

Church Development and Multiracial/Multicultural Concerns



by Rev. Raymond Hargrove

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This is the "great commission" from Jesus to his disciples, as recorded in verses 19-20 in chapter 28 of the gospel according to Matthew. Luke describes the beginning of the fulfillment of the commission in the book of Acts, which presents the history of a growing, dynamic community of followers of Jesus Christ that began in Jerusalem and spread to Syria, Africa, Asia and Europe. It continues to spread around the world today. This "early church" model of church development was one in which churches started churches.

With the advent of denominations churches began to support new church development primarily through wider church structures. Today, the UCC continues to change, including the many ways we go about starting new churches.

There are nearly 250 United Church of Christ congregations across the state of Connecticut. The vast majority are vibrant, well established congregations whose beginnings date back to the 17th and 18th centuries. Given that, I believe the potential for new church development within the Conference will follow three primary models:

Emerging congregation, which are often self-initiated groups that arise within the context of a specific racial, ethnic, immigrant or cultural community

Established congregations that identify with the polity and/or theology of the United Church of Christ and decide to seek affiliation.

Established UCC churches that continue to work in partnership with Associations/Conferences and the national settings of the United Church of Christ.

It is my hope that more and more established churches will actively support new churches through interaction and prayer, as well as sharing of their financial resources.

The book of Acts, in describing the descent of the Holy Spirit upon those gathered in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, also gives us a picture of a God's radical inclusiveness. It was a rich mix then, as it is now. A proposal adopted at the General Synod in 1993 defines a Multiracial/Multicultural church as one that confesses and acts out its faith in the one sovereign God who, through Jesus Christ, binds in covenant faithful people of all

racess, ethnicities and cultures. A Multiracial/Multicultural church embodies these diversities as gifts to the human family and rejoices in the variety of God's grace.

I believe that the journey to becoming a more inclusive church often begins with an awareness of its own "culture." (Every church has one!) It is, from that point, a slow journey that moves people through bible study, prayer, communication, openness, relationship building, inclusion and appreciation of the God's gift of diversity. As with new church development, there's no one path or "way" to follow.

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here." That is part of the message of the GISS Identity Campaign of the UCC. It is truly a message of "extravagant welcome" in a world where so many feel left out. It is part of the message that I feel will help draw a diverse group of people to both new and existing UCC churches where lives are renewed and transformed in Jesus Christ.

Rev. Raymond Hargrove resigned as Regional Minister for the North Central Region of the Connecticut Conference, serving the Farmington Valley, Hartford and Hartford East Associations, effective August 31. The Conference hopes to have a new Regional Minister in place by late fall.

Teach us to pray, for you are ever near;

FROM THE ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTER, WIDER CHURCH, JIM MORGAN



Mission Interpretation is one of the key responsibilities in the Wider Church Ministry job description, giving me the privilege of telling the story of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. And what a story this last year has been, visiting among the faithful of local churches and explaining how their OCVM contributions support vital work on issues of peace, reconciliation and justice.

The *God Is Still Speaking* initiative sent an electric charge through the United Church of Christ, and was powerfully felt in the Connecticut Conference. More than 150 of our local churches declared themselves to be Silbspeaking churches, committing themselves to offering extravagant welcome and radical hospitality to all Christian seekers.

The Korea and Colombia Partnership Committees, under the leadership of Rev. Deborah Blood and Rev. Linda Barnes respectively, continued to bring Christian witness to the situations in these two critical regions of the world, fostering relationship and increasing awareness.

The Wider Church Ministry Team is led by co-chairs Elizabeth McCosh-Lille and Jill Shaw. Among several WCMT initiatives, the team highlighted the faithful lives and work of UCC missionaries, facilitating online "conversations" at Annual Meeting using the Internet.

Stewardship Development continues to be guided by Amy Beveridge, our Stewardship Specialist. In the past year, a group of volunteer Stewardship Associates has been well received throughout the Conference, working by invitation with local churches, individually or in clusters, to help develop and strengthen Stewardship efforts.

The Planned Giving Ministry continues to benefit from the invaluable leadership of Rev. Leonard Clough. The Conference was the recipient of a generous Charitable Gift Annuity that will be directed toward developing programs to foster ecumenical understanding and relationship.

