



**Widening the Welcome: Inclusion of All
Thursday, September 23-Saturday 25, 2010
(Sunday, September 26, extra optional day)**

*This first national gathering is hosted by
the UCC Mental Illness Network and
the UCC Disabilities Ministries!*

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Welcome!

We are glad that you are here.

It has been our passion and commitment to bring together a stellar group of leaders to engage us in learning about why faith communities are called to be widening their welcome and in sharing experiences with how to make that inclusion happen. The invitations are to develop or expand your own Mental Health Ministry and continue on the journey to becoming an A2A, Accessible to All, church.

There will be support for all who are working on these goals. While many of us are solo voices in our community, we hope our voices will grow stronger as we find more colleagues to be with on the journey of inclusion, especially for and with those who have been on the margins of their church's life.

We pray that through your own journaling, devotions and worship, engaging in your core group, and being open to those serendipitous conversations through these days, you will experience many blessings, and that you will continue to be a blessing to others in your ministry.

Chairs of the Hosting Organizations

Rev. Peggy Wolfe Dunn
Rev. Alan Johnson

Conference Planning Team

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

Chaplains for the Conference

Joan Murray
Ellen Hiatt
Tom Haller

Webmaster

Rev. Kirk Moore

Conference Office/Planner Summit Meetings, Inc.

Debbie Cowen, CMP, President
Caitlin Cowen, Account Executive
Elizabeth Smith, Special Projects

There is a **Quiet Room** open to all for meditation, reflection, and prayer.
Room location: **Cavalier, 4th floor**
Open Thurs 3:00 p.m. - Sat 7:00 p.m.



The tree has roots deeply planted in the ground and its branches reach toward the sky to shelter life. The tree symbolically shows us as we deepen our spiritual resources we may find ourselves whole and at home with the divine, others and ourselves.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting room layouts are located on back cover of program.

THURSDAY, SEPTMEBER 23, 2010

- 3:00-6:00 p.m.** **Registration**—4th Floor Foyer
- 5:30-7:00 p.m.** **Welcome Dinner**—Carmine's Steak House, 1st floor
Welcome by the Revs. Peggy Dunn and
Alan Johnson
Prayer by the Rev. Jeff Whitman
- 7:00-7:45 p.m.** **Opening Worship**—Clark Room, 4th floor
The Rev. Jane Fisler Hoffman, Preaching
- 7:45-8:30p.m.** **Plenary Keynote**—Clark Room, 4th floor
“Come to Me All You who Labor and
Are Heavily Burdened.”
Dr./Sister Nancy Kehoe, Keynote Speaker
- 8:30-9:45 p.m.** **Core Groups 1**

There are 10 core groups with 10 people assigned in each group. The number of **your core group** is printed on your nametag. Please locate the group you have been assigned and join them in the following room:

- Core group 1: — Lewis Room, 4th floor
- Core group 2: — Lewis Room, 4th floor
- Core group 3: — Sacagawea Room, 4th floor
- Core group 4: — Sacagawea Room, 4th floor
- Core group 5: — York Room, 4th floor
- Core group 6: — York Room, 4th floor
- Core group 7: — Jolliet Room, 1st floor
- Core group 8: — Jolliet Room, 1st floor
- Core group 9: — Marquette Room, 1st floor
- Core group 10: — Marquette Room, 1st floor

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

- 7:00-8:15 a.m.** **Breakfast**—Drury Hotel lobby
- 7:30-10:00 a.m.** **Registration**—4th floor foyer
- 8:30-9:00 a.m.** **Morning Devotions**—Clark Room, 4th floor
- 9:00-10:00 a.m.** **Plenary Keynote**—Clark Room, 4th floor
“Encountering God in Disability”
Dr. Debbie Creamer, Keynote Speaker
- 10:00-10:30 a.m.** **Break**—4th floor foyer, refreshments served
- 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** **Workshops 1**—see room assignments below
- 1. We Care—Faith and Mental Health**—Lewis Room, 4th floor
Exploration of the connection between faith and mental health in our faith communities.
The Rev. Craig Rennebohm
 - 2. A2A: Any Body, Every Body, Christ’s Body**—York Room, 4th floor
This is an invitation to be engaged in the congregational guide for faith communities becoming accessible to all.
The Rev. Peggy Dunn
 - 3. Bringing them All Back Home and Whole: Helping Those Affected by War to Spiritually Heal**—Sacagawea Room, 4th floor
The Rev. Peter Bauer
 - 4. In Our Own Voice, (IOOV)**—Clark Room, 4th floor
Presented by National Alliance on Mental Illness—NAMI St. Louis
 - 5. Spiritual Support Group**—Marquette Room, 1st floor
What does spirituality bring to the process of recovery? How can you offer one in your context?
Dr./Sister Nancy Kehoe
 - 6. Ask the Professional**—Jolliet Room, 1st floor
What questions do you bring to explore in the interaction between brain disorders and behavior? You will learn about what a neuropsychologist does.
Dr. Kim Johnson

