

Weekly Connection

For the Week of February 17, 2019 - February 23, 2019
Diverse Minds, Covenant Hearts, Made One in the Body of Christ

Legal Issues, Tithes and Budgets, Oh My!

Many of the anxious calls I receive from pastors and leaders as a Conference Minister often sound like the refrain of the cast of the *Wizard of Oz* as they are in the dark forest on their way to the see the Wizard. Yet, instead of "Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!" the refrain is more like "Legal Issues, Tithes and Budgets, Oh My!"

This year's Day of Discipleship is structured quite differently than past years for a particular reason. The purpose of Day of Discipleship is to offer pastors and church leaders the continuing education that could benefit the programs and mission of their churches. In planning and brainstorming for this year's event, the Conference Gatherings Team talked at great length about the most common questions, concerns, and challenges that pastors and church leaders face, do not know how to address, and don't know where to turn to get advice and help.

Out of such brainstorming sessions, the team decided to create an event that would include staff from the wider Church whose work and ministries enable our local churches to keep their buildings and congregations safe, whole, and equipped to do GOOD ministry. This year's Day of Discipleship will include four panel speakers that will travel across the country to be with Illinois South Conference pastors and church leaders. The speakers include: **Heather Kimmel**, UCC General Legal Counsel, **Rev. Malcolm Himshoot**, Minister for Ministerial Calls and Transitions (member of the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization (MESA) Team), **Rev. Andy DeBraber**, Major Gifts Officer (member of the Office of Philanthropy, Technology, Identity and Communication (OPTIC) team), and **Frank Loiacono**, from The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ.

Each panelist will give a brief presentation about the resources they offer, and then there will be time for other panelists to weigh in on how they work together with those persons. Participants of the event will be able to ask general or specific questions. After each panelist speaks, we will be led in a time of "silly songs" with DuBois Center staff and chaplains, followed by an opportunity to hear about some of the new and EXCITING directions DuBois is embarking upon.

To give you an idea of what some of the panelists will be sharing with you...here is a sneak preview:

Heather Kimmel will be sharing some of the most common and most unusual sticky situations pastors and churches find themselves in and how legal counsel can be of help. (Spoiler alert: In the Conference office, it is not uncommon for us to reach out to Heather at least once a month.)

Rev. Malcolm Himshoot will invite us into a conversation about the new directions the Church is moving in terms of the search and call process and how the work of MESA directly helps churches in times of transition.

Rev. Andy DeBraber will offer tangible ways churches can talk about stewardship, as well as providing creative solutions for designing pledge drives or capital campaigns that help support the financial health of the local church.

During the final session, **Frank Loiacono** will speak not just about health insurance, but the exciting FREE programs and services the Pension Boards is offering to pastors and churches to encourage mental, emotional, and spiritual health.

Now, I am going to be honest, I have overheard pastors say, "*Oh my church is not sending leaders to Day of Discipleship because it sounds BORING!*" I confess, at first glance the topics might not seem as gripping as "*How to Grow*

Important Links

iscucc.org/

duboiscenter.org

ucc.org

[Back Bay Mission](#)

[CHHSM](#)

[Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#)

[Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Emmaus Homes](#)

[Hitz Memorial Home](#)

[Hoyleton](#)

[Insurance Board](#)

[LIFE Program](#)

[Neighborhood Houses](#)

[New Athens Home](#)

[St. John's Community Care](#)

[St. Paul's Sr. Community](#)

[Uplands Village](#)

[UCC Campus Ministry](#)

[Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)

[ISC Directory](#)

Pray for...

**Prayer list for
Feb 17 - Feb 23, 2019
Churches & Pastors**

- Edwardsville Eden Church, Rev. John (Jami) Roberts
- Edwardsville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Diane Grohmann

Your Church in Five Easy Steps," BUT I can promise you the topics that will be addressed are relevant, timely, and vital to keep each of our churches doing what we are called to do-good ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

So if you and your church have ever found yourselves singing the refrain of "**Legal Issues, Tithes and Budgets, Oh My!**" then you will **NOT** want to miss out on this incredible opportunity to learn what tools and resources are needed and available to your church.