This year, *ConnTact*, the Conference's free newspaper, moved to a bimonthly publication schedule. Communication within the Conference was enhanced by *Conference Call*, a new, four-page quarterly bulletin insert highlighting key news and events of interest to local congregations.

This report would not be complete without acknowledging the great assistance I receive from my colleague, Cecile Gibson. Her faith and dedication are inspiring. Together, we are committed to using the Wider Church Ministry office to support the energy and vision, the "lively faith" we see expressed in so many of our local churches. Shalom!

Creative Process Embodies Mission

by Rev. Paige Besse-Rankin and Bruce Barrett

I remember my first "Ugly Tie Retreat." Kent Shald, renowned bold tie aficionado, had one clear theme: "Committee Meetings are the Life Blood of a Church; Thou Shall Not Make Them Boring! Now, everybody dance!"



At Woodmont UCC, a seemingly mundane task of redecorating hallways and bathrooms became a model of creatively living out our mission. Our Good News Team - focused on church growth and evangelism - first impressions for visitors and community members. In our building, we have almost a dozen community groups in each week for meetings with around 200 folks coming through the building for non-church events. What was our facility saying to those folks who who are and what we are about as a faith community?

Picture a dirty grey narrow hallway with fluorescent lights, a drop ceiling, and Sunday school classroom doors on either side. Our sanctuary is about 100 feet

down this hallway. It wasn't awful, but it didn't exactly welcome or inspire the stranger. Nobody danced when they saw our hallway! And so the Good News committee wanted to change the hallway décor, and (this is the important part) the church saw our enthusiasm, and let us go for it!

As we talked about how to communicate our mission to people coming into our building, we looked to our church vision process for the priorities in our life together - the things that we center our mission about: joyful fellowship, meaningful worship, faith for our children and youth, helping adults grow in their discipleship, caring for those beyond our church through outreach and justice work, providing pastoral care, and being a welcoming community attracting new people. These things are at the heart of our sense of what God is calling to in our particular setting. This is our mission in the widest sense - supporting a faith life that journeys inward and outward.

As part of the redecorating of the halls, we asked an artist in our congregation to create images on each of these themes. These became the center of new displays in the halls - surrounded by photos and explanations of our programs and missions. But they did more than that, because even as they communicated to visitors what we are about, they also grounded us as a community on who it is God is calling us

to be. These works of art have become central images in church publications and reinforced the lively energy and creativity around our purpose and mission.

For the Good News team, the halls symbolize the larger sense we have in our work with the Silbspeaking Initiative of joyfully proclaiming God's good news out into our community - of claiming our sense that our church is a gift for each of us and that we want to share that gift with others. At the heart of that gift is not so much about parting ourselves on the backs, about saying "Look what a great church we are", as naming and claiming the ways we see God working in our midst and through us in the world.

We had 10 new members join our church last month. We had 32 folks at our Family Retreat to Silver Lake. Not because of the hallways, but because a spirit of joyful creativity attracts and builds this church. The labyrinth committee is huge, a new Justice Team has started, we voted to be open and affirming, our newly designated .name tag lady% is a real hit, and the dance goes on. As Rev. Paige tells each new member, "we know that when you join us, we will change. And we welcome your ideas, your talent, and your membership in it." With the Spirit of God in the lead, everybody dances!

Rev. Paige Besse-Rankin is Pastor of Woodmont UCC in Milford. Bruce Barrett is a member of the congregation.

your still voice let us hear.

FROM THE DIRECTOR, RUTH DUDLEY RESOURCE CENTER, AMY BEVERIDGE



Teach us your word...on our path let it shine.

Teaching and learning God's word is the mission of the Ruth Dudley Resource Center. All of our materials in some way help fulfill our mission statement, which reads, in part,

"The RDMC seeks to meet the needs of God's people in their quest to know and become God's Word in the world."

In the past year, we have sought to increase the variety of materials available to churches looking for curriculum to suit their changing needs for education. New, award-winning children's storybooks that

teach timeless spiritual themes have been added. To enhance family and cross-generational ministry, we have added new books and "FaithTalk" cards. Our "occasional newsletters" also focused on family ministries, introducing readers to the wealth of resources available both in the resource center and through websites. In addition, we were able to add many books on a variety of subjects through the generous gifts of the Pilgrim Press.

