



## From the Acting Conference Minister

Grace and peace to you all!

On May 1, I had the pleasure of beginning to serve you, the Illinois Conference, as the "Acting Conference Minister," following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Jorge Morales. As the Acting Conference Minister, I will serve temporarily while the Executive Committee moves to seek a longer-term Intentional Interim Conference Minister.



*Char Burch*

I am delighted to be present. I had retired this past year and moved to Tennessee, following 35 years specializing in interim ministry in local churches and conference settings. This included serving as interim conference minister or interim associate conference minister in 8 different settings (Northern California Nevada, Hawaii, Pacific Northwest, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri Mid-South, Penn Central and Penn West Conferences). Since a few of you may recognize my name, I did serve as the Interim Conference Minister here, about 18 years ago.

Two things I have learned: there is no one way to be or function as a Conference; and each Conference is unique because of its history, geography, vision, various dynamics, and the people. Of course, these two things are true for local churches, also.



### QUICK LINKS

[Illinois Conference UCC](#)

[Chicago Metropolitan Association](#)

[Eastern Association](#)

[Fox Valley Association](#)

[Western Association](#)

[Prairie Association](#)

[Pilgrim Park Camp](#)

[Tower Hill Camp](#)

### ILLINOIS CONFERENCE ANNUAL CELEBRATION

[Register ONLINE here!](#)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Standing Together*

Leadership transitions can sometimes be unsettling, sometimes challenging, yet because of our faith are always filled with hope and possibility. You have been blessed with a wonderful staff and are involved in many vital ministries serving the children of God!

I look forward to my time with you and look forward to seeing many of you at the Conference Annual Celebration, which is only a few weeks away!

Blessings,  
Char Burch

## Report from the Interim Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship and Church Vitality

### Love in Action: Churches Outside the Box

Phyllis Tickle wasn't kidding around when she wrote and spoke about "The Great Emergence". I am seeing more and more evidence of the Spirit's emerging and moving in our church. I just attended three of our Spring Association Meetings, where there are ample amounts of the Holy Spirit. Each Association is a unique witness of the church gathered, and each is an exciting experience of holy energy and mission.



David Russell

As I have moved around the Illinois Conference into all five associations, I have visited local churches where the spirit of vitality is emerging in a multitude of ways and expressions.

*Churches streaming their worship; serving the Latino neighborhood as a mission of multiple ministries; worshipping in a Chicago bar and reaching millennials; tutoring children at the neighborhood school; pastors trained as coaches for churches. Also, being a sustainable agriculture and food justice farm church; 160-year-old church becoming Open and Affirming; helping low-income neighbors with a monthly laundry day; providing weekend food back packs for hungry school children; providing weekly overnight food and shelter for the homeless; working to raise awareness and make a*

#### **Against Violence Conference:**

#### **A Call for Civility**

Saturday, May 19, 2018  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
First Congregational  
Church  
6500 W. 34th Street  
Berwyn, Ill.

[Click here for more info](#)

#### **A Farewell Worship and Reception**

#### **Rev. Dr. Jorge L. Morales**

Sunday, May 20, 2018  
3:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m.  
Westchester Community  
Church  
1840 Westchester Blvd.  
Westchester, Ill.

[View farewell invite here](#)

[Click here for info on](#)

[Jorge's Monetary Gift](#)

#### **65th Anniversary Celebration**

#### **Congregational Church of Park Manor**

Sunday, May 20, 2018  
3:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m.  
Congregational Church  
of Park Manor  
7000 S. Martin Luther  
King Dr,  
Chicago, Ill.

Rev. Dr. Terrill Murff,  
Senior Pastor

#### **Clergy Boundary Training**

June 7, 2018

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Elmhurst College  
(Hammerschmidt  
Memorial Chapel)  
190 S. Prospect Ave.  
Elmhurst, Ill.

[Click here for reg form](#)

#### **Illinois Conference Annual Celebration**

June 8-9, 2018  
Elmhurst College  
190 S. Prospect Ave.  
Elmhurst, Ill.

[Click here for more info](#)

#### **Great Lakes Regional Youth Event**

#### **"A Just World for All: Your Voice Matters!"**

July 5-8, 2018  
Elmhurst College  
190 S. Prospect Ave.  
Elmhurst, Ill.