I am looking forward to seeing **YOU** at Day of Discipleship!

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

SHANA'S UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 17 Preaching at Evangelical UCC, Highland

February 24 Preaching at Zoar UCC, New Hanover for their 175th church anniversary

If you would like our Conference Minister to participate in a worship service or special event at your church, please invite her. Please reach out to Rev. Johnson at the office at 618-654-2125 or her cell phone at 618-882-8247 with some possible dates. You can also send her an email at sjohnson@iscucc.org.

Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

Register for Day of Discipleship on February 23, 2019 at the St. Paul UCC in Belleville from 9:30 am - 2 pm (registration at 9 am). Hear presentations from the UCC General Legal Counsel, Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization (MESA), Office of Philanthropy, and The Pension Boards of the UCC. Send several leaders of your church to find out more about resources that are available from the UCC denomination which will support your local church. Click [here](#) for the registration form and map to the church. A bulletin [insert](#) will help you spread the word to your congregation.



How UCC Disaster Ministries Have Served in 2018

Every year, disasters leave families in need of spiritual, physical, financial and psychological support. UCC Disaster Ministries responds to natural and human-caused disasters across

the United States and around the world.

With a special focus on filling critical gaps in communities where long-term needs persist, UCC Disaster Ministries' support extends beyond simply immediate assistance and the coverage of news stations.

Along with working through our churches, conferences and volunteer Conference Disaster Coordinators, we maintain strategic partnerships and direct relationships with organizations and faith communities engaged in disaster response in more than 125 countries. Through this work thousands of disaster survivors receive dignified support and relief annually.

A Year of Service to Disaster Survivors in:

- [American Samoa \(Cyclone Gita\)](#)
- [California \(Wildfires and Mudslides\)](#)
- [Carolinas \(Hurricane Florence\)](#)
- Florida (Palm Beach, Hurricane Irma Recovery)
- Hawaii (Floods and Volcano)
- [Louisiana \(Floods\)](#)
- Massachusetts (Gas Explosion)
- Michigan (Flint Water Crisis)
- [Multi-State Hurricane Matthew Response](#)
- New Hampshire (2018 Nor'easters, Star Island)
- North Carolina (Tropical Storm Julia and Hurricane Matthew)



Retired Pastor

- Rev. Russell and Doris Miller, Metropolis, IL

People with Life Concerns

- Keep the family of Rev. Kevin (Debbie) Weaver in your prayers as they mourn his sudden death. Rev. Weaver was currently serving as the Interim Pastor for St. John UCC in Wood River and had previously served as Interim Pastor for Hamel Immanuel UCC. Cards may be sent to Debbie at 3705 Meadow Dr, House Springs MO 63051.

- Please pray for the family of Judy Betz as they mourn her death. Judy was a member of Cahokia Bethel UCC and a member of the ISC Hunger/Food Action Committee. The services were held yesterday.

- Please pray for Pastor Nancy (Scott) Shubert as she deals with some health issues. Pastor Shubert serves Holy Ghost UCC in Darmstadt and Trinity UCC in Biddleborn. Cards may be sent to 12691 State Route 177, Okawville, IL 62271.

- Keep Pastor Don (Lois) Propeck in your prayers as he deals with some health issues. Don is the pastor of St. Paul UCC in Jamestown and is currently serving on the ISC Committee on Ministry. Cards may be sent to him at 2163 E 1150th Ave, Loogootee IL 62838.

- Keep Kyle Nuetzel (24) in your prayers as he continues rehabilitation at home. Kyle is the son of Kathy & Rev. Patrick Poole.

