



“Widening the Welcome: Inclusion for All”
*Developing the life of congregations to include
persons with disabilities and persons with mental
illnesses/brain disorders and their families*

**A National Gathering
sponsored by
UCC Mental Illness Network
and
UCC Disabilities Ministries**

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

September 23-25, 2010, St. Louis, MO

(Sunday, September 26, is an extra optional day at no charge, other than lodging)

Drury Plaza Hotel

www.wideningthewelcome.com

Welcome!

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We invite you to the first national Conference jointly hosted by the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries (UCC DM) and the United Church of Christ Mental Illness Network (UCC MIN). It will be in St. Louis from Thursday, September 23 through Saturday, September 25, 2010. (Sunday, September 26 is an extra day and an option.)

The theme is **Widening the Welcome: Inclusion for All**. In Romans we read, "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (15:7) Congregations are people that are called to be welcoming communities. Welcome embraces the involvement of everyone, including people who have been touched by or have experienced a mental illness/brain disorder and/or a disability, apparent or unapparent. The national statistics indicate that at least one out of four families are in some way affected by these experiences. This is true in our congregations and for us on the Planning Team.

We hope in this National Conference to:

- educate about mental illnesses/brain disorders and disabilities;
- learn how to develop Mental Health Ministries and A2A (Accessible to All) Covenants in your congregation;
- share best practices by telling stories, learning from each other, and networking; and
- offer spiritual support group experiences and worship together.

Keynote speakers who will be with us for the entire Conference are Dr./Sister Nancy Kehoe and Dr. Debbie Creamer. Please see more information about our Highlighted Speakers in this registration form.

There will be seven workshops offered three times with the keynote speakers and national leaders including the Rev. Craig Rennebohm, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Bauer, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)-St. Louis. Preachers/speakers will include the Rev. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President of the UCC, Dr. David Greenhaw, President of Eden Theological Seminary, the Rev. Jane Fisler Hoffman, former UCC Conference Minister, and the Rev. Bob Molsberry, Ohio Conference Minister. Panel members will include Vel Garner, R. Jeffrey Pollock, atty., and the Rev. Jeanne Ann Tyler.

Those who stay through Sunday afternoon will have the opportunity to worship locally, perhaps including an opportunity to offer leadership in local St. Louis worship services or adult educational programs. Sunday plans also include a session to envision a way to bring the work of this Conference and the awareness of these issues to the UCC General Synod, July 2011.

This promises to be an enriching and motivating Conference. We look forward to welcoming you in St. Louis.

Grace and peace,

Peggy Dunn, Chair, UCC DM
Alan Johnson, Chair, UCC MIN



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Thursday, September 23

- 3:00 p.m. Registration opens
- 6:00 p.m. Welcome Dinner
Welcome by the Revs. Peggy Dunn and Alan Johnson
- 7:00 p.m. Opening Worship
The Rev. Jane Fisler Hoffman, preaching
- 7:45 p.m. Plenary Keynote, Dr./Sister Nancy Kehoe
- 8:30 p.m. Core Groups I

Friday, September 24

- 7:00 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Morning Devotions, the Rev. Bob Molsberry
- 9:00 a.m. Plenary Keynote, Dr. Debbie Creamer
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Workshops I
- 12:15 p.m. Luncheon Presentation, Dr. David Greenhaw
- 2:00 p.m. Workshops II
- 3:45 p.m. Core Groups II
- 5:00 p.m. Break
(Optional Movies)
- 6:15 p.m. Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Presentation and Panel
- 8:30 p.m. Evening Vespers
- 9:30 p.m. Hospitality Time, Hosted by Eden Seminary

Saturday, September 25

- 7:00 a.m.-8:15 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Morning Devotions
- 9:00 a.m. Plenary Keynotes
Dr./Sister Nancy Kehoe and Dr. Debbie Creamer
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Workshops III
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch Presentation, the Rev. Geoffrey Black
- 1:00 p.m. Core Groups III
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m. Closing Commissioning

Sunday, September 26

- (optional, extra cost for another night lodging)
- Attending Local Worship Services
- Lunch on your own and/or with Church Members
- Planning and Envisioning UCC General Synod, July 1-5, 2010, Tampa, FL