7. **Disabilities and Mental Illnesses/Brain Disorders in Worship and Supportive Resources for Clergy and Church Members: A Panel**—Lafayette Room, 1st floor
The Rev. Dr. Jane Fisler Hoffman, the Rev. Bob Molsberry, and the Rev. Martie McMane

12:15-1:45 p.m. **Luncheon**—Carmine's Steak House, 1st floor
Dangerous Memories: The Power of What We Remember and What We Forget
Dr. David Greenhaw, Speaker

2:00-3:30 p.m. **Workshops 2**—see room assignments below

1. **We Care—Building a Mental Health Team in a Local Congregation**—Clark Room, 4th floor
What are the practical steps you can take in addressing mental health issues in your congregation? What are the barriers and the strengths?
The Rev. Craig Rennebohm
2. **Disabilities Ministries: Doing Disability Theology in the Local Congregation**—York Room, 4th floor
We will explore the ways that theology has been helpful and/or a hindrance as congregations engage in embracing our own disabilities.
Dr. Debbie Creamer
3. **Family to Family**—Sacagawea Room, 4th floor
This National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) program is for families, partners and friends of individuals with serious mental illness. We will share personal stories, be invited to share in an exercise, and to learn about the resources for help us all cope when we are affected by mental illnesses/brain disorders.
Liz Birchen and the Rev. Alan Johnson
4. **Spiritual Guidance and Practices**—Lewis Room, 4th floor
We all need some direction when we are facing crises in our life and/or in the lives of those we love or those in our congregations. We will explore ways you gain strength of spirit as you live with these crises.
The Rev. Tom Haller and the Rev. Donna Smith-Pupillo
Pastoral Counselor (TBA)

5. **Children’s Mental Health Issues**—Marquette Room, 1st floor
The National Alliance on Mental Illness offers a class on children’s mental health that you can use in your context. Learn about the many ways that mental health issues can be addressed with children.

Betty Kramer and Dr. Kim Johnson

6. **Shared Challenges, Shared Gifts: Coping with Mental Illness/Brain Disorders and Disabilities in the Family of Faith**
—Jolliet Room, 1st floor
There are difficult times in our lives when we turn for spiritual support, especially we hope in our faith communities. In contexts as in a state hospital, with those who are homeless, and those who are in prison, you will learn about ways of offering help.

The Rev. Ellen H. Hiatt, the Rev. Joan Murray, and Dr. Marc A. Wessels

7. **Losing Heart? Help and Hope for Persons Struggling with the Realities of Substance Abuse and Addiction**—Lafayette Room, 1st floor
Help is available and change is possible. Learn more about how people of faith are helping others increase their motivation for change and are using coaching as a method for helping persons enter and sustain recovery.

Chaplain Bridget Smith and colleagues

3:30-4:00 p.m. **Break**—4th floor foyer, refreshments served

4:00-5:00 p.m. **Core Groups 2**—room assignment

There are 10 core groups with 10 people assigned in each group. The number of **your core group** is printed on your nametag. Please locate the group you have been assigned and join them in the following room:

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- 5:00-6:15 p.m.** **Break on your own or view the optional movies**
 “Depression Epidemic”—Clark Room, 4th floor
 “Charlie Rose: The Brain and Mental Illness”
 —Sacagawea, 1st floor
- 6:15-7:30 p.m.** **Dinner**—Carmines Steak House, 1st floor
- 7:30-8:30 p.m.** **Presentation by the Rev. Bob Molsberry**
“Hospitality the Hard Way”
 —Clark Room, 4th floor
 Panel: The Rev. Geoffrey Black, Vel Garner, The
 Rev. Jeanne Tyler, and Jeff Pollack, attorney
- 8:45-9:15 p.m.** **Evening Vespers**—Clark Room, 4th floor
- 9:30-10:30 p.m.** **Hospitality Suite**—LaSalle Room, 1st floor
 Hosted by Eden Seminary

