

WIDENING THE WELCOME 2013: INCLUSION FOR ALL



Thursday, June 27, 2013
Long Beach, CA
Renaissance Long Beach Hotel

A one day national gathering developing the life of congregations to include persons with disabilities and persons with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families

Sponsored by the
United Church of Christ
(UCC) Disabilities
Ministries and the UCC
Mental Illness
Network.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)

www.wideningthewelcome.com

Questions: kelli@womenwhospeakinchurch.com



Welcome!

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

You are invited to the fourth national Widening the Welcome: Inclusion for All Conference. The conference will be Thursday, June 27, in Long Beach, CA. The conference is hosted by the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries and the UCC Mental Illness Network.



The theme is: “God’s Vision: The Great Dinner is Open to All.”

This theme is based on the two stories in Luke 14:12-24, where Jesus extends the realm of God’s hospitality. Rather than inviting those who are in one’s immediate family or those who are rich and would therefore be able and obligated to return the favor, Jesus revises the guest list. Those who will be invited are those who have been marginalized, shunned, and rejected by society. These are the ones who have a place at the table where the welcome is wide and deep; where those who are not going to reciprocate the gift are given honor and respect; and where there will be blessing. In this story it is God, not human beings prone to stigma, who decides who will be invited.

The second story underscores that when the original invited guests came up with excuses, Jesus encourages his disciples to insist that new invitations are given to those who would not be on many hosts’ guest list. The story expands the inclusion. These are the ones who, as in the first story, have been marginalized, shunned, and rejected. They are compelled with compassion to sit at the great dinner and all who are on the road or in the lanes—those at the very edges of the margins—are welcome. Thus the house will be filled.

We believe that congregations are to be those places with an expanding welcome and an extending inclusion. The two keynote speakers are Susan Gregg Schroeder and Ann Ito (you can read more about them below). There will be workshops which will equip you and your congregation to address the concerns around inclusion as well as underscore your welcome to all. There will be devotions, music, small group sharing, and opportunities to meet people from across the country. There will be representative members of UCC Conference Inclusion Teams who are becoming resources for us all.

Our National Conference will:

- **educate about mental illnesses/brain disorders and disabilities;**
- **teach 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;**
- **equip pastoral leaders to understand and provide quality pastoral care to men and women addressing these concerns;**
- **strengthen our Conference Inclusion Teams; and**
- **offer spiritual support group experiences and worship together.**

As we join together in this fourth national conference, we have been blessed by those who have paved the way to this time.

We look forward to your participation to deepen the momentum of this movement of inclusion for all.

Grace and peace,
Peggy Dunn Davis, Co-Chair, UCC DM
Jeanne Tyler, Co-Chair, UCC DM
Alan Johnson, Chair, UCC MIN

For more information or with questions:

Kelli Parrish Lucas
Widening the Welcome Conference Coordinator, UCC DM Secretary
kelli@womenwhospeakinchurch.com



Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, June 27, 2013

7:30-8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
7:30-10:00 a.m.	Registration
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Morning Devotions
8:30-9:15 a.m.	Keynote: "Mental Illness as a Spiritual Journey", Susan Gregg Schroeder
9:15-9:45 a.m.	Coffee Break
9:45-11:00 a.m.	Workshops I
11:20 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Core Groups: Time to meet others/express what else you are looking for today.
12:00-12:30 p.m.	Prayer, lunch is served (lunch continues through Keynote)
12:30-12:45 p.m.	Greetings from UCC DM
12:45-1:30 p.m.	Keynote, "The Power of HOPE: Transformational Encounters", Ann Ito
1:45-2:00 p.m.	Coffee Break
2:00-3:15 p.m.	Workshops II
3:15-3:45 p.m.	A Break to Breathe
3:45-4:30 p.m.	Core Groups: What did you learn or what are you processing?
4:30-6:30 p.m.	Dinner Banquet: Summary comments by the two keynote speakers, Susan Gregg-Schroeder and Ann Ito and a time for Q and A.
6:30-7:30 p.m.	Closing and Vespers

Keynote Speakers



Susan Gregg-Schroeder: As a consumer and a member of the clergy, the Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder brings the wisdom of her ongoing journey and struggles with depression to offer universal truths about spirituality during difficult times. In sharing six gifts of the shadow, she encourages others to discover opportunities for growth, change and transformation. She will also provide a brief history of how mental illness has been understood since Biblical times and suggest ways to integrate spirituality into the treatment and recovery process.

The Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder founded Mental Health Ministries in 2001 to provide media and print educational resources to help erase the stigma of mental illness in our faith communities. Her DVD set, *Mental Illness and Families of Faith: How Congregations Can Respond*, offers eight shows on a variety of mental health issues. Susan shares her personal journey with clinical depression in her book, *In the Shadow of God's Wings; Grace in the Midst of Depression*. She works with several national groups including serving on the Advisory Committee for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) FaithNet and Board of Directors for Pathways to Promise.

