

2005 SPRING ANNUAL MEETING WORKSHOPS AND FORUMS

- Two workshop sessions will be on Saturday from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:15-2:45 p.m.
- When you check in at the Annual Meeting, you will also be able to choose two workshops to attend. Room assignments will be posted there.
- In addition to the workshops, there is a large-group forum with John Thomas in the morning and a youth forum with John Thomas in the afternoon.

MORNING SESSION: WIDER MISSION, 11:00-12:30	
1	FORUM with Rev. John Thomas (<i>General Minister and President of the national United Church of Christ</i>)
2	Disaster Ministries, Jane and Newell Curtis, Workshop Leaders (<i>Conference Coordinators for Disaster Response Ministries</i>) Does your church have a Disaster Response Plan? A recently tested fire alarm system? Sanctuary, church school, and nursery school/child care evacuation plans? What role would your church play in a major community disaster? Who has special needs and requires immediate assistance in a disaster? Every church needs a Disaster Response Plan. We will provide some tools to develop such a plan.
3	You, Your Congregation, and Wider Mission, Rod Mundy, Workshop Leader (<i>Executive for Ministries Interpretation of Local Church Ministries for the national UCC</i>) Discover the resources available from the national setting to help you understand and connect with the wider mission (Global Ministries, Justice and Peace, Covenanted Ministries) of the church. We will unpack the resources from the website, the Desk Calendar, and more. The church is the church when doing God's mission; we do this best when we are globally minded and locally active.
4	Where Does Your Money Go?, Jim Morgan and Charlie Kuchenbrod, Workshop Leaders (<i>Jim is Associate Conference Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Charlie is ACM for Administration, both in the Connecticut Conference</i>) People are always asking us, "How are basic support contributions used by the Conference?" Come to this workshop and get the answers.
5	Making Miracles at Silver Lake, Anne and Tim Hughes, Workshop Leaders (<i>Co-Directors of Silver Lake Conference Center</i>) Silver Lake, where God is calling from the mountaintop to the lakeshore. Join us to share the stories, and hear how you and your church can be part of the crucial mission of Silver Lake. From building cabins, fixing buildings, leading or assisting in a retreat weekend, or the summer church camp experience, you too can be a Laker for life! (No previous singing experience is required!)
6	Evangelism and UCC Identity: God is Still Speaking, Rev. Michael Ciba, Workshop Leader (<i>Regional Minister for the new Valley-Northwest Region of our Conference, specializing in UCC Identity and Evangelism</i>) Let's get together to talk about how our churches can become more inviting and welcoming. We'll talk about how to get the word out about who we are and our experiences with the "Still Speaking" campaign. Not quick fixes; just an open discussion and sharing of ideas.
7	Meeting for Mission, Rev. Susan Townsley, Workshop Leader (<i>Regional Minister for the new Southwest Region of our Conference, specializing in Transformational Leadership</i>) How can you transform meetings from long meaningless discussions about who should clean the refrigerator into effective expressions of the church's purpose and a particular board's specific mission? We'll share tools for organizing time, setting clear agendas, and empowering leaders. This workshop will help committee chairs and moderators, and anyone who has ever attended a boring meeting.