[Click here for more info](#)

#### **United Church of Christ Office Support Staff**

*stand against violence.*

I could keep going, but you get the picture. We, the Body of Christ, the United Church of Christ in Illinois, are alive and kicking!

I have also noticed a number of qualities common to the churches with vitality, as I have been with them:

- A faithful and committed pastor
- A leadership partnership between the pastor and lay leaders
- Spiritual vitality in worship
- A clear vision-direction for the church
- A willingness to be renewed, to embrace change facing new cultural paradigms
- Identifying the "mission field" neighborhood for serving as Christ's disciples.

These qualities of vital thriving local churches are simply my take after 22 months of visiting churches. I love what God is doing with our churches. As we all look to be the church in this new age, we can trust that God is still speaking through us and helping us explore new ways of being the living Christ in our world.

With you on the journey,

Rev. Dr. David Russell  
Interim Associate Conference Minister  
for Stewardship and Church Vitality



## You are invited do attend the 54th Annual Celebration

Delegates and Friends,

On behalf of the Conference Council, I invite you to attend the 54th Annual Celebration of The Illinois Conference, United Church of Christ, June 8 and 9, 2018, at Elmhurst College. I urge each congregation to send delegates, and I extend the invitation to

### **Network**

July 19 - 21, 2018  
UCC Church House  
700 Prospect Ave  
Cleveland, OH

[For more info and to register click here](#)

### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **Spanda Clergy Retreat**

Aug. 14 - 16, 2018  
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries  
1834 IL-2,  
Oregon, Ill.

[Click here for more info](#)

#### **2 Stewardship Workshops**

##### **with Local Church Best Practice**

Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018  
9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.

Rev. Eugene Grimm  
"Essentials of Effective Stewardship Campaigns"  
Zion UCC

1521 6th Street, Peru, Ill  
and

Rev. Michael Piazza  
"21st Century Stewardship Technology and Millennial Generosity"

Westchester Community Church  
1840 Westchester Blvd.  
Westchester, Ill.

[Click here to view](#)

#### **8th Annual**

##### **Women's Retreat**

##### **"Biblical Women of Power, Persistence and Perseverance"**

Sept. 28 - 29, 2018  
Pilgrim Park Camp  
26449-1340 N. Avenue  
Princeton, Ill.

[Click here for reg info](#)

#### **27th Annual Conference Association of Trained Intentional Interim Ministers (ATiiM)**

Oct. 10-11, 2018  
Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center  
Utica, Ill.

[Click here for more info](#)

include all authorized ministers of the Conference, our Members in Discernment, and other interested members and guests. The planning committee has strived to make this time together meaningful and more celebratory than in recent years. As in past years. We will worship together both days.

The Illinois Conference is in a time of transition. As you are probably aware, Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Jorge L. Morales, submitted his retirement notice effective May 31. Well in advance of the Annual Celebration, we have an Acting Conference Minister, and we will describe the next steps in calling a new called Conference Minister in due time. The business portions of the weekend will include the election of a new President and Vice President as well as other important positions. Delegates will also vote to ratify a series of amendments to the UCC Constitution that were voted by General Synod last July 2 and 3. These amendments center on making the governance structure of the National Church more adaptable to change. Delegates are urged to study the [Constitution changes available online](#). Please note that the bylaws changes do not require ratification by the Conferences; we will only be voting on the Constitutional Amendments.

The Annual Celebration Planning Committee is bringing back the Friday night banquet, where we will dine together in one large banquet room. This will give us all a chance to meet our Ministry Partners, and we will also recognize our Chalice Award recipients at the banquet. Delegates and friends will have ample time to socialize with friends old and new.

At the 2017 General Synod, the United Church of Christ kicked off a new initiative, "A Just World for All", to be achieved by practice of Three Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children and Love of Creation. In this first year of the initiative, UCC has put primary emphasis on Love of Neighbor. We have adopted that as the Conference theme, and you'll find the worship, energizers, and the keynote presentation by Bishop Yvette Flunder all highlight the Love of Neighbor.

I look forward to seeing you in Elmhurst, June 8 and 9.

God's Peace be with you always,  
Michael Linder,  
President, Illinois Conference

## 'Better Together' CMA Spring Meeting

"Better Together" was the theme of the Chicago Metropolitan Association Spring Meeting held on Saturday, May 5 at Epiphany UCC in Chicago. Host Pastor Kevin McLemore and members of the congregation welcomed us warmly, and we were grateful for their expansive hospitality.