Planning Team

**"Widening the Welcome: Inclusion for All"
2010 Conference**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bob Dell, Sandwich, IL | Barbara Baylor, Cleveland, OH |
| Bridget Smith, Plymouth, IN | Vel Garner, Denver, CO |
| Carol Ahrens, Freeport, IL | Aqueelah As-Salaam, FL |
| Carrie Bail, Williamstown, MA | Norma Mengel, St. Paul, MN |
| Susan King Forbes, St. Louis, MO | Peggy Dunn, Bowdoinham, ME |
| Craig Rennebohm, Seattle, WA | Peter Bauer, Ft. Hood, TX |
| Jeanne Ann Tyler, Keokuk, IA | Alan Johnson, Boulder, CO |
| Kirk Moore, Somonauk, IL | Tom Haller, St. Louis, MO |
| Michelle Hintz, Cleveland, OH | |

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Nancy C. Kehoe, RSCJ, PhD., is a clinician well known for her work with persons who have a mental illness/brain disorder, with more than 25 years of experience incorporating religious belief and spirituality and their role in treatment. She is Clinical Instructor in Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at The Cambridge Health Alliance, affiliated with Harvard Medical School and is a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. Her book is, *Wrestling with our Inner Angels: Faith, Mental Illness, and the Journey to Wholeness*. Her Keynote is: "Come to Me All You Who Labor and Are Heavily Burdened."



Dr. Debbie Creamer is the Assistant Professor of Theological Bibliography at Iliff School of Theology, Denver, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. She is co-chair and a founding member of the Religion and Disability Studies Group of the American Academy of Religion, and is the Associate Editor of the "Journal of Religion, Disability, and Health." She is the author of *Disability and Christian Theology: Embodied Limits and Constructive Possibilities*, a book that encourages thought in new ways about categories like ability and disability. Her Keynote is "Encountering God in Disability."

FEATURED LEADERS



The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black was elected General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ in June 2009. Prior to that, he served as Conference Minister of the UCC's New York Conference. Geoffrey previously served as a Minister for Church Life and Leadership, a national agency of the United Church of Christ. Ecumenical commitment, concern for equal justice, African-American empowerment, and community improvement have shaped Black's ministry in the church and in the communities in which he has lived.



The Rev. Craig Rennebohm is a UCC pastor who has worked for the last 23 years on the streets with individuals who are homeless and struggling with serious mental illness, substance abuse issues and PTSD. He is the author of *Souls in the Hands of a Tender God*, and will be leading a series of three workshops on creating caring congregations.



The Rev. Dr. Jane Fisler Hoffman is a graduate of Eden Theological Seminary and has served in the United Church of Christ as lay leader, pastor, Association Minister and most recently for 10 years as a Conference Minister in two conferences. She and her husband Milt live in Kansas City, MO and are proud parents and grandparents. From her work with hundreds of congregations and pastors, Jane has become committed to increasing awareness and action among clergy and church folks about mental illness.



The Rev. Bob Molsberry is Conference Minister for the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ. A wheelchair-user since a 1997 hit-and-run accident, Bob is the author of two books on adjusting to the culture of disability: *Blindsided by Grace: Entering the World of Disability* and *Tour de Faith: A Cyclist's Lessons for Living*. He is former vice chair for UCC Disabilities Ministries. Bob is an avid athlete and enjoys competing in marathon and triathlon events.



Vel Garner is past Director of the Gilliam Youth Services Center and Associate Director of the Division of Youth Corrections in Denver and was responsible for all of Program and Treatment Services for the entire state of Colorado. She is a charter member of the Colorado Black Nurses organization, a founding member of N.U.R.S.E.S. of Colorado, a support group for nurses with substance abuse problems. She has a M.S. in Nursing Administration, and her Doctorate in Public Administration, Policy, Public Management is in progress. She received the University of Colorado Lifetime Achievement in Nursing Award.



The Rev. Peter Bauer, Chief, Marriage and Family Therapy Program, Department of Social Work, Carl R. Darnallo Army Medical Center Fort Hood, TX. Peter has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) working for both the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense (DOD). Since 2006, he has been mobilized on active duty serving in a variety of Behavioral Health assignments for the Department of Social Work, U.S. Army. He is a Lieutenant Colonel, Medical Service Corps Officer.

