

My Journal

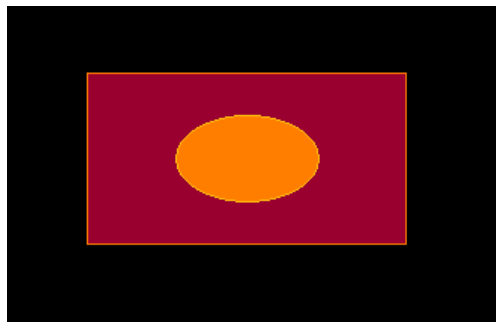
*Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever
welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.
Matthew 10:40*



Widening the Welcome II: Inclusion for All

Hosted by the UCC Mental Illness Network and
The UCC Disabilities Ministries

Thursday, September 29-Saturday, October 1, 2011



This Journal is a gift to you, offering you some visuals, several poems, the Opening Worship, and some prompting questions for you to:

- * Note your experiences and log insights,
- * Jot down inspirations and name your questions,
- * Reflect on what you are learning or what is being reaffirmed for you,
- * Remind you of what to follow-up with; and
- * Doodle.

What are your hopes for being at this Conference? Your expectations?

Anyone Can Sing ~ William Ayot ~ (*Small Things that Matter*)

Anyone can sing. You just open your mouth,
and give shape to a sound. Anyone can sing.
What is harder, is to proclaim the soul,
to initiate a wild and necessary deepening:
to give the voice broad, sonorous wings
of solitude, grief, and celebration,
to fill the body with the echoes of voices
lost long ago to bravery, and silence,
to prise the reluctant heart wide open,
to witness defeat, to suffer contempt,
to shrink, lose face, go down in ignominy,
to retreat to the last dark hiding-place
where the tattered remnants of your pride
still gather themselves around your nakedness,
to know these rags as your only protection
and yet still open - to face the possibility
that your innermost core may hold nothing at all,
and to sing from that - to fill the void
with every hurt, every harm, every hard-won joy
that staves off death yet honours its coming,
to sing both full and utterly empty,
alone and conjoined, exiled and at home,
to sing what people feel most keenly
yet never acknowledge until you sing it.
Anyone can sing. Yes. Anyone can sing.

Blessings from the Planning Team as you participate in this Conference.

*Peter Bauer, Ft. Hood, TX
Barbara Baylor, Cleveland, OH
Peggy Dunn, Bowdoinham, ME
Michelle Hintz, Cleveland, OH
Alan Johnson, Boulder, CO
Norma Mengel, St. Paul, MN
Kathi Wilson, Marchasville, MO*

*Kelli Parrish Lucas, San Diego, CA
Bob Dell, Sandwich, IL
Kevin Pettit, Boulder, CO
CJ Siroky, Indianapolis, IN
Mary Alice Suter, St. Louis, MO
Kirk Moore, Somonauk, IL
Terri Tyson, Kettering, OH*



Opening Worship for Widening the Welcome II: Inclusion for All
Thursday, September 29, 4:15 p.m.

Gathering Instrumental Music

Kirk Moore

Call to Celebration

Peggy Dunn

One: We are met in the Spirit of God
who fills the world with tenderness
and holds the whole of life in sacred care.

**All: We come to share and enjoy a holy journey
listening together for truth and wisdom
trusting in God's goodness and grace.**

One: We gather to learn
to live more freely and fully
following the paths of love and the ways which make for health and peace.

Harkening to Christ's example
we confirm this to be our call:

**All: To be a center of hope,
a community of joy and gladness,
a family of high compassion,
and a home for healing and growth.**

Opening Hymn **"Precious Lord"**

Gathering Prayer

Litany of Healing, Recovery and Wholeness

One: We are each of us worthy, beloved.

All: We are all sacred, souls created for wholeness.

One: We each have gifts.

All: We all are instruments of God's love.

One: Make of our frailty an invitation to gentleness.

All: Make of our limits, a calling to support one another.

One: Make of our imbalances and disorders, a deeper well being.

All: Be present in our humanness, O God, and share through us, Life.

Scripture Lessons

Mark 7:24-30

Lynda Bigler

Luke 14:12-23

Kelli Parrish Lucas

Hymn

"Draw the Circle Wide"

Sermon

"A Tale of Two Neighborhoods"

Craig Rennebohm

Hymn

"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

Prayers

Benediction

Jeanne Tyler

Sending Forth Instrumental Music

Thursday Evening Plenary with Carolyn Thompson, 7:15 p.m.

"Enlarge the Site of your Tent"

I learned.....

I was surprised or struck by...

I wondered about...

Beginners ~ Denise Levertov ~(*Candles in Babylon*)

But we have only begun
To love the earth.