We were delighted that Rev. Char Burch, Acting Illinois Conference Minister, was present. She was introduced by Rev. Benjamin Reynolds, who served as Interim Associate Conference Minister during Rev. Dr. Vertie Power's sabbatical.



*Lighthouse Church members who gathered when their congregation joined the CMA.*

We began with worship. Epiphany UCC's choir inspired us. We shared the loaf and the cup. Host pastors Rev. Kevin McLemore (Epiphany UCC) and Rev. Jason Coulter (Ravenswood UCC) preached a dialogue sermon about the shared ministry of their two congregations, ministry "better together."

Moderator Rev. Dr. David Stewart led us through our business session; two hours work was accomplished in one and a half hours.

We heard presentations by and then voted to add three congregations to the life of the CMA: The Lighthouse Church of Chicago (new church start), First Congregational UCC of Waukegan (transferring in from Fox Valley Association), and St. Luke's Community Church of Morton Grove (rejoining the CMA). The presence of these congregations brought hope and energy to the Association, which is now "better together" with them.

Three resolutions were passed by the CMA to move forward to Illinois Conference Gathering and eventually to General Synod:

- "Nehemiah's Life: A Resolution of Witness Against Violence in America," submitted by Cluster Four and the CMA Justice and Witness Ministry Team.
- "Protection of Immigrant Children and their Families: A resolution to Keep Children under the Care of their Families," submitted by the CMA Justice and Witness Ministry Team.
- "A Resolution to Abolish the Growth and Existence of Private Prisons," submitted by the CMA Justice and Witness Ministry Team.

We approved changes to the CMA Constitution and Bylaws and approved a nominating slate. Juanita Bradley is the new Moderator with Rev. Regena Glenn-Caldwell as Vice Moderator. When we finished we enjoyed the meal prepared by our gracious hosts. The warmth of our gathering was matched by the warmth of the weather. Beautiful day on all fronts!

-- Wayne MacPherson

## Two CMA churches are 'Better Together'

At the CMA Spring Meeting on May 5, those gathered for the opening worship heard not one voice, but two, delivering the sermon. Rev. Kevin McLemore (Pastor, Epiphany UCC, Chicago) and Rev. Jason Coulter (Pastor, Ravenswood UCC, Chicago) preached a "dialogue sermon" in which the two pastors engaged each other and the congregation in conversational preaching. The title of their sermon was "Better Together" and in their message they described the challenges and the joy involved in joint ministry. Epiphany UCC and Ravenswood UCC share a youth group and developed a joint confirmation program. They gather together for worship frequently and have developed close bonds as sister churches in the big city of Chicago. An excerpt from the sermon gives you a glimpse into the ministry these two churches have built together:

*And what we have found through all these challenges and difficulties is that one and one doesn't make two. In our joint ministry we discovered that one and one is more like twenty or two thousand because the Spirit's arithmetic is exponential. For in the end the partnership between Ravenswood and Epiphany is very simple, we are better together.*

-- Rev. Jason Coulter, Pastor, Ravenswood UCC

## Eastern Association Spring Meeting gathered in Gilman

Eastern Association Churches gathered at Zion United Church of Christ in Gilman for their Spring Association Meeting on Saturday, May 5, 2018. The theme for our meeting was "We Are Still Alive" and featured two five presentations from our Association congregations on ways our congregations are engaged in community ministry and involvement. Our Moderator, Rev. Eric Quinney Burnard of First Congregational in Lockport, helped to set the stage by sharing a challenge to congregations to ask the right questions rather than look for answers. How are we serving our community and the needs it presents? Four presenters then shared how their congregations did just that and how they have begun to meet those needs for ministry. It was an energizing morning session.



*Elected and installed as officers and committee members for the Eastern Association and Conference.*

Following a delicious lunch shared by the hospitality of our friends at Zion Church, the Association gathered for a combined worship and business session. Worship was enhanced by the presence of the Praise Team of Grace UCC of Sauk Village. During this time we welcomed and received Jubilee Farms United Church of Christ in Clinton as a new congregation in the life of the Association. Officers and committee members for the Association and Conference were installed to their various offices. It was a powerful day!