FEATURED LEADERS



The Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw, UCC, is serving as President and Professor of Preaching and Worship at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. His presentation is "Dangerous Memories: The Power of What We Remember and What We Forget." David will reflect on how individual and communal memories both constrain us and empower us.



The **Rev. Jeanne Ann Tyler** is a co-pastor with her husband John to the folks of Saint Paul United Church of Christ. John and Jeanne have two adult sons who live in St. Paul, MN. Jeanne is a person with life-long disabilities and an acquired one within the last few years. She has chosen to understand the life-long ones as gifts and burdens. Jeanne's interests are in theology, pastoral care and opera.



R. Jeffrey Pollock is an attorney practicing law in Cleveland, Ohio. Jeff holds a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School and a law degree from Northeastern University. He has been active in the national and local settings of the United Church of Christ. Jeff devotes pro bono services to legal issues relating to mental health.



The Reverend Aqueelah As-Salaam is the pastor of the First Church of North Miami Congregational UCC in North Miami Florida. She served as a Military Officer for 11 years in the United States Army. Aqueelah has a certificate in Health Care Ethics and a certificate in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD. She has also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia, and she currently serves on our national UCC board for Justice and Witness.



In 1992 the **Rev. Bob Dell** and the Rev. Ellen Hiatt co-founded the United Church of Christ Mental Illness Network. At each General Synod recognition is given to a church or individual for ministry in mental illness. The Award is known as the Bob and Joyce Dell award. Bob now continues his ministry as Chair of "Pathways to Promise."

CHAIRS OF THE HOSTING ORGANIZATIONS



The Rev. Peggy Wolfe Dunn is the current chair of the UCC Disabilities Ministries Board, with a commitment to raising the awareness of the A2A (accessible to all) mandate through all aspects of the church. Peggy is ordained in the UCC and is the director of the Maine Conference Academy for Congregational Life and Leadership.



The Rev. Alan Johnson is the current chair of the UCC Mental Illness Network, the chair of his church's Mental Health Ministry and cofounder of the Interfaith Network on Mental Illness, an outreach program of National Alliance on Mental Illness-Boulder County, Colorado. He worked in the national setting of the UCC from 1979-1995 and is the author of *Encounters at the Counter: What Congregations can learn about Hospitality from Business*.

Workshops will be offered in seven areas:

1. Building a local church mental health ministry
2. Creating an Access to All (A2A) congregation
3. Partnering with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and other community resources
4. Spiritual support for healing and recovery
5. Responding to trauma, with a special emphasis on ministering with returning soldiers and their families
6. Ministry with persons facing drugs and alcohol issues
7. Mental health ministry across the lifespan - children, youth, families, aging

Conference presenters, nationally recognized teachers and trainers, and local leaders will bring practical expertise, cultural sensitivity, and rich faith perspectives to such workshops as Craig Rennebohm's "Companionship Training," Nancy Kehoe's "Spiritual Support Groups," Peter Bauer's, "Bringing Them All Back Home and Whole," and Debbie Creamer's "Doing Disability Theology in the Local Church." The workshops will offer tools and resources you can readily put to use in your congregation.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Drury Plaza Hotel
2 South 4th Street
St. Louis, MO 63102
1-800-325-0720

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Room rates are \$104 for 1-4 people in a room plus tax.

Reservations will be taken directly by the hotel by calling 1-800-325-0720. To receive the discounted rate, tell the hotel you are with the United Church of Christ conference. You may also register for your room online by using this link: www.druryhotels.com/Reservations.aspx?groupno=2090820

Transportation: The Drury Hotel is located 17 miles from the Lambert St. Louis International Airport.

- ♦For **driving directions**, see box to the right.
- ♦A **shuttle** from the airport (round trip) is an estimated \$37.
- ♦A **taxi** ride (one way) is approximately \$40.
- ♦A **train** ride (one way) on the Metro Link is approximately \$4. Use the Busch Stadium train stop located three blocks from hotel.

