

Iowa Conference UCC Annual Meeting "A New Day is Dawning"
Workshop Option A
Saturday, June 14, 2008
10:30 a.m. – noon

A New Day and A New Way - Rev. DaVita McCallister, Associate Conference Minister for Youth and Young Adult Ministries; Connecticut Conference UCC

This is a high energy, interactive workshop and a wake-up call for all of us to do things in a NEW WAY! When we recognize the magnificence of a new day (especially the dawn of a new day) we can see the possibility of doing things differently. This workshop will use movement, music and toys to affirm the gifts of youth and to encourage the creative courage that is essential in changing church culture (namely our styles for teaching, worshiping, outreach and mission).

Appreciative Inquiry - Rev. Ron Eslinger, Associate Conference Minister; Iowa Conference UCC

Do you see the glass as half empty or half full? Are you more inclined to see problems to solve or positives on which to build or grow? Appreciative Inquiry asks questions to get at the positives in a congregation or any group. It offers a positive alternative to "problem-solving" and challenges members to identify core, sustaining values. Check it out!

Can These Bones Live? Helpful approaches for renewing UCC congregations - Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister; Eden United Church of Christ, Hayward, California

UCC National Offices statistics for several years reveal that 85% or more of our UCC congregations show signs of being past their prime. Some say death is inevitable. Dr. Nehring believes renewal is possible and our most vibrant years may still be ahead of us. Through 20 years of experience serving in renewing congregations, in the national setting of the church and through graduate and professionally-based research on models of excellence, Arlene and her colleagues have forged successful approaches to local church renewal. Come and hear what's working well in several UCC local churches across the nation, and consider how these practical approaches may be adapted or adopted to help experience the Easter hope in our Iowa Conference congregations, and go tell others what we have seen and heard.

"Up and Coming" - Rev. Aaron James, Associate Minister; Plymouth Congregational UCC, Des Moines, Iowa

This documentary film, by Aaron, explores the experiences and challenges of young ministers in America today. Learn how the Transition into Ministry Residency program, funded by the Lilly Foundation, addresses these issues. Transition into Ministry (TiM) programs nationwide offer new ministers the opportunity to begin their careers in healthy, nurturing congregations with experienced colleagues, developing sustainable ministry practices and find areas of joy and satisfaction in their ministry. See how the Mainline Protestant denominations are investing in the future leadership of the Church by combating ministerial burnout and supporting new ministers. Ways smaller local churches might use some of the TiM approaches to support their lay ministers will be part of the discussion.

The Heart of Christianity (pt. 1) - Rev. David Ruhe, Senior Pastor; Plymouth Congregational UCC, Des Moines, Iowa

In *The Heart of Christianity*, Marcus Borg describes an "emerging paradigm" in theology: new ways to embrace the timeless truth of our faith. Come learn how to become a more passionate and devoted follower of Jesus Christ. It isn't necessary to read the book. Here is the publication information for those who choose to read it - HARPER COLLINS ISBN-13:9780060730680 Publication Date: 08/2004 Author(s): Marcus J. Borg. It is available at most bookstores or online. Many public libraries also have a copy of it.

Over → → → → →

A Soup Kitchen in Every Church - Rev. Jane Willan, Pastor; UCC Congregational, Creston, Iowa

In 1928 Herbert Hoover promised "A chicken in every pot and a car in every garage". Sadly, those promises haven't been fulfilled. A soup kitchen in every church might be the answer to unfilled promises and lost hope. You may think there are no "hungry people" in your community. Be assured – you are wrong. Many people, who might have prospered twenty-five years ago, today face the stress of poverty. Your church could serve retired people on fixed incomes, undocumented workers earning much less than minimum wage, children needing a hot meal and friendship, or working families who are losing the struggle to put food on the table.

A soup kitchen in your church will not only feed the hungry, it will transform your congregation. This workshop will teach you everything you need to know about starting a soup kitchen—from where to get the food to how to deal with the parishioners who do not want "those people in the church".

Get Started with Video Projection in Worship - Rev. David Lorenzen, Pastor; First UCC, Tipton, Iowa

Have you wanted to start using PowerPoint type of projection in worship? How can you get started? How powerful does the projector need to be? How large should the screen be? Where should the projector be placed? This workshop will give you some information on what you will need to get started. The workshop will also look at how to use video projection as a tool that enhances worship instead of detracting from the worship experience.

Worship for the 00's - Rev. Bob Miller, Pastor and Kerryn Oliver, Parish Assistant; Immanuel Memorial UCC, Alden, Iowa and UCC Jewell, Iowa

Almost everyone in the church today is part of the age of television, computers, interactive games, interactive everything, where does that leave the local preacher? What is the difference between preaching "the way we've always done it" and what church-shoppers and young people are looking for today? We'll explore some of the (radical) changes that are being foisted on the American church by today's culture and look at why thousands of young people are simply not attending worship. More importantly, we'll give you 30 ideas for worship services that can be done without additional media.

"Creating Sacred Space... The New Dawn of Pilgrim Heights Camp and Retreat Center" - Ann Graham, OSS, Inc. Executive Director and Julie Eberbach, President, OSS, Inc. Board of Directors; Pilgrim Heights, Montour, Iowa

Come learn about the exciting re-birth and re-creation of Pilgrim Heights Camp and Retreat Center and Our Sacred Space, Inc. Hear about the new organization, its new vision and new programming for Pilgrim Heights Camp. Learn about the progress of the reorganization, current activities, the summer schedule and the plans for the future.

Holy Relationships: A Framework for Open and Affirming Ministry - Rich McCarty, will be receiving his PHD in Religious Studies at the University of Iowa in the spring of 2008. Rev. McCarty has taught courses on Religion/Ethics/Sexuality, and is the national co-moderator of Holy Relationships.

Open and Affirming ministries wrestle with how to best live the gospel with respect to sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex families, relationships, etc. This workshop will equip people to engage in Open and Affirming Ministry that focuses on the quality of our relationships, not just theological or biblical debate. An interactive workshop looking at what it means to live the gospel in the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity.