

On the Way

February 2, 2011

CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE * UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Extravagant Grace * Generous Hearts * Renewed World*

Local Church Ministry Team News – January 2011 ~ David Akers

At our January meeting the Local Church Ministry Team voted to award grants to Highland UCC and Ainsworth UCC to support their **Young Adult Ministry**. We still have \$2500 left to support other churches with their Young Adult Ministry programs. The money is from the sale of the campus ministry house at Portland State.

We continue to try and put together a “**cookbook**” of the best programs and activities in the conference. To date only 9 churches have responded. We are asking that every church consider making a submission by March 31st. We hope to have the submissions posted on the conference web site so that we can learn from each other.

We are interested in improving and expanding the **music** programs of local churches. We are seeking proposals from local church musicians to put together a one day seminar on current music, including but not limited to the new Sing, Prayer and Praise song book. We voted to set aside \$2,000 for this seminar to include compensating the presenters at the seminar. Proposals should be submitted by March 31, 2011.

At the fall gathering the offering was set aside for “Radical Hospitality”. We voted to use the money to support a matching grant for a local church that would like to make their church facility more **accessible**. Grants are expected to be 50% matching grants and proposals should be submitted by March 31. The total available from the offering is \$983.

We would like to hear back from the 28 churches that received **technology grants**. To date we have only heard from one church. Advising the conference as to how the money was used was a condition of the grant. Our next meeting will be April 2.

Nampa UCC Takes a Stand Against Discrimination

Nampa Pastor Chi Morgan spoke at a rally in support of Safe Schools and Fair Employment legislation. The legislation is to amend Idaho's anti-discrimination laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity. The rally was held January 29th at the College of Idaho campus in Caldwell, Idaho in conjunction with other events around the state. The event was sponsored by the Idaho Interfaith Alliance. The following day at the congregation's annual meeting the signing of a proclamation on behalf of the congregation in favor of the legislation was approved.

**** Jr. High Mid-Winter Retreat (Feb. 11th – 13th) cancelled for lack of registrations.**

Gail McDougale's Last Sunday Scheduled for February 6th, 2011* Thanks, Gail!

After 13 years of ministry with First Congregational UCC, Salem, OR, pastor Gail McDougale, is retiring. Gail originally announced her resignation would be effective Sunday, May 15th, 2011. Following her recent stroke, she consulted with her medical team, talked with love ones, and spent time in prayer. She decided it was time to move to her new home in Florida where she can begin the next phase of her life in rest and recover, closer to her family, and supported by the love of her fiancé, Rob. February 6th, 2011 will be her last day at the church. A special celebratory service will be followed by a reception. You can mail cards to: First Congregational UCC, 700 Marion Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Gail has been active in the life of the Central Pacific Conference in many ways including CPC Treasurer, Administration Ministry Team, and General Synod Delegate. Thanks, Gail, for the many ways you shared your love and your gifts with 1st Cong. UCC, Salem and the CPC! We'll hold you in prayers as you begin your next adventure.

Interested in a Seminary Intern? ~ Laura Nelson

Grace and peace to you in this New Year! I am a second year M.Div. student at the Graduate Theological Union in search of an internship for the 2011-2012 academic year. I am seeking a progressive church community that is passionate about mentoring seminarians. I am particularly interested in college and young adult ministry but am open to the Spirit's leading in other directions. I love theology and am eager to discuss it in all of its diversity. I feel that I am best serving my call to ministry when I am able to help someone see their relationship to G-d, Jesus, and the world in a new way. Living in the Bay Area, I have become ardently interested in sustainability, particularly in the areas of food and housing.

I am interested in speaking about any internship opportunity you might have, eager and quick to learn, and very willing to relocate for the year. Feel free to contact me for a resume and cover letter. Blessings,

Laura Nelson nelson.lauraj@gmail.com [720-203-0852](tel:720-203-0852)

Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk Movie Night ~ Ron MacKenzie

Movie and Pizza Night * March 4, 2011, 6:30-9:00 p.m. * "The End of Poverty"
First Congregational United Church of Christ of Portland, 1126 S.W. Park Avenue, Portland, OR

An opportunity to relax with fellow participants of the Portland Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk and to ask Ron MacKenzie, Coordinator, questions. (The walk is on Saturday, April 9, 2011.) Donations to offset expense of event and assistance gladly accepted. Remaining fund will go to Church World Service. Please contact Ron at ron.w.mackenzie@gmail.com Please R.S.V.P. by February 25.

More information to follow.