Tell of your works, your mighty acts of grace...help us, God, know your word.

We are always seeking new ways to let people know about specific resources in the RDMC. In addition to occasional columns in *ConnTact* and newsletters sent through Conference mailings, we plan to make greater use of the Conference website and e-mail lists to highlight materials that are available.

The Resource Center is not simply a repository for books and videos. Part of the role of the director is to offer consultation and teaching. I'm available to individuals and groups who are discerning what materials might be most helpful for any given educational program and can offer suggestions for using them.

In my role as Church Education Coordinator for the Conference, I'm also available to work with educators and Church Education Committees. Members of the Connecticut Association of United Church Educators and several Partners in Education assist in this work. Those groups also help to provide resources and workshops for safe church concerns and for the United Church of Christ/Unitarian-Universalist sexuality education program, Our Whole Lives.

Please Do Take It Personally



by Rev. Ronald Evans

Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by being almost of the facts.

Proverbs 24: 3-4 (Living Bible)

Some years ago we decided to get with it and replace our typewriters with computers. We thought it an easy sell. Everyone was doing it. It turned out not to be so easy.

Our plan was almost totally undone when, during a Church Council meeting, I said what a great aid this would be to our congregation. The response was

microchip fast. "Ah ha! Just as we suspected. We'll no longer be names, only numbers. What's the world coming to when a church can't remember our names?" Three years later we installed our first computers, but continued to pen church records very personally with a goose-quill on parchment!

We strive to be personal in all aspects of our church life, including stewardship, and we try to "keep abreast of the facts." When our annual Stewardship pledge theme is announced and all are reminded of our common need to generously show gratitude for all God's blessings — not the least of which is life itself — we put up a large bulletin board display in the Parish Hall, with space for the name of each church member. As individual and family gifts and pledges are made, names are posted in the order in which the pledges are received. I would encourage others to do the same, for it "profits (the life of the church) wonderfully."

When you enter our building you must pass through the Parish Hall to go anywhere else. You can't miss the bulletin board, or the list of names under the bold heading, "A GRATEFUL CHURCH PROUDLY ADDS THE NAMES OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE MADE A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH FOR 2005."

We don't post the pledged amount, nor do we place names in categories according to the level of giving, as so many colleges, social agencies and arts organizations do. So why do we do it? We do it because, as our people reminded us, in a church we are names, not merely numbers, and we think it faithful practice to "keep abreast of the facts."

Rev. Ronald Evans is Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Durham.

this is life, full and true.

FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO, NEW SAMARITAN CORP., ALAN GREEN



This past year proved to be a busy time at New Samaritan Corporation as we worked with the Board of Directors and Committees, interviewing and hiring senior management staff to complete the restructured management team. We have created or upgraded the positions of Vice President of Finance/CFO; Vice President of Housing Development; Vice President of Housing Management; Vice President of Health Services; Vice President of Human Resources; and Director of Compliance, assembling a group of individuals who bring to the table much experience and talent to contribute to the growth of the corporation.

These individuals were chosen because of the high degree of expertise each one has relating to development, management, health care and/or finance regarding elderly and supportive housing, skilled nursing facilities, and in the management of our corporation. We conducted exhaustive searches to locate and hire individuals as excited as I am about

taking our companies to even higher levels of excellence in non-profit housing development, management and health care.

Our focus this year has centered on staffing and management reorganization, governance, and in expanding our base of support. And we have been successful in increasing communication between the local boards of directors for the elderly sites we manage; and our corporation, enabling our senior staff to identify ways we can improve the management of those sites.

The Board of Directors of New Samaritan Corporation and the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ adopted a revised covenant. This covenant provides New Samaritan the opportunity to seek support from Conference churches and to solicit financial resources as they are available to strengthen New Samaritan and its affiliates. It also confers recognition that will qualify us for participation in a variety of programs of the United Church of Christ.

Continuing education and training of staff is an integral part of keeping our employees on top of the latest changes in policy and procedures, and in ensuring that we remain in compliance with regula-

tory body requirements. New Samaritan Corporation sponsored a three-day training session for site Administrators and senior staff for a Certificate of Occupancy Specialist course. We have also sponsored a TRACS (HUD computer program) and Contract Administrator training, Tax Credit, Site-Based Budgeting, and Orientation programs also have been conducted.

