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Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ

Serving
Missouri,
Arkansas,
and Memphis,
Tennessee

February 8, 2010

Remember: Yearbook Forms are DUE no later than February 19. Contact Leslie with any questions.

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Yearbook Report Forms
MMS provides [this online resource](#) to help fill out these forms. Due Feb. 19.

Camp Mo-Val Trivia Night
Join us at 7pm on Feb. 20 at St. Peters UCC (Washington) for a night of trivia to raise funds for Camp Mo-Val. More [here](#).

Conference Annual Gathering June 11-13

The Annual Gathering of the Missouri Mid-South Conference will be held on the weekend of June 11-13 at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. Plans are underway for an exciting and inspiring time together.

Our keynote speaker on Friday evening will be the Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw, President of Eden Theological Seminary. We have invited our partners from Jamaica who will offer a second keynote during the luncheon on Saturday afternoon. We are working to secure a third keynote speaker for Saturday afternoon, who will address the theme of our meeting, Unbinding the Gospel.

On Saturday evening we will celebrate the ministry of Dr. Jack Seville, who will complete his interim ACM ministry with us on July 1 and we will remember the 200th anniversary of the birth of Rev. Louis Eduard Nollau, one of the early leaders and founders of the German Evangelical Church.

Although this is a "FaithWorks" type gathering to which everyone is invited, there will also be an important business meeting on Saturday morning so we encourage churches to send delegates to represent your congregation at our business meeting. During the business meeting, we will vote on the 2011 budget; adopt amendments to our conference constitution and bylaws; elect the members of our new Conference Council and our 2011/2013 General Synod delegates; and vote on the ratification of changes to the UCC constitution and bylaws.

Registration material will be sent to all churches and pastors and posted on our conference website in early March. Mark the dates on your calendar now and plan to join your sisters and brothers in Christ as we gather at Drury in June.

ACM Search

The Missouri Mid-South Conference is seeking an Associate Conference Minister to share their gifts and skills with us in

for a gifted pastor who will share responsibilities for search and call in our conference; provide support, guidance, and consultation with assigned covenanted ministries especially in the areas of youth, young adults, and Christian Education; and provide staff support to one Association's Committee On Ministry.

[Information and application instructions are available here.](#)
(File is large. Allow time for the PDF to load.)

Rebuild in Iowa

The United Church of Christ is participating this Spring in an ecumenical rebuild in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The dates to mark on your calendar are: April 12 through May 21, 2010! Volunteer work groups are invited to spend a week repairing/rebuilding homes that were damaged by the 2008 floods - long term recovery is indeed a marathon not a sprint. We are seeking groups of 10-12 people for each week to bring their gifts and skills and apply them in Cedar Rapids. Volunteer groups will be assigned to work side by side with nine denominational and two local partners to do this much needed work.

Pam Small of Evansville, IN is serving as the volunteer coordinator for the project and can be reached at: psmall66@gmail.com or cell phone 812-453-3995. We are fortunate to also have John Small serve as a site coordinator during the project. Pam and John Small have served the UCC on the Gulf Coast in Biloxi and New Orleans. We are grateful for their faithful service.

Our Congo Partnership

Africa is often referred to as the Dark Continent. Yet after living there, the question becomes "why"? The sun shines brightly on the majority of days. The skies are blue with fluffy white clouds until mid-afternoon when the clouds darken and in rolls a thunder storm. The lightning may be bright and intensely beautiful with thunder following. But then within fifteen minutes to half an hour the storm rolls on leaving steam rising from the surface of the earth.

Flying over the jungle of Congo is like looking down at a broccoli patch with rivers and streams meandering through it. When, however, one stands on the edge of the Congo, it is far from just a meandering stream. The back tides and eddies may be quiet and peaceful but the currents of the river are forceful and varied. At Bolenge 10 kilometers from Mbandaka, the capital of Equator Province, the river is 14 kilometers across with islands in it.

The days are 12 hours of sunlight and 12 hours of darkness. This is from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The time of twilight or of

When night comes the sky is dark and the stars shine brilliantly. To the north the big dipper is spilling out its contents and infrequently on the very horizon to the south the southern cross is visible. Usually as night comes, the sounds of nature become clearer in the croaking of the frogs with a deep bass voice for a while and then a number of responses followed by a shorter response in a more treble tone. Owls can be heard or the barking of dogs. Drums are often heard in the distance and on nights of the full moon or nights near it, there is the sound of singing and dancing.