*To view more pictures taken at the Eastern Association Spring Meeting visit the [Illinois Conference Facebook Page](#).*

## News in the Eastern Association

Rev. Barbara Lohrbach was recently honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from Chicago Theological Seminary. Seminary President Ray was present for the celebration at St. John UCC in Kankakee, where Barbara is Pastor. He preached and shared the award on behalf of the Seminary Community.

An Ecclesiastical Council for Member in Discernment Cristian Bitter will be held at St. John's UCC In Mokena on Sunday, June 3, beginning at 3 p.m. We look forward to this time of examination in preparation for Ordained Ministry.

An Eastern Association "Day at the Farm" will be held at Jubilee Farms UCC in Clinton on Saturday, July 28. Tours of the farm and its ministry will be a part of the day, as well as the Ordination and celebration of the ministry of its Pastor, Rev. Cyndy Ash. Details will be forthcoming to Association churches.

## Western Association Spring Meeting took place in Sutter

Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Sutter offered a warm welcome as the host church for the Western Association Spring Meeting, which was held on Saturday, April 21, 2018. Because the meeting was on the day before "Earth Day", this led the planning team to choose the Theme: "God's Love of Creation!" Rev. Dr. Martha Robertson, retired Eden Theological Seminary professor, shared a morning presentation on the Three Great Loves Emphasis of the United Church of Christ.

Morning and early afternoon panel presentations shared a variety of ways we may be focused on the care and love of God's gifts to us and the ways that we act as stewards of those creation gifts in our lives. The ladies of Bethlehem Church shared wonderful gifts of food during the day, which was greatly appreciated.

During the business session in the afternoon, we began with the planting of a seedling on the church grounds, and a gift of a tree seedling was given to all participating churches to take home and plant on their church property. Our Vice-Moderator, Sue Welch, received the Association gavel to begin the next year as the Moderator of the Western Association. We are grateful to our Association meeting planning team who worked to provide a day of energy and vision.

To view more pictures taken at the Western Association Spring Meeting visit the [Illinois Conference Facebook Page](#).



*Western Moderator, Sue Welch receives the Moderator's gavel.*



*Planting a redbud seedling at Bethlehem UCC in Sutter.*

## Fox Valley Association Spring Meeting was held in St. Charles

The Fox Valley Association met on Saturday, April 28, at Congregational United Church of Christ in St. Charles. We are grateful to the Rev. David Pattee and the Rev. Josh Kuipers, and all the staff and volunteers at CUCC for a wonderful worship service to start the day and a super lunch over which we enjoyed a fine time of fellowship.

We are happy to report that 86 people attended, representing 28 of the 45 churches of the FVA -- a happy increase in attendance from previous recent meetings. Several people remarked how pleasant it was to see old friends not seen in quite some time.

The day began with an excellent service of Morning Prayer, with hymns and psalms and other music. CUCC has recently hired a new organist and new music director, and they were both



*Keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. James J. Olson.*

happy to be with us for this meeting.

Moderator Frank Zavaski called the meeting to order; the agenda was approved, quorum declared by FVA Secretary Rev. Emily Mitchell, and announcements of various sorts were announced. The nominating committee report was presented and voted on in the affirmative by the assembled pastors and delegates. Those departing their offices were thanked, and those coming on to the various positions on the various teams were installed.

A Resolution of Witness which came from Cluster 4 of the Chicago Metropolitan Association was presented for the FVA to consider. We were asked to become a co-signer for this Resolution, to support it going forward for consideration by the entire Conference at Annual Celebration in

June, and eventually for presentation as a Resolution at General Synod in Milwaukee next summer. You may read about this Resolution elsewhere in this E-Newsletter, but it came about as a result of the unfortunate murder of Nehemiah Williams, the son of the Rev. Anthony Williams, pastor of First Congregational Church in Berwyn. This Resolution calls on the UCC to work towards bringing about full, national, Congressional public hearings in Washington, DC on the subject of Violence and Civility in America. The motion passed, and CMA was notified. (A note: CMA also passed this Resolution, so it will be presented in full as a regular Resolution at AC in June.)

Following this, the keynote speaker for the day, our own Associate Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. James J. Olson spoke to us, giving us a "State of the Association" address. Since 1993, 16 churches have closed or left the FVA. Seven remain open as independent congregations. Three congregations closed and merged into one in Bensenville, and the remainder have simply closed. The churches that left the FVA but remained open represent nearly three-quarters of the membership decline in the FVA since 1993.