Portland Area Media Reject “Living the Questions” Advertising ***Conservative Sports Illustrated, Entercom, & Alpha reject liberal Jesus***

PORTLAND, OREGON – What is media giant Entercom Communications afraid of? Curriculum publisher “Living the Questions” recently contracted with three of Entercom’s Portland area stations, KGON-FM (Classic Rock), KWJJ-FM (Country), KYCH-FM (Classic Hits) to run professionally produced ads as part of their online streaming radio services. Without an explanation beyond “due to listener complaint,” the ads were pulled after only one day. Living the Questions is a respected resource of video curriculum for progressive Christian communities around the world. The Portland radio spots advertised a new series called “Saving Jesus” with the seemingly balanced introduction:

“Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped and taken hostage by the Christian Right? Or maybe even worse, simply cast aside as irrelevant by those on the secular left?”

Portland was chosen specifically because of its established reputation as a liberal-leaning market. However, there seems to be very well organized opposition to any message other than that deemed acceptable to the Christian Right. That or it doesn’t take much for Entercom to be threatened into compliance with the expectations and prejudices of a fraction of their listening community.

And now, after moving the ads to “substitute” Portland radio stations, Alpha Broadcasting’s KINK has pulled the ad because, according to KINK’s Amanda Quillen, programming is “getting flooded with calls & emails” “from angry listeners ‘bothered’ by the message.” Are these angry conservative Christians calling? Angry liberals?

If it is angry Christians defensive about their narrow interpretation of Jesus, how are they any different from Muslim Extremists who react so negatively to representations of the prophet that they deem offensive? What’s going on in Portland?

"I've used the Saving Jesus curriculum and other programs from the Living the Questions series at three Portland-area churches," said The Rev. Chuck Currie, a minister in the United Church of Christ (www.chuckcurrie.com). "It is deeply concerning to me that Portland radio stations would refuse to air commercials for a Christian education program when they have no qualms about running negative political advertising. Either these stations are caving to voices from the Religious Right or from those who wrongly assume that all religion is bad. Banning advertising from progressive Christians is not at all dissimilar to how media in some parts of the country tried to keep The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other religious voices fighting for civil rights off the air in the 1960s."

In a similar development, a print version of the banned radio ad is scheduled to run in the same region in *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *The Week* at the end of January 2011. Although the ad is a simple picture of Jesus along with the questions above, the legal department at *Sports Illustrated* rejected the ad as too “jarring.” No further explanation was available.

“Saving Jesus” co-author, Jeff Procter-Murphy, has run into similar challenges in the past. He recalls trying to rent a billboard promoting the work of a pro-LGBT clergy group in Phoenix. Clear Channel refused to release available billboards for the ad. As Clear Channel had the monopoly on the market, the group had no other options.

Listen to the radio ad and see the “Saving Jesus” magazine ad at the Living the Questions blog: www.livingthequestionsonline.wordpress.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MORE INFORMATION:
David Felten 602.819.0321
www.livingthequestions.com

Hillsdale Community Church Seeks Children and Youth Program Coordinator

Position: Part-time Children and Youth Program Coordinator

Hours: Average of 10 hours per week, including Sunday morning worship.

Summary

Hillsdale Community Church – United Church of Christ is seeking a Children and Youth Program Coordinator who will work with a team of staff and volunteers to oversee community-building and mission activities for and with children, youth and families in a progressive, Open and Affirming Christian setting. Salary of \$575 - 625/month DOE.

Duties

Fellowship Building

- Schedule, coordinate and attend occasional fellowship opportunities for elementary children, parents and families.
- Schedule, coordinate and lead monthly mission or fellowship opportunities for middle and high school youth.

Scheduling and Training

- Work with volunteers to recruit and schedule teachers for three Sunday School classes
- Recruit and schedule child care providers for special events
- Assist teachers with use of curriculum
- Schedule and coordinate occasional trainings or workshops for teachers and parents on topics of interest or importance

Mission and Outreach

- Research opportunities for service for children and youth
- Coordinate and lead (or arrange for leadership of) a yearly mission trip for middle and high school age youth

Communication and Administration

- Write a monthly update for the church newsletter
- Communicate with families with children about upcoming events
- Follow-up with first time visitors whose families include children or youth.
- Check in with regular attenders following a period of absence
- Meet weekly with the Senior Pastor
- Communicate with Office Administrator about building usage
- Coordinate activities within a budget

Bachelors degree in education preferred * Experience working with children and youth

Desire to work with a team in a progressive Christian setting * Clean background check

Enthusiasm, sense of humor, organizational skills * Valid driver license

Please send letter of interest with current resume and three references to

Personnel Committee

Hillsdale Community Church - UCC

6948 SW Capitol Hwy

Portland OR 97219

Applications accepted until Friday February 11, 2011

Faith Practices Education Resource - Free Gift!! ~ Education Ministry Task Force

Faith Practices is an exciting new online resource from the United Church of Christ that's changing the way we practice our faith in daily life. With hundreds of downloadable activities available 24/7 for every age group and setting in your church, it's no wonder so many churches just like yours are already experiencing Faith Practices- and loving it! We know your church will love it, too. That's why we're offering a free gift to introduce your church to Faith Practices.