- Keep Marilyn (Rev. Paul) Thompson in your prayers as she deals with health issues. Rev. Thompson is retired, but serves on the ISC Recruitment Committee. Cards may be sent to her at 910 Circle Drive, Red Bud, IL 62278.

- Pennsylvania (Floods and Hurricane Evacuees from Puerto Rico)
- [Puerto Rico \(Hurricanes Irma and Maria\)](#)
- [Texas \(Hurricane Harvey\)](#)
- [U.S. Virgin Islands \(Hurricanes Irma and Maria\)](#)
- West Virginia (2016 Floods/Bridge Project)

Financial Support - \$1,237,895.00

- Solidarity Grants to UCC Congregations and Conferences: \$22,074
- Seed Grants to Local Recovery Groups: \$32,500
- Long Term Recovery Projects and Other Grants: \$1,170,571
- Matching Grants for Churches Making CWS Kits: \$12,750 (51 @ \$250)

Contact Zachary Wolgemuth, Executive for UCC Disaster Ministries, at 216-736-3211 or wolgemuthz@ucc.org or Amanda Sheldon, Program Associate, National Disaster and Refugee Ministries, at 216-736-3210 or sheldona@ucc.org.

LIFE at Eden: Informed by Grace

March 2, 2019 at Eden Theological Seminary

The next LIFE class offers something for everyone. The Certificate course is a fascinating tour of the Old Testament taught by Rev. Dr. Clint McCann and the Elective course is an intriguing look at the Enneagram of spirituality.

Certificate Course: Old Testament Survey

Rev. Dr. Clint McCann will lead us from creation, through the wilderness, into wars and reconciliation, liturgy, lament, praise informed by GRACE! ALL IN ONE DAY! ZOOM!

Elective Course: The Enneagram

Dr. Jill Baker will explore "The Enneagram of Personality" which is generally used as a typology to gain insights into workplace interpersonal-dynamics; in spirituality it is more commonly presented as a path to higher states of being, essence, and enlightenment. Both contexts say it can aid in self-awareness, self-understanding and self-development.

To register or for more information, click [here](#) or email jschantz@eden.edu



CALLING ALL PASTORS! - Pastors' Sabbath Retreat

There is still room for more at the Pastor's Retreat on February 27-28. **However, the room rate of \$89 at the Doubletree in Mt. Vernon is only good if booked before February 20.** So, if anyone is still interested, get in your registration forms to ISC,

1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249, and book your hotel room soon (618-244-7100)! The event will include a get together the first evening for fellowship and food. The next day will be filled with conversations and activities designed especially for you as a time of reflection and inspiration, as well as more food! Cost is \$30 per person. It is our way of saying thanks for all you do for your congregation and the Conference. Click [here](#) for a registration form.

Churches in Transition

- ISC welcomes Rev. Debbie Lawson as Transitional Pastor at Jerseyville Peace UCC.
- Rev. Donna Pupillo is serving Fieldon UCC as Transitional Pastor. Thank you for your service.
- Rev. C. Dwayne (Donna) Dollgener is serving as Interim Pastor for Hamel Immanuel UCC.
- Rev. Chris Hill has been called to a ministry in Social Work and has left his ministry at Highland Evangelical UCC. ISC thanks him for his service.
- Rev. Nancy Gamache has been called as Transitional Pastor for St. Jacob UCC and Summerfield St. John UCC. Welcome to ISC.
- Pastor Julie Kies has completed her ministry at Godfrey Congregational UCC. ISC thanks her for her service.
- Rev. Cory Hartz has completed his ministry at Belleville Trinity UCC. He has been called to Red Bud St. Peter UCC beginning February 1. ISC thanks him for his service at Belleville Trinity and gratefully welcomes him to Red Bud St. Peter UCC.
- Rev. Nancy (Kevin) Spier-Lee is serving as Transitional Pastor for Belleville Trinity UCC. Please pray for all of our churches that are going through these changes.