Rev. Olson then reminded us that not all is gloom and doom. This past year showed some noticeable signs of health: 39 of the 45 congregations currently comprising the Fox Valley Association met or exceeded their OCWM goals for 2017, an increase over the previous year. FVA as an Association met its OCWM goal for 2017; 29 churches in the FVA are 5-for-5 congregations. Several churches that were in search in the previous year have called new pastors, and we welcomed Christ Tamil church as a new congregation of the FVA and UCC in 2017.

Rev. Olson reminded us of something that the Rev. Michael Piazza said at a clergy dinner before an Association meeting a couple of years ago. The church is not in decline; it is returning to normal...as a percentage of the population, more people still attend or are members of churches today than were members or attenders before WWI. The unusual growth of the churches during the middle of the last century was really a historical aberration, and we have an excess of churches and space in our buildings as a result. While this re-adjustment may be painful for a while, it may, in the long run, be healthy for us all, and for the work of the Gospel.



*Outgoing Moderator Frank Zavaski presents gavel to in-coming Moderator, Rev. Catherine Irwin.*

Rev. Olson gave us an update on the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Jorge Morales, our Conference Minister for the past eight years, and on the process on going forward to secure an Acting Conference Minister (Rev. Char Burch) who will be with us for 3-6 months, and the process for finding an intentional Interim Minister. Mike Linder, Conference President, also added some comments about this.

At the end, Rev. Olson called us to remain faithful; to work very hard towards excellence in all we do, to pray for the Conference staff during this time of transition, and to strive for excellence. A question and answer period followed.

Moderator Frank Zavaski then called on incoming Moderator Rev. Catherine Irwin, and presented her with the ceremonial gavel. Rev. Olson presented Frank Zavaski with a small appreciation gift. Rev. Irwin called for adjournment, and Rev. Olson closed by blessing the food for lunch.

A good time was had by all.

*To view more pictures taken at the Fox Valley Association Spring Meeting visit the [Illinois Conference Facebook Page](#).*

## Good News from Tower Hill Camp and Pilgrim Park Camp

The good news from Tower Hill Camp is that Site Manager Douglas Pompey is home from the hospital after surgery that went well. He was able to be home for Easter with his family and is on the slow road to mending and healing. We ask for continued prayers for DC, his wife Mari and their children and family.

The good news from Pilgrim Park Camp and Conference Center is the arrival of the latest addition to the camp staff. Cooper Thomas Kloster, son of Site Manager Mitch Kloster and his wife Natalie, arrived on April 4, weighing in at 7 lbs 12 oz. Everyone is healthy and doing fine. We ask for prayers for the newly-expanded Kloster family.

Both camps would also like to remind you that while summer is coming fast and they are getting excited for their [Conference sponsored Summer camps](#), don't forget that they offer more than a camping experience! [Click here](#) and check out their Retreat Centers that are available for year-round bookings.

## Dr. Eloise Hines Cornelius: A Remembrance

There is a Frank Sinatra song that best describes how many of us experienced Dr. Eloise Hines Cornelius, ***she did it (life) her way***. We suspect that this was equally true in both the way she lived and when she came to the end of life, the way she departed.

She was often referred to as "*Miss Eloise*." However, in the professional realm, because she was recognized as the first in many areas, she garnered great respect for her sharp wit and on target analyses. Eloise's gift for understanding and speaking on behalf of the developmental issues that plagued the



*Dr. Eloise Cornelius (center)*

lives of urban children and adolescents will no longer be heard. Therefore, one should not be surprised that when Diana Rauner, the wife of the Governor of the State of

Illinois, called Eloise's daughter to express the gap that is left on the board of the Ounce of Prevention, on which Eloise served for many years.

Eloise's life was dedicated to volunteering throughout the church, e.g., she served as moderator of the Chicago Metropolitan Association. She spent many years on Church and Ministry. In her 90s she felt compelled to continue to be of service at the church she loved-The Congregational Church of Park Manor.

--Sammie Dortch

### *Homegoing Celebrations for Dr. Eloise Hines Cornelius*

The Homegoing Celebration for Dr. Eloise Hines Cornelius will be Friday, May 18, 2018, at The Congregational Church of Park Manor UCC, 7000 S. King Drive, Chicago. Visitation will be at 10:00 a.m. and the funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m.