Mo-Val Workday

Most all of the inside remodeling of the Welcome Center has been completed. There will be a "Scrubby Dutch" work day at the welcome center on Saturday, March 6th, 9am thru 4pm. We plan to clean and wash floors, windows, walls, etc., so that we can start moving in furniture. There also may be some outside work on and around the building if weather permits. Lunch will be furnished. If you are interested in helping call George Conlee at 314-822-4627 or email to geoconlee@yahoo.com.

Mission Moments

Ron Serino and his spouse, Elizabeth Dick, have adopted a baby boy, Michael, and brought him home this week.

The Stewardship Committee of the Eastern Association will meet on February 20th at 10am at St. Peter's UCC in New Haven.

Vera Stillwell died February 3rd. Her husband, Carl Stillwell, who preceded her in death, served churches in the Ozark area.

This summer we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Edward Nollau, one of the founders of the Evangelical Synod of North America and thus one of the founding figures of what is today our UCC. The Wisconsin Conference is sending a delegation to the birthday festivities in Reichenbach and Goerlitz, Germany, July 1-8. To learn more about this delegation, please contact Rev. [David Moyer](#), Conference Minister of Wisconsin. Brochures about the Germany event are available in the Conference office.

The UCC's 2030 Clergy Network, a network of UCC pastors in their 20s and 30s, is offering an event for professional connection, renewal and worship. "[Shepherding the Shepherd](#)" will be held June 1-3 at Chicago Theological Seminary.

Staff Preaching

Feb. 14 Dale Parson at Bethel UCC, Concordia
March 7 Jeff Whitman at Ivy Chapel
March 21 Jeff Whitman at Bethany, Berger
March 21 Jeff Whitman at St. Johns, Berger
March 28 Jeff Whitman at St. Johns, Casco
March 28 Jeff Whitman at St. Johns, Mantels

Community & Agencies Calendar

Calendar available with details on [MMS website](#).

Feb. 10 St. Louis Ministerium Meeting
Feb. 12 Emmaus Homes Open Your Heart Dinner
Feb. 12 Flying Solo Singles Group
Feb. 13-15 CYE – Conference Youth Event
Feb. 14 Vows Renewal at Bethel, Kansas City
Feb. 14 Sausage Supper at Friedens, St. Charles
Feb. 15 Conference office closed – Presidents Day
Feb. 17 Soup/Chili Supper at St. Martins, Dittmer
Feb. 19 Yearbook Forms Due to Conference office
Feb. 19 CoffeeHaus at Evangelical, Webster Groves
Feb. 20 Ravioli Dinner at Bethel – Florissant
Feb. 20 Chili Supper at Ivy Chapel
Feb. 20 Camp Mo-Val Trivia Night at St. Peter's, Washington
Feb. 21 "Bad Boys of the Classics" at St. Lucas, St. Louis
Feb. 21 Sausage Dinner at St. Luke's, Imperial
Feb. 21 Spirituals Concert at Pilgrim, St. Louis
Feb. 21 Chili Cook-Off at Friedens Peace, New Melle
Feb. 27 Trivia Night at Zion UCC – Florissant
Feb. 27 Eastern Association Confirmation Retreat
Feb. 28 Jim Hogue's 4-way Covenant at California
Feb. 28 Lynn Bohlmann's Ordination at Hope, St. Louis
Feb. 28 Sausage Dinner at St. Pauls, Marthasville
Feb. 28 Movie Night at Country Club Cong, Kansas City

Mar. 6 Welcome Center Workday at Mo-Val
Mar. 6 Trivia Night at Hope Church
Mar. 7 Kenyon College Choral Concert at Hope Church
Mar. 10 St. Louis Ministerium
Mar. 12-13 Committees on Ministry Retreat in Jefferson City
Mar. 14 Sausage Supper at Calvary, St. Louis
Mar. 14 Brad Urban's Installation at Carondelet
Mar. 14 Sausage Dinner at Femme Osage
Mar. 20 & 21 New Melle Passion Play
Mar. 21 Sausage & Beef Dinner at Friedens Peace, New Melle
Mar. 25 Jeff. Co UCC Communion & Brunch
Mar. 27 Lenten Workday at Camp Mo-Val
Mar. 27 & 28 New Melle Passion Play

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