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FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION MINISTER

Testimony: witnessing has always been compelling to me. Hearing a person talk about their conversion, or how they felt God active in their life lifts my spirit and has been an encouragement. I guess that's why I love the Bible. A few weeks ago I attended the "Gala Banquet" put on by The Crossing, the campus ministry we support on the Madison Campus. Doug Pierce is the Director and Karla Schmidt is a campus minister, both UCC Clergy.

At the event we heard college youth speak about their experiences at the Crossing. Most spoke about the trips they took to other countries to do work projects or to learn a bit more about other cultures. They spoke of trips to Honduras and Palestine and how those times changed their lives, changed how they saw the world, how they will see the word and its needs differently in the future.

I am sure most folk who attended were like me, I was near tears after each "testimony." It was wonderful to hear "main line" youth talking about and witnessing to their faith as action to assist those in need. The ministry of Doug and Karla is indeed impressive; the spirit is active at the Crossing.

DISTRICT MEETINGS IN MAY

District IV will meet in Evansville at 9 a.m. on May 15th and we will discuss the article "P.T. Forsyth on atonement" from the book, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross by Richard Floyd.

District I will meet in Dodgeville at 8 a.m. on May 16th and will discuss the article "Three in One" by William Placher from the April 17th Christian Century.

District III will meet in Portage at 10 a.m. on May 22 and discuss the Placher article.

District II will meet at Plymouth UCC in Madison, 8 a.m., on May 23 and discuss the Placher article. Papers are available from the Association Office upon request.

All districts will study **the Gospel lectionary text for the next Sunday.**

HASLANGER CALLED TO FITCHBURG

On April 15, Memorial UCC in Fitchburg called Phil Haslanger to be a Pastor and Teacher. Phil is an "In-Care" student with the Southwest Association. He has served in a number of settings as an interim and as a lay associate. He will begin service with Rev. Bonnie Van Overbeke on May 1st.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Rev. Bonnie Van Overbeke and family, in the loss of her Father Jan Hays, recovering from a pacemaker implant. Phil Haslanger and the congregation at Fitchburg, as he begins ministry there. The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference at Green Lake Rev. Ray & Caroline Sowersby of Browntown in their effort to remain in the USA

For our Congregations at:

Fort Atkinson Friedens, Terese Leonhard, Pastor
Fox Lake, Vivian Meier, Pastor
Grand Marsh, Joe Adkins, Pastor

CONGREGATIONS SEEKING:

Madison Lake Edge – seeking Interim Associate
Potosi Davies Memorial
Reeseville First

ZWINGLI UCC IN

MONTICELLO received notice from Church World Service that they have been designated a "banner church" for faithful support of the Blanket Fund and the Tools of Hope programs of the Church World Service. Zwingli ranked **First** in total giving among UCC congregations in Wisconsin who participate in these programs and **Fourth** among churches of all denominations in Wisconsin.

MIDWEST INTERFAITH CONFERENCE - AUGUST 13, 2007

THE EARTH SPEAKS: OUR SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

Keynote Speakers: **Cal DeWitt**, Professor of Environmental Studies, UW Madison and leader in Christian

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN
ASSOCIATION

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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audiences concerned for environmental stewardship; and

Laura Dresser, Associate Director of the Center on WI Strategy and active in labor market research and policy. An expert on WI economy low-wage work and workforce development.

The speakers will address the connection between the environment and poverty. Also, representatives of several faith communities will respond to the topic of the day.

Date: August 13, 2007- 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Location: Conference Point Center, Williams Bay, WI

Reg. Fee: \$50.00 (including lunch) by Aug. 1st.