There will also be a visitation on Thursday, May 17 at Unity Funeral Home, 4114 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Hours are 1-8 p.m. and the family will be in attendance during the last three hours.

Dr. Cornelius was a presence in the CMA and a vital part of our life together. She served as Moderator of the CMA and as a member of Church and Ministry. Thanks to God for her ministry among us.

## **Off the Pews (OTP) aims at reducing urban trauma**

Off the Pews (OTP), a Chicago Metropolitan Association (CMA) intergenerational ministry, has created two initiatives aimed at reducing trauma in the urban community. The first is the creation of urban organic gardens. Youth will be hired to work under adult supervision in the gardens. Throughout the growing season fresh fruits and vegetables will be shared with the respective communities. They will also study a curriculum that introduces healthy meal preparation. Where appropriate, service learning credits will be awarded. Later in the summer, the second project sponsored by OTP, is a summer camp experience designed for urban youth at Tower Hill in Sawyer, Mich.

Off the Pews is introducing a way for you to participate on an ongoing basis in supporting these initiatives. The program is "ShoppingGives." By visiting the Illinois Conference/Off the Pews "fundraiser" at <https://shoppinggives.com/off-the-pews> you can generate dollars for our ministry. This is done by your regular online shopping at 750+ enlisted stores, e.g., Target, Macy's and Home Depot.

How it works: 1) You click on our site: <https://shoppinggives.com/off-the-pews>. 2) You begin your shopping experience by selecting your store, and you are re-directed to the regular online website of that store. 3) You shop in your normal manner, paying no more than your regular amount for items. 4) Your store will give back to our organization with a gift ranging from 1-40% of the amount you spent. (Ex: Target gives back 1%; Macy's, 3%; Home Depot, 8%.)

And, there you have it! You have caused a gift to be given to support these important programs, and you've spent no more than you were planning for your own personal purchases.

So, please consider joining us in participating in ShoppingGives. We have created a year-round fundraiser, so your "shopping/giving back" can take place at any time. Just remember us as you shop and click our online site: <https://shoppinggives.com/off-the-pews>.

Note: [Click here](#) to view video that explains the ShoppingGives program.

If you have any questions, please call: Rev. Wayne MacPherson, CMA Office, at (773) 324-7650.

## Chicago Theological Seminary names new president

Chicago Theological Seminary has named Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr., as its new president, succeeding Rev. Dr. Alice Hunt, who announced her retirement last year. Ray became the 13th president in the seminary's 163-year history on February 1, 2018. Installation events will be celebrated October 10-12, 2018. More information to come [click here](#).



*Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.*

## Webinar: Going Solar-Connecting Faith, Finance, and Facilities

As part of the monthly Creation Justice Webinar series, the UCC has teamed with GreenFaith to offer a webinar designed to assist churches who are interested in going solar. On May 30, the Rev. Fletcher Harper will address issues related to technology, finance, physical plant, communications, and more. [Sign-up today](#) for this webinar! Also, look up [past webinars or subscribe for monthly updates](#) on future webinars.

## Did you know? Assistance from the UCC Insurance Board

The Insurance Board will review contracts for Local Churches that involve building and lot maintenance (for example, snow removal) and repair (for example, roof repair or replacement). The Insurance Board can make recommendations as to the indemnification provisions in the contract and recommend appropriate levels of insurance that should be carried by the vendors/contractors, as well as make recommendations on limitations on liability. A professional set of eyes on these types of contracts can really make a difference should a loss arise out of the contract. Churches in the Insurance Board program should contact Loss Control at (800) 437-8830 for information.

## 2018 Illinois Conference Annual Celebration June 8 and 9



REV. DR. YVETTE FLUNDER IS OUR KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER FOR ANNUAL CELEBRATION!!

Bishop Flunder, Pastor of City of Refuge UCC, Oakland, CA, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ and holds degrees in Ministry from the Pacific School of Religion and the San Francisco Theological Seminary. She is a trustee and adjunct professor at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA. She is an active voice for the Religion Council of the Human Rights Campaign, as well as for the National Black Justice Coalition. She is the author of *Where the Edge Gathers: A Theology of Homiletic Radical Inclusion*.