We also focused on developing a marketing and communications plan, and have implemented a fundraising feasibility study to determine the capacity of what New Samaritan can raise in public support and to assess the purposes for which new support would be used. We have met with some Connecticut legislators and have hosted several legislative breakfasts around the state as a way to improve our visibility.

This is a very exciting time in New Samaritan Corporation's history, as we grow in new directions, expanding on our founding principles and exploring new avenues in affordable housing opportunities. I am thrilled to be working with the superior group of individuals we have assembled and look forward to the challenges we will face together.

Tithing and Step-Up Churches

Contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) Basic Support are the lifeblood of the mission and ministry of the Connecticut Conference. We are deeply grateful for the faithful sharing of financial resources that we receive from local churches.

OCWM is the program that enables our churches to extend their reach far beyond the local church. The United Church of Christ encourages churches to strive to move fully participate in our covenantal relationship by offering 10 percent or more of their Operating Expenses in OCWM Basic Support sharing.

Each year, we recognize those churches that have achieved or sustained this goal as Tithing Churches. We also highlight our Step-Up Churches, those churches that have increased their OCWM contribution by 1 percent or more from the previous year.

The monies from Basic Support help enable the work of the national setting of the United Church of Christ and the Conference. Your congregation's OCWM sharing is the primary means of supporting your denomination; there are no mandated fees to be part of the UCC, as in other churches. We thank these, and all contributing churches, for their faith-full support!

2005 Tithing Churches

First Church of Christ, Congregational, Bethany 12%
 First Congregational Church of Derby 11%
 First Congregational Church of Guilford 12%
 North Guilford Congregational Church UCC 10%
 Hampton Congregational Church 16%
 Monroe Congregational Church 10%
 First Congregational Church of Norwalk 16%
 Rocky Hill Congregational Church 10%
 First Church of Christ, Simsbury 16%
 Congregational Church in South Glastonbury 10%
 Terryville Congregational Church 10%
 United Congregational Church of Tolland 10%
 Unity Hill, UCC, Trumbull 11%
 First Congregational Church, Watertown 11%
 First Church in Windsor 12%

2005 Step-Up Churches

First Congregational Church, Andover 1%
 First Congregational Church, Ansonia 1%
 First Congregational Church of Cheshire 1%
 The United Church of Chester 2%
 Second Congregational Church of Coventry 1%
 First Congregational Church, Danbury 2%
 Ellington Congregational Church 1%
 First Congregational Church, Fairfield 1%
 First Congregational Church of Griswold 1%
 First Congregational Church of Trumbull 1%
 Spring Glen Church, Hamden 1%
 Higganum Congregational Church 1%
 First Congregational Church of Lyme 1%

First Church of Christ in Mansfield

Congregational 1%
 Second Congregational Church, Middle Hadlam 2%
 First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown 1%
 Congregational Church of New Fairfield 1%
 Newton Congregational Church 1%
 Church of Christ, Congregational, Norfolk 2%
 First Congregational Church of Norwalk 1%
 First Congregational Church of Norwich 2%
 Orange Congregational Church 3%
 First Congregational Church of Portland 1%
 Prospect Congregational Church 1%
 Riverton Congregational Church 4%
 Congregational Church, Shelton 2%
 Huntington Congregational Church, Shelton 2%
 Somers Congregational Church 1%
 South Britain Congregational Church 1%
 Congregational Church in South Glastonbury 2%
 First Congregational Church of South Windham 1%
 Steers Congregational Church 2%
 Terryville Congregational Church 1%
 United Congregational Church of Tolland 1%
 Unity Hill, UCC, Trumbull 9%
 First Congregational Church, Westbrook 2%
 The Flag Road United Church of Christ, West Hartford 1%
 Wester Center Congregational Church 4%
 First Church in Windsor 1%
 North Congregational Church of Woodbury 1%

FROM THE PRESIDENT, CONNECTICUT WOMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BETSY WORK

Women Making a Difference was the theme of the 77th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Women of the UCC, held May 7 at the First Congregational Church of Cheshire. Thirty-five girls of the United Girls' Choir (Elm City Choir) opened the meeting with their beautiful voices. In her keynote address, Rev. Delle McCormick, minister of Church Life and Leadership of the Barrington, Rhode Island Congregational Church told of her work with the women in Mexico.

