

FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION MINISTER

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Let me encourage you to participate in the Southwest Association's 50th Anniversary of the UCC Mission Project. This project, suggested by the Social Concerns Committee, is an attempt to raise money to provide direct aid to suffering civilians in war-torn Iraq. The money would enable the International Red Cross in Cooperation with the Red Crescent to provide medical relief for injured civilians by providing one mobile medical clinic. (The goal being \$43,750) What a wonderful humanitarian symbol this would be – a way to make real our theological and biblical commitment to Peace, Justice and Mercy in the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ. Here is a way Association churches could show the face of Jesus to their communities. Please consider participation. Here are some fine words from the committee:

“Every day we listen to the news reports of dozens killed and many more injured as the madness in Iraq continues. It is imperative for Christians to express compassion to the civilian victims and offer tangible assistance. It is in the American tradition that during wars, the home-front role was compassionate engagement and sacrifice. We bought war bonds, rationed resources, gave blood, limited travel, and assisted our defeated foes to rebuild their nations. This special conflict requires nothing less. We cannot remain passive.

The United Church of Christ has supported an active missionary program in Iraq for well over a century. With the formation of congregations, schools, and hospitals we were participants in that nation's history. We therefore need to continue to support an expression of Christian charity for all, and we dare not abandon our Iraqi brothers and sisters in Christ.”

Contributions can be sent to the Southwest Wisconsin Association marked Iraqi Relief Fund.

With the Greatest of Hope,

Bob

FALL ASSOCIATION MEETING THEME FOLLOWS 50TH

“Let it Shine... the UCC at 50” is the theme of the Fall Meeting of the Southwest Association. We are fortunate to have Rev. Dr. John Thomas, General Minister and President of the UCC as our keynote speaker. In addition, we'll get a peek at Windsor UCC's expanded facilities. The meeting will take place on September 16 at Windsor UCC with registration beginning at 1:30 p.m. Registration materials will arrive soon. Here is a look at the tentative agenda:

1:30 p.m. Registration

2-4:00 p.m. Keynote presentation by Dr. Thomas with breakout groups

4-4:15 p.m. Break

4:15-4:30 p.m. Roll Call, Hymn Sing

4:30-5:30 p.m. 50th Anniversary Programs with UCC Video

5:30 p.m. Dinner

6:15 p.m. Short Business Meeting (08 Budget and Announcements)

6:30 p.m. Closing Worship

7:00 p.m. Homebound

OPEN HOUSE... MOON BEACH AT 50

Moon Beach Camp cordially invites you and your family to their Open House celebrating 50 years of Outdoor Ministry on August 25, 2007. Picnic Lunch at 12:30 p.m. with worship to follow.

SOWERBYS ARE ABLE TO REMAIN IN THE U.S.

We are happy to report that Rev. Ray Sowersby will be able to remain the Pastor of Peace UCC in Browntown. Ray and Caroline received word that he will receive a permanent resident card, better known as a “green card” and will be able to live and work in the United States. A word of appreciation to those who helped this happen.

CONGREGATIONS SEEKING

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SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN
ASSOCIATION

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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UNITED REFORMED GUEST TO BE IN SWWA

Colin and Alison Biggs, guests from our partners in the United Reformed Church of Great Britain, Southwest Province, will be with us from October 15-21. They have interest in rural ministry. Colin is ordained and a classically trained musician and Alison is an accredited lay preacher. This is their first trip to the U.S. They'll be in Wisconsin for the month of October. If you have interest in hosting them, be in touch with the Association Office.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Marlea Waber, as she continues with treatment

Our Congregations at:

Liberty Ridge, Marty Yeager, Pastor

Lowell, Carol Lange, Pastor

Madison Community of Hope,

Tisha Brown, Pastor

ASSOCIATION TO GATHER TO EXAMINE CANDIDATE

On August 12, 2 p.m., at Lake Edge, UCC, Madison, the Association will gather as an Ecclesiastical Council for the purpose of examining Craig Jan-McMahon for fitness for ordained ministry. Craig has appeared before the Division on Church and Ministry and the Division recommends him to this council. He will read a portion of his Ordination Paper, be asked questions about his theological and biblical understandings and his vision of ordained ministry. Craig's paper is available on line. Request copy from the Association. As is our tradition, all congregations and delegates are invited and encouraged to attend. Especially the congregations in the district in which this occurs are expected to attend.

UEK (German Partnership) WORKING GROUP REPORTS

A word of thanks was given to both Laura Stalder and Bill Kapp, the adults responsible for the hosting of the German Youth in the latest exchange with our partners in the Moers Church District. The words of appreciation were indeed appropriate in light of the travel difficulties incurred out of both Hartford and Detroit (following General Synod). The story is so complex, you'll need to hear it from Bill or Laura. Needless to say, we are indeed fortunate to have these leaders in our midst.

In addition, the Working Group encourages you to consider the 08 Adult trip to Germany and Russia (Pskow, near St. Petersburg) June 16-30. A more detailed itinerary is available upon request. Let us know if you have interest.

The Young Ambassadors will travel to Germany June 28-July 19, 2008 and will host July 4-25 in 2009 with a possible work camp in Honduras. Youth and young adults interested should contact the Association Office or Rev. Bill Kapp at (608) 643-8387 or bill_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org

UPCOMING DATES:

October 6-7

Peace UCC, Browntown, 120th Anniversary Celebration

October 13

UCC Historical Society Meeting in Monticello

October 14

Madison Area 50th Celebration, Madison First Congregational

October 28

Windsor UCC Dedication of Expanded Facilities

NOTE: The Installation of Paul Shupe at Madison Lake Edge will not happen on August 26, but will happen in early October.

NEW BOOKS FOR STUDY GROUPS

September would be a good time to begin one of our study groups as each of the active groups will begin a new book. The Feminist Study Group will read "Grace...Eventually" by Annie Lamott. Their first date is September 4, 2:30 p.m. at the Association Office. I have an extra book available.

The Contemporary Theology Reading Group will read "Undergoing God" by Alison. They meet September 18, 1 p.m. at Salem UCC in Verona.

The Barth Group will begin the "Doctrine of Creation 3.1, having just finished the "Doctrine of God 2.2 (this being the 9th volume they've read over the last 23 years!) They will meet August 29, 3 p.m. at the Association Office.

The Calvin Reading Group is on hold awaiting interest.

If you would like us to order you a book, contact the Association Office.

Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society

To meet at Zwingli UCC, Monticello
October 13, 2007

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. (including lunch)

Two Presentations:

- a panel featuring the authors of *That All May Be One: Historical Essays on the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ*. This book chronicles negotiations which lead to the formation of the Wisconsin Conference in 1962 and the first 40 years of its existence.

- * a lecture on the origins of the Swiss Reformed in Wisconsin with special reference to Green County, which boasts the highest percentage of UCC members of any county in the United States.

You may make reservations for the luncheon by contacting Zwingli UCC (608) 938-9640 or zwingli@tds.net

LAKELAND COLLEGE GRADUATE STUDIES MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY – FALL 2007

TH530 History of Christian Thought I

Instructor: Dr. Rich Christensen
Location: Online

TH651 Homeletics

Instructor: Dr. Mark Yurs
Location: TBA

A registration form or more information can be obtained by calling the Mission House Center at (920) 565-1538 or (920) 565-1345. A baccalaureate degree is required. You do not need to officially enroll in the MAT Program to take one of our Courses. Registration is not complete until Lakeland College has received full payment and an undergraduate transcript. (Lakeland College graduates do not need to request transcripts.)