We have only begun
To imagine the fullness of life.

How could we tire of hope?
— so much is in bud.

How can desire fail?
— we have only begun

to imagine justice and mercy,
only begun to envision

how it might be
to live as siblings with beast and flower,
not as oppressors.

Surely our river
cannot already be hastening
into the sea of nonbeing?

Surely it cannot
drag, in the silt,
all that is innocent?

Not yet, not yet—
there is too much broken
that must be mended,

too much hurt we have done to each other
that cannot yet be forgiven.

We have only begun to know
the power that is in us if we would join
our solitudes in the communion of struggle.

So much is unfolding that must
complete its gesture,
so much is in bud.

Core Group Session I, Thursday, 8:15 p.m.

Names

Special interest(s)

My reflections from the first Core Group Session are...

A gift I have received already is.....

The challenges that come to me are.....



Friday morning Devotions with Lynda Bigler, 8:30 a.m.

How has the Spirit come to me thus far?

What experience(s) have helped focus me?

Friday morning Plenary with Tom Reynolds, 9:00 a.m.

***“Witnessing Vulnerability:
On Accessing the Compassionate Church”***

In my setting/my life, disabilities are....



What new directions/whispers are coming to me?

First Workshop, Friday, 10:30 a.m.

Leader(s):

Topic:

What spoke to me was....

What can be applied to my life is...

What surprised me was...

Perhaps...

~ Shu Ting ~ (Translated by K. Kizer in *Cool, Calm & Collected*)

Perhaps these thoughts of ours
will never find an audience
Perhaps the mistaken road
will end in a mistake

Perhaps the lamps we light one at a time
will be blown out, one at a time
Perhaps the candles of our lives will gutter out
without lighting a fire to warm us.

Perhaps when all the tears have been shed
the earth will be more fertile
Perhaps when we sing praises to the sun
the sun will praise us in return
Perhaps these heavy burdens
will strengthen our philosophy
Perhaps when we weep for those in misery
we must be silent about miseries of our own
Perhaps
Because of our irresistible sense of mission
We have no choice

Friday Luncheon with Christine Guth, 12:15 p.m.

***“From Cure to Community:
Biblical Understandings to Challenge the Stigma of Disabilities”***

What intrigued me was...

What I learned from her was..

Second Workshop, Friday, 3:00 p.m.

Leader(s):

Topic:

What spoke to me was....

What can be applied to my life is...

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime;
therefore, we must be saved by hope.
Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense
in any immediate context of history;
therefore, we must be saved by faith.
Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone;
therefore we are saved by love.

~ Reinhold Niebuhr ~

(Excerpt from *The Irony of American History*,
cited in *Leading from Within*, ed. by S. M. Intrator and M. Scribner)



Core Group Session II, 4:45 p.m.

What I am bringing to bring to my Group right now is.....

What I am learning through listening in my Group is....

Sabbath: Afternoon Break Time, 1:45 p.m.

Here are some suggestions:

Take a walk Saunter through the Resource and Book Tables
Join friends for informal conversation Take a nap
Go for a swim Take in one of the “movies” before dinner
Write a poem Write in Your Journal
Draw a picture Sing

Movie Options

Lars and the Real Girl
Music Within
Mary and Max
Temple Grandin



Friday Evening with Bob Molsberry, Panel, Open Mic, 7:30 p.m.

“Who is Included?”

What struck me was.....

What I would take to my own setting is.....

Easter Exultet
Shake out your qualms.
Shake up your dreams.
Deepen your roots.
Extend your branches.
Trust deep water
and head for the open,
even if your vision
shipwrecks you.
Quit your addiction
to sneer and complain.
Open a lookout.
Dance on a brink.
Run with your wildfire.
You are closer to glory
leaping an abyss
than upholstering a rut.
Not dawdling.
Not doubting.
Intrepid all the way
Walk toward clarity.
At every crossroad
Be prepared
to bump into wonder.
Only love prevails.
En route to disaster
insist on canticles.
Lift your ineffable
out of the mundane.
Nothing perishes;
nothing survives;
everything transforms!
Honeymoon with Big Joy!

~ James Broughton ~ (*Sermons of the Big Joy*)

Friday Evening Vespers With Kirk Moore, 8:30 p.m.

The blessings that I have received thus far are.....

My personal prayer for this evening is.....

Friday Evening Hospitality Time, 9:15 p.m.
Hosted by the Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Saturday Morning devotions with Barbara Baylor, 8:30 a.m.

The moments of restlessness that I hope to release to God are....

The moments of peace for me in this time have been...



Saturday Plenary Keynote with Tom Reynolds, 9:00 a.m.

*“Witnessing Vulnerability:
On Accessing the Compassionate Church II”*

What struck me in this presentation is.....

