies of the Report are available on our website: [www.mmsucc.org](http://www.mmsucc.org)

Please [RSVP to Sandy](#) (314-918-2605 or toll free 1-877-877-5884 ext 77605) the number attending from your church.

## OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

The VINE is a column of older adult ministry, reporting on practical and spiritual issues for seniors (and for those aspiring to become seniors)—in the United Church of Christ. Read it here...

## TRANSITIONS

**Ande (Andrea) Reiter** will celebrate the Commissioning of her older adult ministry to Open Door UCC, Webster Groves and as a resource person to the St. Louis Association. The service is to be held on Saturday June 20th, 2009

St. Louis Association welcomes the following who are now **In-Care**: Donnie Jones, Luke Grobe, Tim Osiek, and Robert Van Ess.

Eden Seminary has called Dr. Will Soll as the Interim Library Director for the **Luhr Library**. Dr. Soll has experience with the Eden Webster Library System, having served several years as a reference librarian. I have attached his resume. Dr. Soll will begin his responsibilities July 1.

St. Louis county UCC Church is seeking a Director of Youth Ministry. [More info...](#)

## CONFERENCE MINISTER'S PREACHING SCHEDULE

June 21 – Ivanhoe UCC, Kansas City; 10:30am  
June 23-July 1 – Attending General Synod  
July 5 – Hope UCC, St. Louis, 9am  
July 12 – Church of the Master UCC, Florissant, 9:30am

### **ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTERS PREACHING SCHEDULE**

#### **Jack Seville**

June 21 – St. Stephens UCC, St. Louis  
June 23-July 1 – Attending General Synod

#### **Dale Parson**

June 23-July 1 – Attending General Synod

#### **Krista Betz**

As part-time Acting Associate Conference Minister Rev. Krista Betz is unable to lead worship in other churches on Sunday mornings as she is the called pastor at Ebenezer UCC in Augusta. She is available in the evenings and throughout the week as necessary.

### **PIM RETREAT**

Please mark your calendar for the Persons In Ministry Retreat at Arrowhead Resort, Lake of the Ozarks September 21-23, 2009. Gather with colleagues, refresh your spirit, and experience worship renewal. Special entertainment by Cliff Aerie and 'Oikos' will highlight this event. [Registration Forms](#) are available on the website and payments can be made online through the "[Donate](#)" webpage.



### **LOCAL CHURCH & AFFILIATED AGENCIES NEWS**

([For more details check here....](#))

**June 19**, Missions Festival at Bethany UCC, Berger hosted by the Grape Country Cluster

**June 20**, White Elephant Auction and Ice Cream Social at Emmanuel UCC, Weldon Springs

**June 20**, Hope UCC, St. Louis, is sponsoring a TRIVIA NIGHT

**June 26-June 30**, General Synod at Grand Rapids, Michigan

**June 26 – 28**, St Martin's UCC, Dittmer, will host CERT Training Classes.

**June 28**, Faith UCC, Wentzville, holding a BBQ Dinner.

**June 28**, St. John's, (Mantles) Washington hosts a community picnic

*June 28*, The Perfect Play Date - A private event at the Magic House

*July 11*, Shannondale Disaster Fund-Raiser Benefit Concert with Christian Band "Thy Will" at Faith UCC, Wentzville

*July 12*, Report from General Synod at St. Lucas UCC, St. Louis

**This email newsletter** is published to promote the mission and ministry of the Missouri Mid-South Conference, United Church of Christ, its congregations, and other settings of the United Church of Christ.

These announcements are brief and timely, providing readers with supporting links whenever possible. Please forward these materials to others in your church and share them in your bulletins and local church newsletters.

You are welcome to send news from your congregation to [MMSUCC Communications](#). Items will be included as space allows. Be sure to include your name and contact information.