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

- 7:00-8:15 a.m.** **Breakfast**—Drury Hotel lobby
- 7:30-10:00 a.m.** **Registration**—4th floor foyer
- 8:30-9:00 a.m.** **Morning Devotions**—Lewis/Sacagawea Rooms,
 4th floor
- 9:00-10:00 a.m.** **Plenary Keynotes: “Who is Welcome to Your
 Table? Why does God Care about Inclusion?”**
 —Lewis/Sacagawea Rooms, 4th floor
 Dr./Sister Nancy Kehoe and Dr. Debbie Creamer
- 10:00-10:30 a.m.** **Break**—4th floor foyer, refreshments served
- 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.** **Workshops 2**—see room assignments below
- 1. We Care—Companionship Training**—Clark Room, 4th floor
*This hands-on training is a dynamic way to extend your
 compassion to those who are in need. Learn about being a
 companion on someone’s journey.*
 The Rev. Craig Rennebohm

2. **Disabilities Ministries: Beyond Elevators: Creating Inclusive Congregations**—York Room, 4th floor
Now that you really get it, what do you do with it? Explore ways that congregations can take the journey to make inclusion a reality.
Dr. Debbie Creamer
3. **In Our Own Voice, IOOV**—Jolliet Room, 1st floor
National Alliance on Mental Illness—NAMI St. Louis
4. **Bringing them All Back Home and Whole**—LaSalle Room, 1st floor
Helping those affected by war to spiritually heal.
The Rev. Peter Bauer
5. **Spiritual Support Group**—Lafayette Room, 1st floor
What does spirituality bring to the process of recover? How can you offer one in your context?
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6. **Disabilities and Mental Illnesses/Brain Disorders in Worship and Supportive Resources for Clergy and Church Members: A Panel**—Lewis Room, 4th floor
The Rev. Dr. Jane Fisler Hoffman, the Rev. Bob Molsberry, and the Rev. Martie McMane
7. **Ask the Professionals**—Marquette Room, 1st floor
What questions do you bring to explore in the interaction between brain disorders and behavior? You will learn about what a neuropsychologist does and what the autism spectrum disorders are.
Dr. Kim Johnson and Jennifer Starks

12:00-1:15 p.m.

Lunch—Sacagawea/Lewis Rooms; buffet set in atrium, 4th floor. Please go through buffet line and find a lunch table in Sacagawea/Lewis.
The Rev. Geoffrey Black, Speaker

1:20-2:55 p.m.

St. Louis Association Meeting—LaSalle Room, 1st floor

1:30-2:45 p.m.

Core Groups 3

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Core group 9: —Marquette Room, 1st floor
Core group 10: —Marquette Room, 1st floor

2:45 p.m. **Break**—4th floor foyer, refreshments served

3:00-4:00 p.m. **Commissioning Worship**—Lewis/Sacagawea
Rooms, 4th floor

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

On your own: Attending Local Worship Services and Lunch

2:00 p.m. Drury Plaza Hotel—Marquette, 1st floor
Planning and Envisioning UCC General Synod
For dates July 1-5, 2010, Tampa, FL

CD recording of sessions:

All Plenary sessions and workshops will be recorded. All **full main conference registrants** will receive a coupon for a free CD in the registration packet. For additional orders or questions, please visit the **Florian Audio Visual** table located on the 4th floor foyer.

Strangers, people different from us, stir up fear, discomfort, suspicion and hostility. They make us lose our sense of security just by being "other." Only when we fully claim that God loves us in an unconditional way and look at "those other persons" as equally loved can we begin to discover that the great variety in humanity is an expression of the immense richness of God's heart. Then the need to prejudice people can gradually disappear.—Henri Nouwen

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*.

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.

Featured Leaders

The Rev. Aqueelah As-Salaam is 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.

The Rev. Peter Bauer, is 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.

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. Bob Dell and the Rev. Ellen Hiatt co-founded the United Church of Christ Mental Illness Network in 1992. 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."

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.

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. 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. 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.

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 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. 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.

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*.

The Beginnings of the UCC Disabilities Ministries and the UCC Mental Illness Network

United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries

The Reverend Virginia Kreyer has lived with severe cerebral palsy since birth. She knows firsthand about the needs, desires, and frustrations of persons with disabilities and their families. In her early teens, she decided to enter Christian work as her way to help make the world a better place in which to live. On November 9, 1971, Reverend Kreyer started the first Task Force on Disabilities in the New York Metropolitan Association, becoming the foreparent other of the disabilities ministries movement. As Consultant for

Persons with Disabilities, she traveled over the country working with churches to educate about the needs and gifts of persons with disabilities.

“We finally have come to understand,” Virginia Kreyer said, “that we cannot be an inclusive church unless all people, regardless of their disability, color of their skin, or national origin are welcome in Christ’s Church. Let us give thanks for our individual uniqueness and for Christ who binds Christians together as different pieces of cloth are brought together to make a quilt.”