And they asked, "When did we see you hungry, thirsty, sick, and in prison, and ministered to you, and Jesus answered, even as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to me."

Thirty women of the State Board gather at the UCC Conference Center on the first Tuesday of each month to worship, study and plan for carrying out the work of the CT Women. The meeting opens with the lighting of the Spirit Candle, a tradition started by past president, Sue Waldron, and is followed by this song, which suggests our Christian congeniality within our diversity.

*Bless be the tie that binds
 Our hearts in Christian love
 We Worship, we Study and Service render
 With Messings from Our God above.*

This year the focus of the State Board has been three fold. The Study team presented the Mosaic Series, "Sisters Born of Hope, American Indian Women in the UCC," a study suggested by the UCC National Women's Ministry. Native American women have been heard at gatherings of CT Women District meetings, and in March the Study team of the State Board sponsored a guided tour at the Pequot Indian Museum.

Our Program and Resources team continues to investigate methods by which we can make a difference in our inner city schools.

At the suggestion of Kathy Burton of Church World Service, the Service Team accepted the Challenge of promoting a "Safe School" Project in Kenya. The State Board agreed to the goal \$15,000 to assist the Wangu School in the slums of Nairobi, one of ten schools that are a part of the African Initiative of CWS. The Wangu School has nearly 2,000 students, with 80 to 100 students per room. Like so many schools in Africa, there are no desks or chairs, books or other teaching aids, no plumbing facilities or clean water. The children often come to school hungry, yet come to learn.

This year, our antiquated by-laws of the organization were revised and updated. The Board held a one-day planning Retreat/Share In at the South Congregational, First Baptist Church of New Britain last September, a potluck Christmas Lunch at the Conference office in December with the conference staff as our guests, and a second Retreat/Share In in June, this time at the First Congregational Church of Andover.

God is still speaking, and the Connecticut Women of the United Church of Christ are listening as we continue to accept the challenge of faithful lives as Women Making a Difference in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Recent Pastoral Transitions

New Calls

Mabe, Zachary Pastor Pilgrim Congregational Church, New Haven to Pastor Terryville Congregational Church, August 15, 2005

Wadsworth, Joe to Pastor Halifax, MA September 15, 2004

Weikel, Kevin from CE/Y Doylestown, PA to Associate Pastor for Youth First Church of Christ in Simsbury August 22, 2005

The Wider Church Ministry Team

of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ will be collecting Health Kits for Church World Service at the 138th Annual Meeting, October 21-22, 2005 at the Kennedy School in Waterbury. You are invited to collect these kits in your local church and bring them to the Annual Meeting in October. A monetary donation of \$12 per kit is another option. If you have any questions please contact Jill Shaw, gmshaw@ucc.org, 203-792-0596. For details on the kits please see www.tntcc.org.

MISSION PARTNERS OF THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

The Connecticut Conference UCC affirms the mission of the United Church of Christ in health and human services. To further this mission, we seek to be in covenantal partnership with health and human service ministry institutions that share this affirmation, so that the work of healing and service may be a more integral part of our life and ministry.

These groups fulfill a need for particular members of our community such as troubled youth and children, seniors, ministry students, and low-income and/or homeless people. Some are located here in Connecticut; others are widely spread. All have a mission to serve God's people. Please take the time to find out more about these mission partners and share that information with others in your church and community.

Andover Newton Theological School
School Mission: As a graduate theological school in the Reformed tradition, in faithfulness to Jesus Christ, we strive to educate leaders who are: enlightened by rigorous study in a community embracing diversity of faith and life; devoted to the renewing of the church and society through ecumenical witness and creative expression of the Gospel; and committed to enacting God's ways of justice and love in the world.

Andover Newton Theological School
2100 Herrick Road
Newton Centre, MA 02459
(800) 964-NXTS (2987)
Email: admission@ants.edu
Web Site: <http://ants.edu>

Back Bay Mission
Back Bay Mission, a community ministry of the United Church of Christ, serves the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the wider church community by faithful witness for social justice and compassionate service to the poor and marginalized.