8	<p><u>Justice is an Everyday Matter</u>, Rev. Lois Happe, Workshop Leader (<i>Regional Minister for the new Eastern Region of our Conference, specializing in Justice and Urban Ministries</i>)</p> <p>This workshop will help you enlarge your interpretation of justice to encompass the small as well as the large issues of your day in order to encourage each person to see herself/himself as an agent of justice in whatever circumstances are theirs.</p>
9	<p><u>A Multiracial/Multicultural Church: Beginning the Journey</u>, Rev. Raymond Hargrove, Workshop Leader (<i>Regional Minister for the new North Central Region of our Conference, specializing in New Church Development and Multiracial/Multicultural Development</i>)</p> <p>The 19th General Synod of the UCC in 1993 called for the UCC to be a multiracial/multicultural church. Becoming a multiracial/multicultural congregation is not a destination; it's a journey. Participants in this workshop will discuss some of the characteristics of a multiracial/multicultural church and some steps that individuals and churches can take toward becoming multiracial and multicultural.</p>
10	<p><u>The 3-D Conversation: Discernment, Dissent, and Dissension</u>, Rev. Kent Siladi, Workshop Leader (<i>Regional Minister for the new South Central Region of our Conference, and Coordinator for Regional Ministries</i>)</p> <p>We live in a culture of polarization. This culture has deeply affected congregational life. Bring your 3-D glasses so that together we might discern the differences between dissent ("the lover's quarrel") and dissension ("let's get a divorce over irreconcilable issues").</p>
11	<p><u>Youth Mission Trips</u>, Rev. Mark Heilshorn, Workshop Leader (<i>Minister of First Congregational Church of Woodbury</i>)</p> <p>This workshop will cover three topics: 1) reasons for dreaming about a mission trip, 2) perspectives of these trips to the First Cong'l. Church of Woodbury and trip participants, with examples of what makes them meaningful and fun, 3) practical guidelines and time frames for leading a trip, practical tools to keep good boundaries and maintain covenantal responsibilities, and general recommendations.</p>
12	<p><u>Long-Term Mission Partnerships: A Two-Way Street</u>, Rev. Susie Craig, Workshop Leader (<i>Senior Associate Minister at First Congregational Church of Greenwich</i>)</p> <p>Come and learn the possibilities for your church. Large or small, there are ways to deepen your faith, make a difference for others, and learn many things for your church.</p>
13	<p><u>Mission and Witness</u>, Dale Bishop, Workshop Leader (<i>Special Assistant to the President of Hartford Seminary and former Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries for the national UCC</i>)</p> <p>We will look at some of our traditional understandings of mission: mission as evangelism, conversion, and service. At its heart, mission is witness. Our discussion will lead us into a conversation about interfaith relationships and interfaith dialogue as aspects of mission. I will draw on my experiences in the Middle East and as Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries.</p>
14	<p><u>Youth Ministry Workshop</u>, Rev. Dr. Alida Ward, Workshop Leader (<i>Co-Pastor of Greenfield Hill Congregational Church in Fairfield, and has led youth programs there since 1989</i>)</p> <p>A place to share stories, successes, ideas, and hopes for the joyful task of ministering with and to teens. Adults and teens welcome.</p>
15	<p><u>A Challenging Spiritual Journey: Serving on a Local Church Search Committee</u>, Rev. Carole Carlson, Workshop Leader (<i>Associate Conference Minister for Clergy Concerns for our Conference</i>)</p> <p>An opportunity to learn about the basics of the "search and call" system utilized by the CT Conference and the UCC to assist local churches with their pastoral search processes. The workshop will include scripture study focused on prayerful discernment as a vital part of the search committee's work.</p>

16	<p><u>YOUTH FORUM with Rev. John Thomas</u> (<i>General Minister and President of the national UCC</i>) <i>(Non-youth are welcome to sit in although this is specifically a time with youth.)</i></p>
17	<p><u>From Connecticut to Mississippi: Back Bay Mission Support</u>, Rev. Donna Manocchio, Workshop Leader (<i>Associate Minister at Rocky Hill Congregational Church</i>)</p> <p>24 members of Rocky Hill Cong'l. Church have just returned from their first workcamp to Back Bay. They will share the joys and insights of their week in Biloxi as well as the experience of putting together a mission trip, seeking support from individuals and boards in the church, logistical challenges and opportunities, and ways congregations can support the work of Back Bay Mission.</p>
18	<p><u>Urban-Suburban Partnerships: God Speaking through Collaboration</u>, Edwin Ayala, Workshop Leader (<i>Associate Director of Christian Activities Council of Hartford</i>)</p> <p>Understanding that God continues to speak today is very important; moving from understanding to witness and action is next. We will explore the importance of creative collaboration between urban and suburban settings especially with justice witness strategies, and will review challenges of the prophetic invitation to "seek the welfare of the city because in its welfare you will find your welfare."</p>
19	<p><u>Challenges and Opportunities of Faith-Based Community Organizing</u>, Ann Pratt, Workshop Leader (<i>Director of the Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice in greater Hartford, and a member of Bridgewater Congregational Church</i>)</p> <p>How can congregations powerfully claim their prophetic voice within the public arena? What can we do to put forth our values of love, compassion, equity, and justice effectively in a society that seems NOT to value these things? How can this process energize, engage, and develop our lay leaders and our congregations? Join this robust dialogue and interaction on faith-based community organizing.</p>
20	<p><u>How We Teach UCC Identity in a Local Church</u>, Lucille Fritz, Workshop Leader (<i>Pastor of Oxford United Church of Christ Congregational</i>)</p> <p>This workshop will identify materials and strategies for teaching UCC identity to our congregations. Highlighted will be our history, polity, and theology. The "God Is Still Speaking" initiative material will be featured.</p>
21	<p><u>The Vital Signs of Parish Nursing</u>, Melanie Hogberg, Workshop Leader (<i>Parish Nurse at First Congregational Church of Stratford, and longtime volunteer nurse at Silver Lake</i>)</p> <p>The evolution of the Parish Nurse and what the program can do for your church community.</p>
22	<p><u>Workshop Rotation Model: A New Way of Thinking about Sunday School</u>, Heather Eaton, Workshop Leader (<i>Christian Education Director at Wapping Community Church in South Windsor</i>)</p> <p>Have you heard of the Workshop Rotation Model for Sunday School, but aren't quite sure what it is? Are you getting ready to try out Rotation and want answers to your last-minute questions? Have you been doing Rotation for a while, and want to share some of the wonderful things you've experienced? Then this is the place for you! Come put your head together with ours--great ideas will abound!</p>
23	<p><u>Building Blocks for a Family Ministry</u>, Rev. Margaret Jay and Andrew Jay, Workshop Leaders (<i>Margaret is Associate Pastor and Minister of Outreach and Development of First Congregational Church in Wallingford; Andrew is Board Chair of the church Family Life Center</i>)</p> <p>What are the building blocks for developing an intentional ministry that addresses issues for individuals and families at different stages of life's journey? Come and share resources and program ideas, while exploring how one congregation continues to develop a model for ministry that serves both church and community.</p>