Gateway ONA's Eighth Annual Convocation, Open & Affirming: In Challenging Times will be held on Sat, March 2 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at Parkway UCC, 2841 North Ballas Rd, St Louis, Missouri 63131.

Registration begins at 8:30 am. Coffee, pastries and fruit will be available and displays will be open. Registration is \$20 per person, which includes lunch or \$120 per church with 6 or more attending.

Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations and other settings of the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

If you are an Open and Affirming congregation, talking about Open and Affirming or thinking about starting the conversation, if you want to explore how to be effective allies, there will be something for you and your church. Come be in conversation with others, learn what it means to be Open and Affirming and how to fully express extravagant welcome to all God's children.

Jeanette Mott Oxford will be the preacher/keynoter. She is the Executive Director of Empower Missouri; a graduate of Eden Seminary; a former Member of the Missouri House of Representative; and a member, with her wife, Dorothy Gannon, of Epiphany UCC in St. Louis.

Our worship leader is the Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy, Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship; and



Associate Dean of the Chapel at Eden Theological Seminary. Christopher, his wife, Carla, and their children are members of Peace UCC.

It's a day of workshops, Eden Theological Seminary Bookstore, other displays, fellowship, food, and fun. Click [here](#) for a flyer and registration form. Questions, contact Lorin Cope, Convener, Gateway ONA, at lcope@eden.edu.



Langenberg Leadership Forum

Leadership for the Common Good

Stronger Leaders, Better Community

The Tues, Feb 19 breakfast from 7:30 am - 9 am at Eden Theological



Seminary Schroer Commons features speaker Bishop Elijah Hankerson III, president of the St. Louis Metropolitan Clergy Coalition. In his local, national and international roles for the Church Of God In Christ, Bishop Hankerson works to grow churches and strengthen the impact of churches in the lives of their communities. Bishop Hankerson will speak to the challenge of creating strong leaders to better our community. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Contact 314-918-2547 or e-mail leadership@eden.edu



DuBois Center News

The Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ

GREEN DUBOIS Stewardship Day - THIS SATURDAY - Feb 16

Call TODAY to reserve your space! Removing invasive species, such as Japanese honeysuckle, is the priority for the day. Meet and work with others who care about the environment. No special skills are needed. Dress for the weather - layers recommended - and bring lopping shears if you have them. Minimum Age: 16, unless accompanied by a parent. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP TODAY. For more information or to RSVP, contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.



CAMP NURSES

Servants with Sunscreen

Band-Aids - YES, but so much more! One setting for ministry at DuBois Center is our health center. Volunteer nurses, most of whom are RNs, are a vital piece of our summer camp program. Serving as a camp nurse can be a very rewarding mission experience, one that is very different than most traditional jobs. Responsibilities include reviewing camper medical forms, conducting health screenings, receiving & administering medications, providing first aid & basic medical treatment, and documentation. But when you really get down to it, nurses spend most of their time removing ticks, soothing rashes, distributing medications and providing extra TLC for homesick and nervous campers. If you are an RN, please consider serving with us for a full or partial week. The living quarters do have AC and there is often time to join us for worship, explore the woods or just sit back and read a book. For more information, contact Shirley at DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or [email](mailto:shirley@duboiscenter.org).

SUMMER JOBS

APPLY NOW!

Is this the year for more than just another summer job? DuBois Center is searching for fun-loving and child-focused individuals with a heart for ministry to serve on our summer staff. Amazing memories + resume building skills = a summer to remember. Check out the Summer of Service [flyer](#) and consider whether serving outdoors with a dynamic team might be just the opportunity for you. Open positions include cabin counselors, barn staff and coordinators. Lifeguard certification is a plus. Questions? Contact Shirley at 618-787-2202 or by [email](mailto:shirley@duboiscenter.org). Application packets are available [online](#).