Ann Ito represents UCCDM concerns on The UCC Executive Committee.

Ann is blind and is becoming increasingly hard of hearing. She has been a care giver to family members with cancer, depression, dementia and post-stroke disabilities.

She is a member of the Nu'uau Congregational Church in Honolulu. Blessed by the cultural richness and natural splendor of her home state of Hawaii, Ann is privileged for more than four decades to have served college students with disabilities toward equity of opportunity.



She has advocated for equal access for persons with a wide range of disabilities in public transportation, communication, rehabilitation, library services, employment, higher education, etc. Her approach has been one of conversion by education rather than coercion, believing that ignorance rather than malcontent is behind acts of exclusion and discrimination.

Workshop Leaders



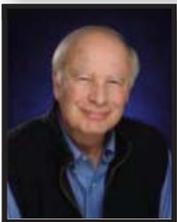
Lynda Bigler, visually impaired since birth, Rev. Lynda Bigler has served on various committees for people with disabilities including the Interfaith Disability Network of Oregon, and the Disability Advisory Services Council of Multnomah County, Oregon. She is currently a member of the UCC Disabilities Ministries Board, UCC Local Church Ministries Board, Ecumenical Disability Advocacy Network, World Council of Churches, and BHA Educational Consultants, LLC Board. Beginning this July she will become a member of the United Church Board. Currently she is taking a year long sabbatical from pastoral ministry to write her seminary memoirs.



Jerry Hancock, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, entered the ministry after working for more than 30 years in the criminal justice system. In February, 2006, Rev. Hancock became the Director of the Prison Ministry Project. The Project is an outreach ministry of the United Church of Christ. Its challenge is to serve prisoners and their families, engage the wider church in prison issues and to be an advocate for prison reform. Rev. Hancock is a graduate of Colorado College, The University of Wisconsin Law School and Chicago Theological Seminary.



Kelli Parrish Lucas has discerned that the issue of accessibility and our churches is part of her call to ministry. Kelli lives with all of the both/ands of having being born with disability, and acquiring disabilities, as well as a passion for exploring all the topics of disability ministries with others. Kelli completed research into the ecumenical responses to disability in addition to studying disability ministry/theology in seminary. Kelli has served as a chaplain in mental health facilities and is currently serving as a hospice chaplain in San Diego County, CA.



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 workshop on Organizing a Congregational Mental Health Team. Craig has recently taken on the role of Executive Director of Pathways to Promise, a national multi-faith resource for mental health ministry.

Additional workshop leaders are Susan Gregg-Schroeder, Jeanne Tyler, Lynda Bigler, Peggy Dunn Davis, and Alan Johnson. Personal bios in this Registration form.

Chairs of the Hosting Organizations



Alan Johnson is the current chair of the UCC Mental Illness Network, the chair of his church's Accessible to All/Mental Health Ministry and a founder of the Interfaith Network on Mental Illness (Boulder, CO). He worked in the national setting of the UCC from 1979-1995. Alan was the one UCC representative to the White House Conference on Mental Health, June 3, 2013, where both Obama and Biden spoke. He has been affected by mental illness, substance abuse, and suicide in his family and has recovered from a stroke.

Jeanne Tyler serves as a current co-chair of the UCC Disabilities Ministries Board. She 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.



Peggy Dunn Davis serves as a current co-chair of the UCC Disabilities Ministries Board. She is ordained in the UCC, is pastor of the Union Congregational Church UCC of South Bristol Maine and the Director of the Maine Conference Academy for Congregational Life and Leadership. She has a passion about inclusion, resourcing and encouraging congregations to become Accessible to All (A2A). She has been affected by mental illness, substance abuse and acquired brain injury in her extended family.



Workshop Information

The schedule will include 8 workshop sessions.
*Denotes a workshop that will repeat

Morning Workshops 9:45-11:00 a.m.

1. **Becoming an Accessible to All (A2A): From Theory to Practice** with Peggy Dunn Davis*
2. **Me a Leader? Are you Kidding? Yes! You a Leader. Being Attentive to your Gifts (and figuring out the way)** with Lynda Bigler and Jeanne Tyler
3. **Mental Illness in Prison: Understanding the Facts** with Jerry Hancock, J.D.
4. **Spiritual Care for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and Those Affected by Serious Brain Disorders Associated with Aging** with Kelli Parrish Lucas

Afternoon Workshops 2:00-3:15 p.m.