Parking at the Drury is \$15 per day

Hotel parking lot is for hotel guests. Non-hotel guests must park elsewhere. Options include the Crowne Plaza (located 2 blocks away) for \$10 per day or the Stadium East public parking garage located just south of the hotel on 4th Street. Rate is determined by garage.

For a complete St. Louis parking guide, please visit this link: <http://www.downtownstl.org/docs/ParkingGuide'06.pdf>

Hotel Check-in: If early check-in is not available, the hotel will hold your bags so that you may attend sessions.

DRURY HOTEL AMENITIES

- ♦Free daily hot breakfast for hotel guests
- ♦Two onsite restaurants
- ♦Free beverages, snacks, and selection of hot food items served every evening
- ♦Free wireless internet in every room
- ♦Free business center use
- ♦Free long distance (one hour per day to anywhere in the contiguous U.S.)
- ♦Indoor pool/hot tub
- ♦Onsite exercise room open 24 hours
- ♦All meeting rooms located in hotel

ADDITIONAL ROOMING OPTION

Eden Theological Seminary
475 East Lockwood Avenue
St Louis, MO 63119-3124

16 suites are available for \$30 per night. Each suite consists of a small common room with a full size futon and two sleeping rooms with a twin bed in each. Bathrooms are located down the hall. For reservations, contact Bev Rowlinson by phone: (314) 918-2623.

Note: Eden rooms are not ADA compliant.

**Transportation will be provided to/from the meeting site by Eden students.
Rate is \$2 per trip, one-way—cash only.**



Important Deadline:

The hotel cut-off date for discounted rooms is
Saturday, August 21, 2010

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Traveling East on I-64:

Take Exit 40B (6th Street)
Turn left at Gratiot St
Turn at 4th Street
Hotel will be on right
Park in front and register with the front desk

Traveling on I-70:

Take the Broadway/Convention Center Exit (#249C)
Follow Broadway to Walnut, turn left
Turn left onto 4th Street
Hotel is on the right
Park in front and register with the front desk

Traveling West on I-64/Hwy 40:

Cross Poplar Street Bridge and stay in right (Downtown) lane
Take Downtown/Memorial Dr Exit
Turn left at 2nd stoplight (Market St)
Go 2 Blks and turn left at Broadway
Turn left at 1st stoplight (Walnut St)
Turn left at next stoplight (4th Street)
Hotel is on right
Park in front and register with the front desk

From Lambert St. Louis International Airport:

15 Miles Southeast
Turn right to take the I-70 East Ramp
Take the Broadway/Convention Center Exit
Follow Broadway to Walnut, turn left
Turn left onto 4th Street
Hotel is on the right
Park in front and register with the front desk

Child Care Options

You may find this link useful in your search for child care: www.sitterstotherescue.com. *The conference staff and/or affiliates are not responsible for child care and do not endorse any specific company.*

ST. LOUIS ACTIVITIES

During your stay in St. Louis you may want to get out and see some great sites. To assist you, here are a few ideas:

St. Louis Convention and Visitors Bureau

www.explorestlouis.com

Cathedral Basilica St. Louis

<http://cathedralstl.org/intro/>

The German firm of August Wagner was contracted to install the mosaics. The company set up shop in St. Louis, becoming the Ravenna Mosaic Company. **Paul Heuduck** undertook the red and gold designs of the transept galleries, then completed the Arch of Triumph and the Arch of Creation, followed by the pendentives underscoring the main dome and the Doctors of the Church pendentives surrounding the Sanctuary Dome. Paul Heuduck and his son, Arno, spent their lives working on these mosaics. Paul is the grandfather of and Arno is the father of Marty Heuduck, a member of the First Congregational Church, UCC, Boulder, CO.

St. Louis Arch

www.stlouisarch.com

Located just steps from the Drury Hotel, the St. Louis Arch is an amazing sight to see. Travel to the top for great views!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Payment and Receipts

- ♦ MasterCard and Visa credit cards are accepted.
- ♦ Pre-payment in full by check or valid credit card is required to qualify for discounted fees. In cases where cards are initially declined, the prevailing fee at the time of approval will be due and charged.
- ♦ Receipts confirming registration will be sent via mail.
- ♦ Please verify the accuracy of your receipt and contact the Conference Office immediately with any changes (caitlin@conferenceoffice.com).
- ♦ In the event that a registrant is entitled to a refund for his/her registration fee, it will be processed via the same method it was paid; for instance if payment was made by credit card, the refund will be processed as a credit to your credit card account.