FATHER-SON RETREAT

March 29-31

Fathers, Grandfathers and Uncles bring your sons, grandsons, nephews or another significant young man in your life to DuBois Center for some quality guy time! Fish, hike, canoe or just hang out together. Make cool crafts, share in vespers and work on your archery skills. Horseback riding is available for an additional fee. Lodging is in heated cottages and Hickory Lodge. The weekend is geared for those ages 5 and older, and



DIGITAL CAMERAS

Used Compact Models Needed

Great photos and smart phones go hand in hand nowadays. So, what happened to all those small, point and shoot cameras - the Coolpix, PowerShot and FinePix? Last year, we posted a similar request and received 6-8 cameras. They were a big hit especially during summer camp and Mother-Daughter Retreat. We are currently in search of 4-6 additional

used (or new) point & shoot digital cameras for this summer. They are great for scavenger hunts, photography classes, photo booths and so much more. **Requirements:** good working condition and SD card compatible. For more information contact DuBois Center at 618-787-2202 or dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org.

families participate together. Register [online](#) or download this [flyer](#) with reservation form. **Early Bird deadline is March 8; final registration deadline is March 15.** Questions? Contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



SERVICE SATURDAYS - March 23 & April 13

These are great opportunities for service during the season of Lent. Get outside, stretch your muscles and get a little dirty. Serve together with friends and family and make a difference! DuBois Center needs your help to spruce up the grounds for our busy spring and summer seasons. Projects vary, depending on the weather and the skills of the workers - carpentry, cleaning, painting, raking and more. Lunch is provided, as is most equipment. Check out this [flyer](#) for more information. **RSVP** to dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



DuBois Center is your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) monies at work. When you or your congregation gives to OCWM, you are directly supporting the work of DuBois, a Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your ongoing support of OCWM!



CHHSM News

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund

Need to energize and revitalize your church's strategies for faithful generosity? Does your church find it hard to talk about money? UCC Church Building & Loan Fund would like to



A NETWORK FOR
GROWING
STEWARDS

make you aware of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center's (ESC) "Generosity transformed! your mission*your ministry*your money Conference, April 30 - May 3, 2019 in Indianapolis. For complete conference information and to register, visit [ESC's website](#). UCC Church Building & Loan Fund can help your church with stewardship and much more! For more information about all the services we offer, please contact Priscilla Bizer, Regional Mission Interpreter, bizerp@ucc.org.



Get Tickets Now! Hoyleton Youth & Family Services' *A Night for Heroes 2019 Salute* will be held on February 22, 2019 at the Four Points by Sheraton. It will be their salute to everyone that makes Hoyleton's work possible. A cash bar at 6 pm kicks off the evening followed by a wonderful dinner at 7 pm. *A Night for Heroes* culminates with Awards, the Fund-the-Need auction that provides support to every one of Hoyleton's nearly 20 programs and services for nearly 3,000 youth and families throughout southern Illinois - and, music and dancing with Butchwax and the Hollywoods! This year's emcee will be Cory Stark, co-anchor at KMOV-TV. Individual tickets are \$50/person. Sponsorships available. Contact Amanda Garrison at agarrison@hoyleton.org or 618-688-4742.

St. John's Community Care will hold a Themed Gift Basket Auction at Ravanelli's, #26 Collinsport Dr in Collinsville throughout the month of February. Take your sweetheart to Ravanelli's and place a bid for the baskets. Baskets will include a variety of offerings and will be awarded to the highest bidder at the end of February. All money raised from the auction will be used to support caregiver training sessions and support groups.



CUE Seminaries Announces Seminary Sunday - February 24.