5. **Becoming an Accessible to All (A2A): From Theory to Practice** with Peggy Dunn Davis
6. **Mental Illness and Families of Faith: How Congregations can Respond** with Susan Gregg-Schroeder
7. **Cherish the Parents, Care for the Child: Supporting the Emotional Well Being of Families from Birth to Young Adulthood**, (a workshop on the new Pathways children and family curriculum) with Craig Rennebohm
8. **Developing and Sustaining a Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health and Wellness** with Alan Johnson

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Renaissance Long Beach Hotel
111 E Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802
1-562-437-5900



Renaissance Reservation Information

PLEASE NOTE:

THERE ARE VERY FEW ROOMS AT THIS HOTEL FOR PEOPLE NOT ATTENDING THE GENERAL SYNOD.

The rate is \$139 for single/double and is available on June 26th and June 27th.

****IF YOU ARE ATTENDING GENERAL SYNOD YOU MUST BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM THROUGH THEIR REGISTRATION FORM.**

Phone: call the hotel at 1-800-468-3571 or 562-437-5900 by June 5th and tell them you are with "Widening the Welcome" to receive the discounted conference rate of \$139.

Online: Click [HERE](#) to reserve online by June 5th and receive the discounted conference rate.

Note: After June 5th reservations will be provided on a space available basis at prevailing rates. Call the Renaissance directly to see if discounted rooms are still available.

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

Parking: Self parking is \$14 per car at the Renaissance. Please see registration desk for the discounted ticket.

Important Deadline:

The hotel cutoff for discounted rooms is Wednesday, June 5th

Call 1-562-437-5900 for reservations. Use "Widening the Welcome" for the discounted rate.

Or click here to register online.

Transportation Information:

The Renaissance is located 20 minutes from the Long Beach Airport (LGB) and 30 minutes from the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) or Orange County airports.

Please visit these shuttle sites to make reservations

Karmel Shuttle Service
www.karmel.com

Supershuttle / Execucar
www.supershuttle.com

-For driving directions, please visit MapQuest.com

-A taxi ride (one way) from the Long Beach Airport (LGB) is approximately \$23. A taxi (one way) from the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) or John Wayne Airport (Orange County) is approximately \$60.

LONG BEACH ACTIVITIES

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

Long Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau

<http://www.visitlongbeach.com/>

Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way Phone: (562) 951-3100

Take a journey of discovery through the world's largest ocean at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California.

The Queen Mary, 1126 Queens Highway Phone: (562) 435-3511

Come aboard the legendary Queen Mary. Book the Behind the Scenes Guided Tour of the historic ocean liner and World War II troopship, and see restored areas that have been under wraps since the final voyage in 1967, including the Isolation Wards and the aft Machine Rooms.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Payment and Receipts

- ♦ MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express 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 email.
- ♦ Please verify the accuracy of your receipt and contact the registration office immediately with any changes (info@theplanners.co).
- ♦ 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 registration office. Please allow adequate time for arrangements to be made.

How to Register

- ♦ Web—<http://www.regonline.com/wideningthewelcome2013>
- ♦ Mail—3265 S Marion St. Englewood, CO 80113
- ♦ Fax—303-459-5113
- ♦ Phone registrations are not accepted.

Payment must accompany registration in order for our 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 registration office. MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express credit cards must be used to pay all registrations received by web or fax.

Cancellation

- ♦ Requests for refunds must be in writing: e-mail: info@theplanners.co
- ♦ Deadline for full refund less \$10 processing fee—June 17, 2013.
- ♦ **After June 17, 2013 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.

♦ Dates to Remember ♦

- June 5:** Early registration rate ends
- June 5:** Book room by this date to receive special rate
- June 6:** Regular registration begins
- June 17:** No registration refunds after this date
- June 18:** Regular registration ends
- June 20:** Onsite registration begins

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lynda Bigler, Lake Oswego, OR
Peggy Dunn Davis, Bowdoinham, ME
Alan Johnson, Boulder, CO
Norma Mengel, White Bear Lake, MN
Kelli Parrish Lucas, Escondido, CA
Jeanne Tyler, Lake Mills, WI

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

"Widening the Welcome 2013: Inclusion for All" A National Gathering sponsored by UCC Disabilities Ministries and the UCC Mental Illness Network

Thursday, June 27, 2013, Long Beach, California

- ♦ 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 _____ Country _____
Daytime phone _____
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) _____ Large Print Yes No

Please describe additional needs _____

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

SECTION C

Included in conference registration: All sessions, packet materials, continental breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee/snack breaks, and online access to all sessions.

Please Circle Appropriate Price

	Early by 6/5	Regular 6/6-6/19	On-site after 6/19
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Day	\$100	\$125	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Day-Student Rate	\$60	\$70	\$80

Conference Registration Fee: \$

SECTION D

Payment Method

Method of Payment MasterCard Visa Discover Amex
 Check *Make Checks Payable to "the Planners"* Fax (303-459-5113)

Print Name on Card/Check _____

Check/Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Sec. Code _____

By signing below, I hereby authorize the registration 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 _____

Mail to: 3265 S Marion St. Englewood, CO 80113
Phone 720-394-9060 E-mail info@theplanners.co Fax 303-459-5113