Back Bay Mission
1012 Division Street
Biloxi, MS 39533
(228) 432-0301
www.backbaymission.com

Bangor Theological Seminary
Bangor Theological Seminary is an ecumenical seminary in the Congregational tradition of the United Church of Christ. It is committed primarily to equip men and women for the work of Christian ministries, serve as an intellectual center for the continuing sustenance and transformation of the church and the world, provide for the study of religion, and embody a public ministry with-

in the local communities of northern New England. *"The Way To a new heaven and a new earth..." Rev. 21:2*
breaking down barriers of race, class and geography, providing a foundation for human dignity. By helping people help themselves, affordable housing can be an integral part of any community, an essential component of successful towns and cities. For more than 20 years, New Samaritan has developed housing for the elderly, non-elderly handicapped, and low-income families.

Charles Hall Youth Services
Charles Hall Youth Services assists at-risk youth in making a successful transition from troubled adolescence to mature adulthood.

Charles Hall Youth Services
513 E. Bismark Expressway
PO Box 1995
Bismark, ND 58502-1995
701.255-2773
carol.Meyer@charleshallyouthservices.org

Ryder Memorial Hospital
Ryder Memorial Hospital has developed over the past 82 years from one room clinic behind the church to an extensive health care facility that includes, among others, services such as cardiovascular care, nuclear medicine, an Alzheimer Unit, a 24-hour Emergency Room, and long-term health care. The Intercomba Clinical Program offers participants an opportunity to experience the current and past mission work of Ryder hospital.

Elon Homes for Children
We provide a continuum of services that enhance the quality of spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and relational well-being of youth and their families.
Elon Homes for Children
201 South O'Kelly Avenue
Elon, NC 27244
(336) 584-0091
www.elonhomes.org

Emmanas Homes, Inc.
The mission of Emmanas Homes, Inc. is enhanced quality of life for people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities through life experiences that enable growth and inclusion within each person's chosen communities.
This mission arises from faith in Jesus Christ, who empowers all people to affirm and celebrate their worth and uniqueness.

Emmanas Homes, Inc.
2290 Randolph Street
St. Charles, MO 63501
(636) 946-6144
<http://www.emmanashomes.org>

Immanuel House
Immanuel House has a long history of providing for the housing and service needs of Hartford's elderly population and prides itself in being "A Home Where Love Has Truly Come To Live."
Immanuel House
15 Woodland St
Hartford, CT 06105-2321
(860) 325-2228

New Samaritan Corp.
New Samaritan's mission is to create quality, affordable housing, thereby breaking down barriers of race, class and geography, providing a foundation for human dignity. By helping people help themselves, affordable housing can be an integral part of any community, an essential component of successful towns and cities. For more than 20 years, New Samaritan has developed housing for the elderly, non-elderly handicapped, and low-income families.

New Samaritan Corp.
2056 State Street, Suite 2
Hartford, CT 06131
(203) 248-6809
www.newsamartian.org

Ryder Memorial Hospital
Ryder Memorial Hospital has developed over the past 82 years from one room clinic behind the church to an extensive health care facility that includes, among others, services such as cardiovascular care, nuclear medicine, an Alzheimer Unit, a 24-hour Emergency Room, and long-term health care. The Intercomba Clinical Program offers participants an opportunity to experience the current and past mission work of Ryder hospital.

Ryder Memorial Hospital, Inc.
PO. Box 859
Humacao, Puerto Rico 00729-0859
(809) 852-0768

United Church of Christ Insurance Board
We are UCC/ICB is committed in a spirit of partnership to provide a comprehensive, cost-effective, integrated risk management and insurance program for the benefit of local churches, Conferences, Regions and organizations related to the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

United Church of Christ
Insurance Board
704 Quince Orchard Road, Suite 300
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
(800) 437-8809
(800) 956-6600 (CT office)
uccib@insuranceboard.org
www.insuranceboard.org

Uplands Retirement Village
Uplands Retirement Village is a mission of service offering a continuum of retirement accommodations and services supporting extended independent living.
Uplands Retirement Village
Retirement Homes
PO Box 168
Pleasant Hill, TN 38578
(931) 277-3518

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Rev. Linda Barnes Franklin Congregational Church