Choose Any 1 Age Group or Setting - From Any 1 Faith Practice

Examples:

Older Youth/Giving and Receiving Hospitality

Worship, Music, Art, and Story/Playing and Living Joyfully or any other age group or setting/practice combination you want

\$100 value! (One free gift per church, please.)

To get your free gift:

1. E-mail help@faithpractices.org today.
 2. Please put "Free Gift" in subject line.
 3. Specify desired free age group or setting/practice.
 4. Include your church's name.
 5. Get ready to experience refreshing, innovative ways to practice your faith!
- Your free age group or setting will be e-mailed to you in PDF format.

Hurry! Offer ends soon!

To view this offer on the UCC web site please visit:

http://act.ucc.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=31321.0&dly_id=35821

R. Kenneth Ostermiller * Minister for Curriculum Development
United Church of Christ * 700 Prospect Ave * Cleveland, OH 44115
[216-736-3866](tel:216-736-3866) ostermik@ucc.org * Toll Free: [866-822-8224](tel:866-822-8224) Ext. 3866

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44115, ucc.org  *God is still speaking,*

UCC Partners in Education * Excellence in Teaching Award Nominations

The United Church of Christ will again honor several who exemplify "excellence in teaching" at General Synod in Tampa, Florida, this summer. Nominations may be made by visiting this page on the UCC web site: <http://www.ucc.org/education/excellence-in-teaching-awards.html>

The nominations are being submitted on line for this general synod. The deadline for submitting nominations is March 2, 2011.

Ken Ostermiller * Minister for Curriculum Development * United Church of Christ

President Obama Should Outline Plan to Reduce Poverty by Half ~ Chuck Currie

The Huffington Post * January 21, 2011 02:10 PM

For a year now [I've been campaigning to get President Obama to talk about poverty in his upcoming State of the Union address](#). As a candidate, Barack Obama made a commitment to offer up plans to reduce poverty by 50 percent over 10 years. But then he inherited an economic nightmare. Poverty rates skyrocketed along with unemployment and hunger.

The good news is that President Obama never gave up the fight and through the Recovery Act and the Affordable Care Act (health care reform) he kept millions more from falling into even deeper poverty. Even the tax compromise with the GOP that was reached before Christmas includes anti-poverty measures that will help lift more Americans out of poverty. President Obama has earned his stripes as an anti-poverty advocate time and time again.

Nonetheless, 43.6 million Americans lived in poverty last year. That is morally unacceptable. Congress -- insisting on tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans that in turn drive up the deficit -- is calling for reductions in anti-poverty programs to pay for those tax cuts for the wealthy. In all honesty, we can expect to see poverty grow and more people suffer in the long-term. This week the deep poverty in America drove religious leaders to write [this message to President Obama](#):

We who lead the member communions of the National Council of Churches believe it is time for you to renew the pledge you made during the campaign to cut poverty in half in the next decade. We ask that you use the influence of your office to assure those living in poverty that this nation has not forgotten them.

Mr. President, we urge you to renew this pledge like a clarion call in the 2011 State of the Union Message.

As you have noted, this is a very ambitious goal and there are far too many politicians in this nation who might not take the risk or pursuing it without the strong advocacy of the President. But as you renew this commitment, be assured that we stand with you and that you have the support and prayers of all 37 member communions of the National Council of Churches.

The New York Times also issued a call for the president to [more forcefully address the issue of poverty](#): With 14.5 million people still out of work, and more than 6 million of them jobless for more than six months, reducing federal help now will almost ensure more poverty later. That would impose an even higher cost on the economy and budget because ever poorer households cannot spend and consume. We know it goes against the prevailing rhetoric to argue that more and better government policies are still needed to repair the economy. It is also unpopular to argue that programs that have succeeded for decades in reducing poverty, like Social Security, need to be preserved even as they are retooled for the 21st century. To do otherwise is to deny the evidence.

President Obama must explain to the American people that the country needs to continue relief and recovery efforts, especially programs to create jobs. Without that, tens of millions of Americans stuck in poverty will have little hope of climbing out -- and many more could join their ranks.

I'm praying this week that President Obama uses the State of the Union to re-affirm his commitment to cut poverty in half with specific proposals. In doing so, he will offer hope to tens of millions of Americans who are struggling in unimaginable ways.