- Lift up our UCC seminaries and seminarians in prayer, in mission moments, and in your bulletins.
- Post materials about Chicago, Eden, and United Seminaries on bulletin boards.
- Include a special prayer or litany in your service.
- Show a five-minute CUE Seminaries DVD.
- Include a gift to CUE Seminaries in your church budget or to take a special offering.
- DVDs, bulletin inserts, posters, and offering envelopes are available at the CUE Seminaries [website](#)

If you would like someone from a CUE Seminary to visit your congregation to help with worship leadership for Seminary Sunday, please contact:

Chicago Theological Seminary Chad Schwickerath (chad.schwickerath@cts-chicago.edu or 773-896-2434)

United Theological Seminary Terri Burnor (tburnor@unitedseminary.edu or 633-4311)

Eden Theological Seminary Lorin Cope (lcope@eden.edu or 314-918-2549)

Each seminary will do its best to accommodate each request.

What's Happening at Illinois South Conference...

Staunton St. Paul UCC's Youth Group, Exhale, is hosting a used prom dress sale on Sat, April 6 from 9 am - 5 pm. They are looking for donations of dresses, shoes, jewelry, etc. If you have something to donate, contact Becca at 618-520-0185. All proceeds will go to support the Exhale Mission Trips.

Region 2

New Hanover Zoar UCC will celebrate its 175th anniversary on Sun, Feb 24 at a 10 am church service. Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson will be their special guest, and other ministers will also be joining the congregation for the special day. A luncheon will follow the service. Come and enjoy their celebration.

Hecker Friedens UCC will hold its Sausage & Kraut Dinner on Sun, March 10 from 11:30 am - 5:30 pm at the church. Buffet menu includes grilled pork sausage, sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, applesauce, coffee, tea and dessert. Adults \$10; Children 5 - 10 years \$5; Children 4 years and under Free; Carry-outs and curbside service \$10. Call 618-667-6535 for curbside service and pre-orders.

Region 5

On Sun, March 10, Troy Friedens UCC will host its annual sausage dinner from 11:30 am - 5:30 pm. Carry-outs and curbside will be available until 6:00 pm. Phone in your order to 618-667-6535 and it will be delivered to your car. Menu includes all-you-can-eat grilled pork sausage, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, applesauce, dessert and beverage. Adults \$10; Children 5-10 years \$5; Children 4 and under Free. All carry-outs and curbside \$10. Call 618-667-6535 for more information.

Region 5

Staunton St. Paul UCC's Youth Group, Exhale, presents a Chili Cook-off & Cheesecake Bake-off on Sat, Feb 23 from 11 am - 2 pm at the church. To enter with your own crockpot \$10. Register by Feb 13. To taste the chili and cheesecake \$10; chili only \$7. Hot dogs, chips and soda for sale. Contact Becca at 618-520-0185 or rjbraundmeier@gmail.com.

Region 7

The Outreach Committee of St. Peter's UCC in Okawville presents a Puzzle Challenge on Sun, Feb 24 from 2 pm - 4 pm. Doors open at 1:30pm to benefit the CHOW Program (Combating Hunger On Weekends). Cost is \$50/table with up to 6 per table. Silent auction items. Heads or Tails. Attendance prizes. Snacks and lemonade provided. Each team will receive the same 500 piece puzzle to complete. Prizes awarded in flights, winners all afternoon. CHOW provides 6-8 snack food items (more for long weekends or breaks) to our Okawville youth and teens in need. Volunteers sort, pack and distribute the bags to lockers on the last day of the school week. Donations come from Operation Food Search as well as monetary donations from individuals and businesses in Okawville. All proceeds from the Puzzle Challenge will purchase food to be distributed.

Region 8

Marissa Friedens UCC will hold its Wurstmarkt on Sat, March 16 from 3 pm - 7 pm. All are welcome.

Region 9

Trinity UCC in Belleville will host its 30th Annual Chicken & Dumplings Dinner on Sun, Feb 24 from 11 am - 3 pm. All-you-can-eat dinner includes fresh, home-made chicken & dumplings, green beans, corn, home-made cole slaw, applesauce, rolls, iced tea or coffee and one dessert. Carry-outs available. Quilt drawing. Bakery, Boutique & Baskets. Adults \$10; Children 5 - 12 years \$5; Children 4 and under Free. Contact 618-233-2941.