**\*\*Friday's Events Include\*\***

- Opening Celebration Worship at 1 p.m.  
Led by Rev. Dr. Vertie Powers
- Afternoon Education Opportunities  
Bishop Flunder leading one energizer!
- Celebration Banquet starting at 6 p.m.

**\*\*Saturday's Events Include\*\***

- Keynote Address  
by Bishop Yvette Flunder
- Conference Business
- Closing Celebration Worship  
Led by Rev. Tom Norwalk and  
Rev. Kathy Lawes

**UCC Illinois Conference Choir at Annual Celebration**



LOVE IN ACTION  
LIFE AS NEIGHBORS

*UCC Conference Choir*



Raising our voices in song is one of the most powerful statements we can make.  
We need music for our own healing and to offer out to the world.  
Let's see how many voices we can get to join together as the  
UCC Illinois Conference Choir!

**REHEARSALS:**

Friday, June 8 at 9:00 AM in Hammerschmidt Chapel for 1:00 Worship  
Saturday, June 9 at 12:30 PM in Hammerschmidt Chapel for 1:30 Worship

Rehearsals should last around 45 minutes, enabling enough time to position all groups on the stage and work through the music. We ask that you come with the music already prepared and ready to sing. Your choir director will have the music ahead of time.

**COST:** There is no cost to be a part of the UCC Conference Choir participating in the Worship Services. If however, you wish to attend the conference in any other aspect you must pay the appropriate registration costs.

**Employment Opportunities**

To view employment opportunities within the Illinois Conference [click here.](#)

## Conference e-mail and website information

Listed below are the e-mail addresses and the website information:

Illinois Conference general e-mail: [ilconferenceucc@gmail.com](mailto:ilconferenceucc@gmail.com)

Acting Conference Minister Char Burch: [ilconfchar@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfchar@gmail.com)

Interim Associate Conference Minister (Stewardship and Church Vitality)

David Russell: [ilconfdavid@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfdavid@gmail.com)

Associate Conference Minister (Prairie\Western) Kathy Lawes:

[ilconfkathy@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfkathy@gmail.com)

Associate Conference Minister (Eastern\Western) Tom Norwalk: [ilconftom@gmail.com](mailto:ilconftom@gmail.com)

Acting Associate Conference Minister (Fox Valley/CMA) James Olson:

[ilconfjames@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfjames@gmail.com)

Associate Conference Minister (CMA) Vertie Powers:

[ilconfvertie@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfvertie@gmail.com)

Conference Controller Bill Serritella: [ilconfbill@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfbill@gmail.com)

Tower Hill Camp: [towerhillcamp@gmail.com](mailto:towerhillcamp@gmail.com)

Pilgrim Park Camp: [odmregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:odmregistrar@gmail.com)

Illinois Conference support staff:

Naomi Else: [ilconfnaomi@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfnaomi@gmail.com)

Carmen Torres: [ilconfcarmen@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfcarmen@gmail.com)

Wayne MacPherson (CMA): [ilconfwayne@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfwayne@gmail.com)

Julie Grendahl (Prairie): [ilconfpajulie@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfpajulie@gmail.com)

Connie Owens (Western): [ilconfconnie@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfconnie@gmail.com)

Tracy Diehl (Bookkeeper Conf.): [ilconftracy@gmail.com](mailto:ilconftracy@gmail.com)

Illinois Conference Search and Call Specialist Connie Owens:

[Connieilconf@aol.com](mailto:Connieilconf@aol.com)

Please visit the Illinois Conference website at [www.ilucc.org](http://www.ilucc.org).

The Illinois Conference now is on [Facebook](#); look for us.

Also, [online giving](#) now is available on the website.

THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE UCC E-NEWSLETTER is published by the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, 1840 Westchester Blvd., Suite 200, Westchester, IL 60154. The Rev. Char Burch, Acting Conference Minister; Jacqueline L. Moore, Editor; Carmen Torres, Editorial Assistant. Copy may be sent to: [ilconfcarmen@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfcarmen@gmail.com).

This communication is made possible by your contributions to

### *Our Church's Wider Mission*

Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ | (708) 344-4470 |

[ilconfcarmen@gmail.com](mailto:ilconfcarmen@gmail.com) | <http://www.ilucc.org>

1840 Westchester Blvd., Suite 200

Westchester, IL 60154