I'd bet that raising the issue of poverty in America is the last thing political professionals would advise any president. But I'm placing my hope in President Obama himself and the staff at the White House who I know from experience care deeply and passionately about this issue. Lifting up the needs of those living in poverty, particularly children, should be an issue beyond political considerations.

Visit the [Half In Ten Campaign](#) to learn more about the fight to reduce poverty.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44115, ucc.org

God is still speaking,

YOU could become the next member of the
Summer Communities of Service (ages 19-30)

<http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/YASC3.html> or the year-long

UCC Young Adult Service Communities (YASC) (ages 21-30)

<http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/companion-communities-2.html>

- Intentional Community
- Hands-On Direct Service/Justice Advocacy Opportunities
- Faith Conversations
- Leadership Development with Host Congregation
-

Apply by February 15 – Summer Communities of Service

Apply by March 15 – UCC Young Adult Service Communities (YASC) year-long

Questions? Contact Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Executive, UCC Volunteer Ministries at 216-736-3214; blaufusm@ucc.org OR Tonya Adams, Administrative Assistant for Program at 216-736-3216; adamst@ucc.org

Gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission, UCC, One Great Hour of Sharing and the WCM Volunteer Ministries Fund make these opportunities possible.

UCC Annuity Plan Webinar ~ UCC Pension Board

Have you looked at your quarterly Annuity Plan statement and wished you understood it all? If so, please join us for a webinar on **Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at Noon (Eastern)** as we discuss the information on the quarterly statements, including current balance allocation, tracking employer and individual contributions, and reviewing your allocation of future contributions.

Following the presentation, you will have the opportunity to have your questions answered by Pension Boards staff. The webinar will be conducted using WebEx online conferencing technology. To participate you will need:

- a computer with Internet access (to view the presentation), as well as
- a phone (for audio)*

Please go to <http://www.pbucc.org> to register for the webinar. Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation and instructions for logging in and dialing in on the day of the event.

If you are unable to participate, you may access a recording of this and all past Member Education webinars and conference calls at <http://bit.ly/PBRecordings>.

We look forward to your participation on February 9.

***If you do not have Internet access, you still may listen to the presentation by dialing the toll-free meeting number: [1.866.699.3239](tel:18666993239). When prompted, enter the meeting Access Code: 680 817 093, followed by the # sign.**

UCC Young Adult Opportunities

- Ecumenical Advocacy Days will be held this year from March 25 - 28 and offers scholarships for young adults to participate. It is an ecumenical event grounded in our common faith and shared traditions of justice and peace. The gathering includes issue briefings and advocacy trainings, and culminates on Monday with all participants going to Capital Hill for pre-scheduled meetings with their Members of Congress. Early registration rate deadline is February 19.

Check out the brochure and EAD homepage links below for details:

<http://advocacydays.org/> * <http://advocacydays.org/EAD%202011%20Brochure.pdf>

- Two young adult-specific Justice LED trainings will be held this year for UCC members between the ages of 18 - 30. The first will be held in Cleveland, May 5 - 8, 2011; the second will be hosted by Pilgrim Firs in the Seattle area from September 24 - 26. The goals for these events are: to share with them the Biblical/theological and socio-cultural grounding for doing justice work; to offer them them a taste of the Justice LED program so they can promote and share it with others in their respective churches and communities; and to empower them to be faith-based leaders and champions of justice, able to deeply reflect and engage with others on issues and act on areas of injustice that move them.

Applications and information for the May event will be distributed by February 1st to UCC colleagues in young adult ministry, CYYAM members, and Conferences and posted on UCC webpages, including <http://www.ucc.org/young-adults/> and <http://www.ucc.org/justice/training/>. Justice and Witness Ministries will cover the cost of transportation, lodging, meals and program materials for all accepted applicant; each event has space for up to 25 people.

CPC Ministry Team Meetings

Board of Directors – Tuesday, February 22nd, 8:00 – 9:00 AM, Conference Call

Wider Church Ministry Team – Saturday, February 26th, 1:00 – 4:00 PM, Interchurch Center

Justice & Witness Ministry Team – Saturday, March 5th, 9:00 AM - Noon, Interchurch Center

Administration Ministry Team – Saturday, March 12th, 2:00 – 5:00 PM, Interchurch Center

Local Church Ministry Team – Saturday, April 2nd, 9:00 AM - Noon, Interchurch Center

Covenants Ministry Team, Fri.-Sat. April 8th-9th, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Interchurch Center

**The Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris – Conference Minister
Central Pacific Conference * United Church of Christ
Interchurch Center**

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