WHO TO CALL

Accounting.....Yamini Desai
Administrative issues.....Charlie Kuecherbo
Annual Meeting.....Peggy Wright
Archives and historical information.....Evan Sealand
Becoming an ordained minister.....Your Regional Minister
Budget (Conference).....Charlie Kuecherbo
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Conference retreats.....Tim & Anne Hughes
Contact, events and classifieds.....Cecile Gibson
Constitution, content.....Jim Morgan
Consultants to Congregations.....Ron Brown
Ecumenical affairs.....Davida Foy Grabree
Evangelism.....Michael Ciba
Events sign-ups and information.....Jim Bittner
Event sign-ups and information (clergy events).....Sus Furness
Event sign-ups and information (mission, justice events).....Cecile Gibson
FIDO* email info system (contract issues).....Jim Morgan
FIDO* email info system (technical issues).....Eric Anderson
Interim ministers.....Ron Brown
Interim ministry for your church.....Your Regional Minister
Justice issues.....Cecile Gibson & Lois Happe
Legislative issues and advocacy.....Kim Harrison, Cecile Gibson & Lois Happe
Media, News.....Jim Morgan
Mission.....Cecile Gibson & Lois Happe
Open and Affirming.....Cecile Gibson & Lois Happe
Our Church's Wider Mission (accounting).....Yamini Desai
Our Church's Wider Mission (interpretation).....Jim Morgan
Planned Giving.....Jim Morgan
Pulpit supply preachers.....Sus Furness
Regional ministry (Valley/North West).....Michael Ciba
Regional Ministry (Eastern).....Lois Happe
Regional ministry (South Central).....Kent Sladi
Regional ministry (Fairfield County).....Susan Towless
Regional ministry (North Central).....Interim Registrar (listing of associations, churches, clergy)
Sus Furness
Local church resources.....Amy Beveridge
Ruth Dudley Resource Center.....Amy Beveridge
Search committees.....Your Regional Minister
Seminary support.....Davida Foy Grabree
Silver Lake Conference Center.....Tim & Anne Hughes
Spiritual development.....Amy Beveridge
Stewardship.....Jim Morgan
Taxes, clergy and church.....Charlie Kuecherbo
UCC (denominational identity).....Jim Morgan
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EVENTS

A Time to Live-Seven Steps to Creative Aging • Monday, October 10 7:30 PM-Wednesday, October 12 1 PM Mercy Center, Madison, CT • Rev. Robert Raines, a UCC Minister and a graduate of Yale Divinity School will lead a workshop on creative aging. Individuals over 50, clergy, medical workers and other professionals who work with people in their later years are invited to come and explore the fears and hopes, limitations and choices, meanings and surprises of mid-life and beyond. • Cost: \$250, commiserate \$150 • Contact: Program Registrar programregistrar@mercybitesea.org

The Art of Piano • Sunday, October 16, 4 PM • South Church, at 90 Main Street, New Britain presents their music series Musica Universalis... Music of the Spheres. The first concert features pianists Tamila Azadalyeva, Yu-Chen Shih and Maria Bessonova, winners of the 2005 Young Artist Piano Competition sponsored by the Connecticut State Music Teachers Association. • Cost: Free Will Donation • Contact: www.musicseries.org or 860-223-7555.

Life Lessons for the Passage • Wednesday, October 19 • Second Congregational Church in Greenwich • Thomas Ulrich, nationally known writer, lecturer and funeral director will offer a 7:30 AM program for writers and the general public; a noon program for clergy and funeral directors; and a 7:30 PM program for the general public. Light breakfast and lunch will be served. • For more information or to make reservations, please call the church at 203-869-9311.

The Jupiter String Quartet and Pianist David Westfall • Thursday, November 20, 4 PM • South Church, 90 Main Street, New Britain presents their music series Musica Universalis...Music of the Spheres. The Jupiter String Quartet, winners of the renowned Banff International String Quartet Competition in 2004, will perform Haydn's "Sunrise" and join pianist David Westfall for the Piano Quintet in F Minor by Johannes Brahms. • Cost: Free Will Donation • Contact: www.musicseries.org or (860) 223-7555.