<p>24</p>	<p><u>The Jonah Center, John Hall, Workshop Leader</u> (<i>Senior Minister of First Church of Christ, Congregational in Middletown</i>)</p> <p>How and why did First Church in Middletown form the Jonah Center for Earth and Art, and why is it so energizing? The long-term goal is to transform Middletown’s recycling center site and capped landfill into an environmental studies, cultural, and recreational area. Projects include a canoe-kayak launch, a walking trail, eco-friendly landscaping, and teaching about renewable energy and wetlands.</p>
<p>25</p>	<p><u>Thinking About the Development of Affordable Housing in Today’s Environment, Alan Green, Workshop Leader</u> (<i>President and CEO of New Samaritan Corp., a UCC-related mission in housing development and management</i>)</p> <p>A review of opportunities and challenges in developing various forms of affordable housing. Consideration will be given to the availability of federal, state and private financing, as well as to factors involved in creating partnerships with private and nonprofit organizations.</p>
<p>26</p>	<p><u>Mission and the Local Church, Dale Bishop, Workshop Leader</u> (<i>special assistant to the President of Hartford Seminary and former Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries for the national UCC</i>)</p> <p>Mission is often seen as something that someone else, usually a missionary, does on behalf of the church. We will look at how a local church can, and in fact must, be directly engaged in mission. I will, in fact, argue that a church that is not defined by mission is not really a church. Participants will be encouraged to share their own sense of mission and their own church's involvement in mission.</p>
<p>27</p>	<p><u>Jesus and the Workplace, Amy Beveridge, Workshop Leader</u> (<i>Christian Education Coordinator at the Connecticut Conference</i>)</p> <p>It is not easy for anyone to follow Jesus day by day, and it can be especially difficult in the world of daily work. However, the church can help its members be faithful followers even in the challenges they face every day at work. We will consider several models of support a church can provide for Christians in the workplace.</p>
<p>28</p>	<p><u>You, Your Congregation and Local Mission, Rod Mundy, Workshop Leader</u> (<i>Executive for Ministries Interpretation of Local Church Ministries for the national United Church of Christ</i>)</p> <p>Discover national resources to connect with the church’s local mission (Christian education, leadership development, becoming multiracial/multicultural, reaching out in service and ministry, evangelism, stewardship, worship). Discover resources from the website, Desk Calendar, and more. The church is the church when doing God's mission; we do this best when we are globally minded and locally active.</p>
<p>29</p>	<p><u>A Reflection on Military Chaplaincy, Rev. Bernard Wilson, Workshop Leader</u> (<i>Senior Minister of Norfield Congregational Church in Weston; U.S. Navy Captain, Chaplain Corps, 1978-1998, and Assistant Chaplain of the Marine Corps, The Pentagon, 1995-1998</i>)</p> <p>Let’s reflect together on the potential relationships between local churches and military chaplains at such a time as this. Whether serving overseas or right here in Connecticut, UCC military chaplains play an important role in the spiritual nurture of thousands of military men and women.</p>
<p>30</p>	<p><u>Let Your Voice Be Heard: Legislative Advocacy as a Christian Witness, Kim Harrison, Workshop Leader</u> (<i>Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference</i>)</p> <p>Learn how to be an effective advocate for Social Justice issues at the CT General Assembly. Tips on how to get your message across and the best methods of communicating with your legislators.</p>