Co-sponsored by: Conference Point Center, Wisconsin Council of Churches and Church Women United of Wisconsin and Illinois. Questions and additional information:

www.conference-point.org

JANESVILLE FIRST UCC SEEKS PT YOUTH GROUP COORDINATOR

The First Congregational UCC in Janesville is seeking a part-time Youth Group Coordinator, 5 hours per week, must be able to work flexible hours. Salary up to \$350/month, depending on experience and qualifications. Please call Rev. Wes Bixby at (608) 752-8716 for more information. Full job description available at www.janesvilleucc.org

SOWERSBY'S WISH TO STAY IN U.S. IN JEOPARDY

Rev. Ray and Caroline Sowersby of Peace UCC, Browntown, have been waiting for almost four years for the Department of Immigration and Naturalization Service to grant Ray a green card so they can stay in the U.S. Though they have provided documentation a number of times, the INS denied their request for a green card in August of 06 because the UCC and the United Reformed Church were different denominations – even though they are both rooted in the historical Congregational Church. The frustration continues as they re-apply. Please keep the Sowersbys and the congregation at Browntown in your prayers.

STATE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CREATES NETWORK

The State Women's Committee is creating a better network for communication for the women of the Wisconsin Conference. To be included on this list, please send your E-mail address to Carol Martell at the Conference Office at cmartell@wcucc.org

If you do not have internet availability and you wish to receive the communication for the women of the Wisconsin Conference, please notify Carol Martell by phone or mail at: (608) 846-7880
Carol Martell
4459 Gray Road, P.O. Box 435
DeForest, WI 53532-0435

Exploring Theodicy in 2007

"In the midst of a world of violence and suffering, how can we believe in an almighty and all-loving God?"

Join us for a week of great speakers, theological conversation, fellowship and relaxation.

Dates: July 16-20, 2007

Place: The quaint ocean-side village of Craigville, Cape Cod

Write to: Craigville Conference Center, 39 Prospect Avenue, Craigville, MA 02632

Fax: (508) 775-1265

E-mail: craigvilleecc@capecod.com

Website: <http://craigvillecolloquy.com>

Cost: for overnight participants & local commuters, all details on our website

Speakers: **Dr. David Bentley Hart** (Keynoter), Randall Distinguished Chair in Christian Culture, Providence College, RI
Dr. Margaret Hess

(Presentor)

Pastoral Psychotherapist with the Emmaus Institute in Nashua, NH, Fellow in American Association of Pastoral Counselors

Bible Study: Dr. William Herzog II
Dean, Andover Newton Theological School

Pastoral Reflector: The Rev. Dale Rosenberger

Dennis Union Church, UCC

To be Selected: The Planning Committee is looking for another speaker to be chosen from submissions by colloquy participants. <http://craigvillecolloquy.com> for details

Workshop: Check website for workshops, worship small discussion groups, beach, readers, etc.

Register Now – Be a Speaker – Propose a Workshop – Visit our website

<http://craigvillecolloquy.com>

MAY SHALOM 2007

- 2 Periodic Support Consultations, Association Office, 12 noon
- 3 Ministerial Development Group (MDG) Verona, 9:30 a.m.
- 3 Feminist Study Group, Association Office, 1:30 p.m.
- 4 MDG, Lake Edge, Madison, 9:30 a.m.
- 7 Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Conference, DeForest, 10 a.m.
- 7 General Synod Delegates, Mutton/Ames Home, 6 p.m.
- 8 Wisconsin Conference Staff Meeting, DeForest, 9 a.m.
- 8 Division on Christian Education, Association Office, 5 p.m.
- 10 MDG, Evansville, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Division on Church & Ministry, Association Office, 5 p.m.
- 13 Installation of Bill Weiss at Emerald Grove
- 15 District IV, Evansville, 9 a.m.
- 16 District I, Dodgeville, 8 a.m.
- 17 MDG, Verona, 9:30 a.m.
- 17 Contemporary Theology Reading Group, Verona, 1 p.m.
- 17 Authorized Lay Pastor Committee, Association Office, 3:30 p.m.
- 18 MDG, Lake Edge, Madison, 9:30 a.m.
- 22 District III, Portage, 10 a.m.
- 22 Barth Study Group, Association Office, 3 p.m.
- 23 District II, Madison Plymouth, 8 a.m.
- 24 MDG, Evansville, 9:30 a.m.
- 29 Social Concerns Committee, Association Office, 12 Noon
- 30 UEK Working Group, 11:30 a.m. The Diner, Sun Prairie
- 31 Executive Committee of the Assoc., 5 p.m.