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center

"Family Systems" • Friday and Saturday, November 4-5, 9 AM to 4 PM • First Congregational Church in Bloomfield, 10 Wintonbury Avenue • On November 4, Richard Blackburn will lead a session for clergy entitled "Leadership and Anxiety in the Church." On November 5, he will lead a session for clergy and church leaders entitled "Healthy Congregations." Richard Blackburn has taught leadership and conflict skills in many settings within the church. Registration and information are available on the Conference web site, www.uccuc.org • Cost: \$40 for two days, \$25 for one. • Contact: Jan Bittner, (860) 293-5564 ext. 114; toll-free in CT (866) 367-2822; or janb@ctucc.org

CLASSIFIED

Positions

ANDOVER — First Congregational Church seeks a Minister of Music for their church programs. This position is 20 hours per week and serves as both Organist and Choir Director. • Contact: Linette Harlow, Music Committee Chair Person, 23 Rose Lane, Andover, CT 06252; (860) 742-0859

BLOOMFIELD — The First Congregational Church is growing its Christian Education program and seeks an energetic, creative person with strong Christian beliefs to help provide direction and development. Responsibilities include Sunday School, involvement with junior and senior high youth groups, support of adult education and organizing special groups. The average schedule is 30 hours per week, with flexibility. • Contact: Rev. Deborah Blood or Ron Robinson, CE Search Committee, First Congregational Church in Bloomfield, 10 Wintonbury Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002; (860) 242-0776, or Ron at (860) 521 5129

BRIDGEWATER — The Bridgewater Congregational Church is seeking a part-time Organist/Director of Music. Bell Choir experience would be a plus but not required. There is one Sunday Service and a Wednesday evening rehearsal. Choirs include a 12-member Adult

Choir and a 15-member Bell choir. Contact: Please send a letter of application and resume to Rev. Peter Hammond at pererhammond@snet.net or PO Box 7, Bridgewater, CT 06752, (860) 354-8283.

LEBANON — First Congregational Church of Lebanon is looking for an enthusiastic, dedicated person to be their organist. The organist will work with the choir director to prepare for worship services. This historic church located on the Lebanon Green was established in 1700. • Contact: First Congregational Church of Lebanon, Mitchell Brown, 3 Congdon Road, Lebanon, CT 06249; 860-889-5761; or mitchell_r_brown@sbcglobal.net

THOMASTON — First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ seeks a creative, dynamic person to supervise Middle and High School youth programs. The Youth Advisor (15 hours per week) will provide programs that incorporate fellowship, spirituality, social activities, mission service and outreach in the community. Experience working with youth and a driver's license are required. Salary plus professional expenses are offered. • Contact: B. Piscopo, 37 Laure Drive, Thomaston, CT 06787; bpisc@aol.com

PILGRIMS & PARISHES • EDITED BY JEAN HAMILTON

Stories from our Covenanted Partners

Westport
Saugatuck Congregational Church recently took a group of people to a meditation service at a Buddhist Monastery and to services at a "home-grown" Baptist church. These visits were part of a series entitled Faith Journeys.

Union
Congregational Church mails their newsletters to every household in town. A recent issue extended an invitation to anyone who had not been inside the church to come to an introductory session. The session would explain what might be expected at their worship services and explain how it might differ from other Christian Churches.

Brantford
First Congregational Church, UCC has offered scholarships to their Vacation Bible School to students from area schools. These students might not have been able to attend any summer experience without the generous support of members of the church and community.

West Avon
The Congregational Church has a Pastoral Partner program. Interested members are trained to walk life's journey with other members of the congregation. The partner is matched with a person or family who might need extra care

and attention. The Partners are trained and commissioned and promise to serve for at least two years.

Danbury
First Congregational Church has stepped in to help provide shelter for the homeless when the local men's shelter is full. Funds were raised to bring the facility up to code and it was staffed on a nightly basis with volunteers from the church.

Hebron
Gilead Congregational Church invited Jim Morgan, Associate Conference Minister for Wider Church to talk to them about Our Church's Wider Mission. Jim explained the work that is done as the United Church of Christ beyond the local church including global mission, support to local churches, justice interpretation, and many other ministries.

Norwalk
United Congregational Church installed grab bars in all the church restrooms. The bars and labor were all donated to assist those who might have need of a little help.

Easton
Congregational Church offered Virtual Lilies at Easter. Instead of giving toward a plant the money instead was used for a Mission/Outreach project. The names were still listed in the bulletin as memorial gifts of Virtual Lilies.