What I have heard that is helping me on my way is...

Third Workshop Saturday Morning, 10:30 a.m.

Leader(s):

Topic:

What spoke to me was....

What can be applied to my life is...

**Saturday Luncheon with Ben Guess and Worship with
Communion and Praying with Color – Intentional Doodling, Noon**

“A Church that Jesus Would Join”

Your Reflections

One story of inspiration that will stay with me was...

What gifts and graces am I taking with me?

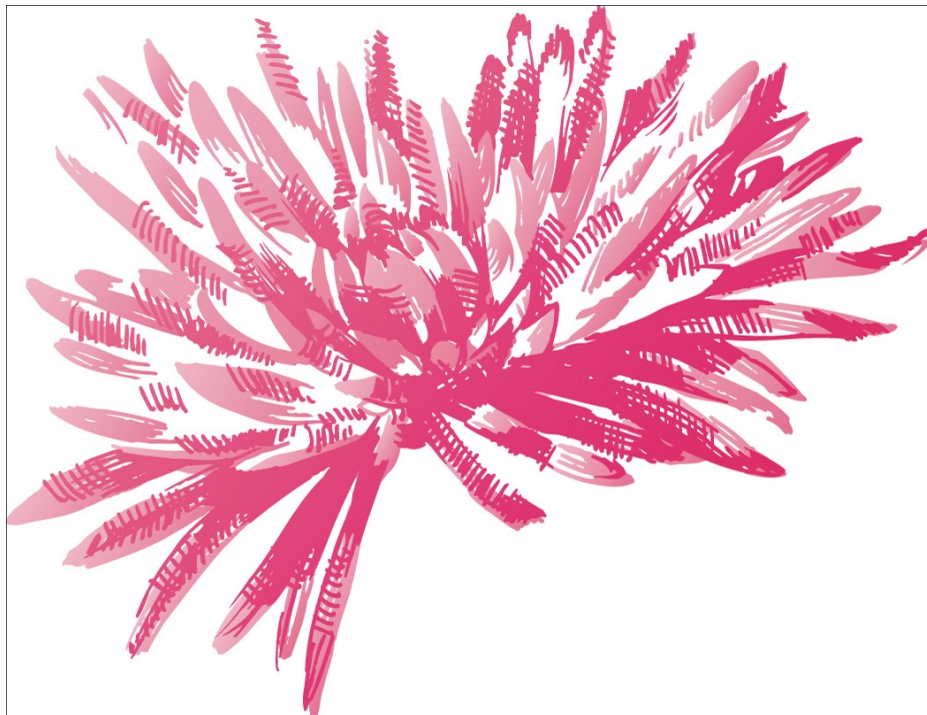
What vocational call and commitment do I need to honor and/or renew?

Who will I ask to help keep me accountable to this promise?

*We hope that you have been blessed by your time at this conference
and we pray that you will be a blessing to others.*

Grace and peace,

The Planning Team of the
Widening the Welcome II: Inclusion for All Conference.



Songs from the conference:

- ***Amazing Grace - John Newton***
- ***Born This Way - Lady Gaga***
- ***Buffalo Boy***
- ***Come to the Feast - Christopher Grundy***
- ***Deep and Wide***
- ***Draw the Circle Wide - Gordon Light***
- ***God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale - Jaroslav J. Vajda***
- ***God of the Water and Land - Sara Kay***
- ***The Household of God - John Evans-Klock and Peter Sykes***
- ***I am Welcome - Bryan Sirchio***
- ***I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me***
- ***Jesus Loves Me***
- ***Kum Ba Yah***
- ***Lord, Listen to your Children Praying - Ken Medema***
- ***More Light - Christopher Grundy***
- ***The Neighborhood Song - Mister Rogers***
- ***One Spirit of Love - Paul B. Svenson***
- ***A Prayer - Bill Green***
- ***Precious Lord, Take My Hand - Thomas A Dorsey***
- ***Standing in the Need of Prayer (It's Me, Oh Lord)***
- ***Offering (I Will) - Andra Moran and Ben Harper***
- ***Oh Clap Your Hands - Bob Stromberg***
- ***Where Justice Rolls Down - Rick Carlson, Michael Pearce Donley, and Bob Stromberg***
- ***You Can Smile***





We thank the following for their financial support:

***UCC Disabilities Ministries and the UCC Mental Illness Network
The UCC Local Church Ministries
UCC Justice Witness Ministry
The First Congregational Church, Boulder, CO
An Anonymous Donor from a UCC church in OHIO***

***This Journal was assembled by Alan Johnson and most of the
hymns/songs were selected by Kirk Moore***

wideningthewelcome.com