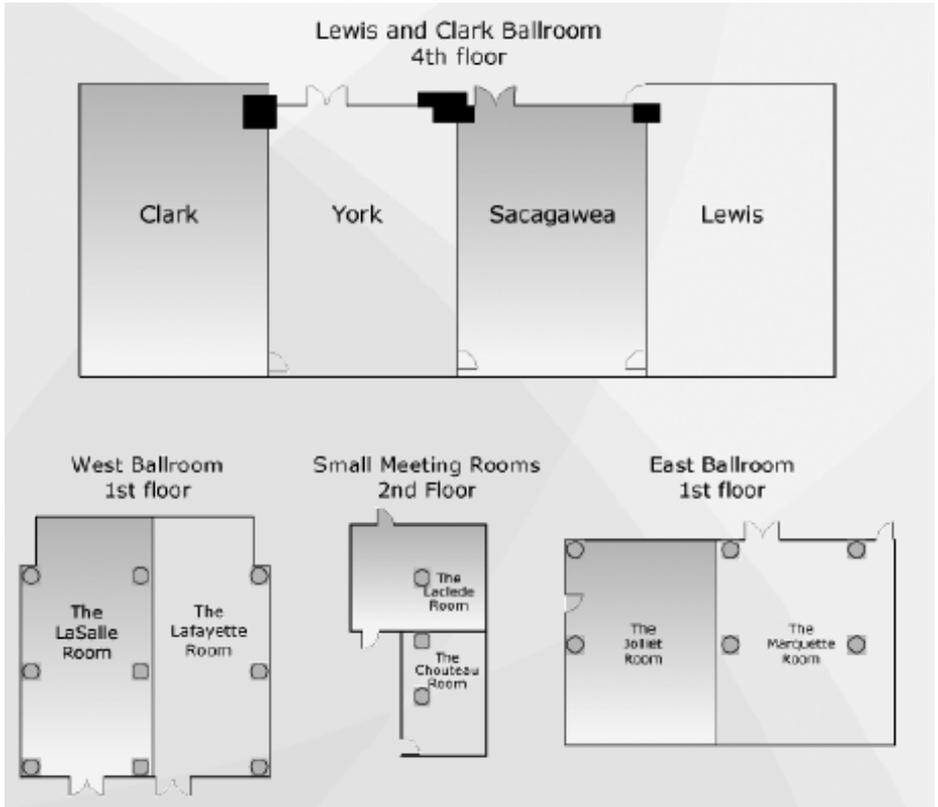
The Rev. Harold H. Wilke, also foreparent of UCC Disabilities Ministries, was a devoted minister, advocate for persons with disabilities, and pioneer. He was one of the first Americans with a serious disability to serve as a parish minister. His exemplary ministry within the UCC and the world forged a path for leaders with disabilities to emerge. Following the signing into law of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush passed the signing pen to Dr. Wilke, who accepted it with his foot — because he was born without arms. Harold Wilke was noted for his unique role in delivering the blessing at the White House. “Move [us],” he said in the blessing prayer, “to discard those old beliefs and attitudes that limit and diminish those among us with disabilities.”

UCC Mental Illness Network

In 1992 the Mental Illness Network began with a grant from the then American Missionary Association of the United Church of Christ through the work of Nanette Roberts. She asked Bob Dell and Ellen Hiatt: 1) to have an exhibit at the 1993 General Synod, St Louis, and 2) to start a newsletter. We began as a response to the need for families and others to communicate among themselves about their experiences as families. It was not long before Norma and Jim Mengel, and Bryan Crousore came on board. Norma became Treasurer, and Bryan, as editor became an excellent voice for articles in the United Church News. Sharon Crousore was most valuable at Synod exhibits with her powerful way of engaging people in talk about mental illness. The Web site was one of the first to be developed and was accomplished through the volunteer work of our competent Web master, Alan Harris. The network relied upon Pathways to Promise for resources which local congregations could use. The first “Annual Gathering” as it was called was held just prior to the 1991 Synod. From the beginning the Network has been in partnership with UCC Disabilities Ministries.

At the 1999 Synod a significant resolution was passed. For the most part, this was due to the efforts of Norma Mengel as principal author, and who worked tirelessly to bring it through the resolution process and to the floor for vote. The resolution was entitled: “Calling the People of God to Justice for Persons with Serious Mental Illnesses (Brain Disorders)”.

Meeting Space and Floors



Restaurant: Carmine's Steak House
entrance is located on the first floor of the hotel.