Services for People with Disabilities

If under the Americans with Disabilities Act you require specific aids or services during the conference, please check the appropriate box on the registration form or contact the Conference Office. Please allow adequate time for arrangements to be made.

How to Register

- ♦ Web—www.wideningthewelcome.com
- ♦ Fax—303-759-8861
- ♦ Mail—Conference Office, 90 Madison Street, Ste. 403, Denver, CO 80206
- ♦ Phone registrations are not accepted.

Payment must accompany registration in order for the Conference Office to process your registration. Be sure to fully complete the registration form — the information requested is important in processing your registration. Early, regular, and onsite registration fees will be applied based on the date registration is received in full at the Conference Office. MasterCard or Visa credit cards must be used to pay all registrations received by web or fax.

Cancellation

- ♦ Requests for refunds must be in writing: fax 303-759-8861 or e-mail: caitlin@conferenceoffice.com
- ♦ Deadline for full refund less \$10 processing fee—September 17, 2010.
- ♦ **After September 17, 2010 no refunds will be made.**
- ♦ There will be no form of refund for "no shows" unless considered a special exception
- ♦ Special exceptions such as family and health emergencies will be handled on a one-on-one basis.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 3, 2010

Early registration ends

Register by this date to receive the discounted rate.

August 21, 2010

Hotel cut-off date for discounted rooms

Please make reservations by this date to ensure a hotel room.

Conference Website
www.wideningthewelcome.com

Conference Office
90 Madison Street
Suite 403
Denver, CO 80206
Phone 303-756-8380
Fax 303-759-8861

E-mail:
caitlin@conferenceoffice.com

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

“Widening the Welcome: Inclusion for All”

A National Gathering sponsored by UCC Mental Illness Network and UCC Disabilities Ministries

September 23-26, 2010, St. Louis, MO

- ♦ Use a separate form for each registrant. For extras, make photocopies.
- ♦ Keep a copy of this completed form for your records. ♦Please type or print clearly to avoid name badge errors.

For Office Use Only

Date Rec'd _____ Reg # _____
Amt Pd \$ _____ Ck _____ CC _____
Date Payment Processed _____
Transaction # _____

SECTION A

First name for badge _____
First name _____ Last name _____
Title _____
Organization _____
Mailing address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime phone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

SECTION B

Please indicate your preference for vegetarian meals. Yes No Other special diet requests _____

Do you require any specific aids or services related to disabilities? Yes No

Special accommodations needed: Interpreter Yes No (If yes, indicate sign or oral) _____

CART Yes No Large Print Yes No

Please describe additional needs _____

Note: Please allow adequate time for arrangements to be made.

SECTION C

Included in conference selection:

Full Conference: All sessions, CD, breakfast, coffee/snack breaks, Thursday dinner, Friday lunch, Friday dinner, Saturday lunch

Thursday Only: Thursday sessions, Thursday dinner

Friday Only: Friday sessions, coffee/snack breaks, Friday lunch, Friday dinner

Saturday Only: Saturday sessions, coffee/snack breaks, Saturday lunch

Circle Appropriate Price

	Early by 9/03	Regular 9/04-9/19	On-site after 9/19
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Conference	\$115	\$125	\$135
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Only	\$30	\$35	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Only	\$60	\$65	\$70
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Only	\$30	\$35	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday (no charge for session, but I plan to attend)			

Conference Registration Fee

\$ _____

SECTION D

Payment Method

Method of Payment MasterCard Visa Check *Make Checks Payable to Conference Office*

Print Name on Card/Check _____

Check/Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

By signing below, I hereby authorize the Conference Office to charge my credit card accordingly if I miscalculated fees. I acknowledge that I have reviewed and agree to all registration policies outlined herein.

Signature _____

Conference Office: 90 Madison St., Ste. 403, Denver, CO 80206

Fax 303-759-8861, Phone 303-756-8380, E-mail caitlin@conferenceoffice.com