

Saturday, June 10th – Hearings

1:15pm – 2:15pm

1. Hearing regarding the resolution to Implement Economic Action toward a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel – **ASC 104**
Come participate in a discussion on this resolution
2. Hearing on the 2018 Budget and Treasurer's Report – **ASC 107**
Come participate in a discussion on the 2018 Budget and Treasurer's Report and the financial vitality of the MN Conference
3. Hearing on the 2018 Compensation Guidelines – **ASC 105**
Come participate in a discussion on the 2018 Compensation Guidelines

Saturday, June 10th – Workshops

2:30pm – 3:30pm and 3:45pm – 4:45pm (unless otherwise noted)

1. **Encountering *Living Stones of Hope* in Palestine – HAB 102B**
Presenters: 2017 Delegation from MN Conference
In January 2017, twelve members of the MN Conference of the UCC traveled to Palestine/Israel for a two week study tour. We met with several of our Global Ministries partners working in the midst of constant conflict between Israel and Palestine. In this workshop we will share stories of immeasurable hope as well as share what we learned and with whom we met. We saw firsthand the tension in Hebron, the turmoil regarding the BDS movement and so much more. This was an incredibly rich experience from which we can draw when it is time for voting on the upcoming resolution at the Annual Meeting.
2. **The New Local Church Profile as a Tool for Planning and Mission – HAB 106**
ONLY OFFERED 2:30PM – 3:30PM
Presenter: Rev. Rick Wagner, MN Associate Conference Minister
The new Local Church Profile is not just for congregations in search of a pastor. All congregations are encouraged to engage in its process of discovery every 3-5 years. The UCC Local Church Profile reflects valuable data, assesses ministry, clarifies change, and helps advance the calling of the congregation.
3. **The Philippines and the US – HAB 128**
Presenter: Thomas Haines, MN Conference Global Partnerships Team
Conference Minister Rev. Shari Prestemon, Dr. Josephine Fernandez, and Thom Haines traveled to the Philippines in August 2016 on behalf of the MN Conference and were welcomed by our partners, the Southeast Jurisdictional Area of the UCC in the Philippines (SEMJA). While we share a commitment to Jesus Christ and the Reign of God, there are significant differences between being Christ in the US and in the Philippines. To forge a shared prophetic witness, we need a shared structural analysis. This workshop will explore what that means as well as other aspects of what it means to be a global partner.

4. **Vision of a Just World and a Refreshed UCC Purpose and Mission – HAB 107**
Presenters: Member of the MN Conference Board of Directors
The National setting of the UCC has adopted refreshed statements of vision, purpose and mission to guide and shape the future work of the United Church of Christ. The Conference Board of Directors is committed to transparency and accountability and would like to obtain feedback from across the MN Conference to aid its discernment on how best to align our Conference with the refreshed statements. There will be a brief overview of the refreshed statements and the process by which they were created and adopted. The majority of the workshop will be to obtain valuable input from the many settings of the MN Conference.
5. **Become a Creation Justice Church – HAB 117**
Presenters: The Conference Justice and Witness Prophetic Witness Team
What is a faith community to do when government denies climate change? Join us as we seek to go beyond our traditional green team frame to creation justice to meet the challenge of our time. A new way for congregations to organize and act to meet the need for climate justice with a practical, spiritual, and movement-supporting program in a time of government denial of a need for climate action.
6. **Good Things in Small Packages: Vitality in Small Congregations – HAB 118**
Presenter: Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Center for Analytics, Research and Data, UCC
A congregation's small size doesn't mean that the church isn't a place of vitality! Based on the latest research, participants will learn about some of the characteristics of smaller vital congregations and, as a result, gain key insights into what it takes to become a more vital church. In addition, a new vitality measurement tool will be introduced that focuses on the impact a congregation makes both within and beyond the congregation itself, rather than internal numbers around membership and finances.
7. **Ensuring Church Vitality by Understanding the Economics of your Building – HAB 119**
Presenter: Maria Coyne, President & CEO, UCC Cornerstone Fund
This workshop will cause participants to ask questions about what the role of the church building is in delivering the church mission. Your real assets are there to serve the ministries of your church, not vice versa. Many churches and other entities are dealing with aging or ill-suited properties, in this workshop learn more about the best ways to deploy assets for mission.
8. **Embracing God's Promise of Racial Justice: Resources and Strategies – HAB 120**
Presenter: UCCMN Racial Justice Team
The Racial Justice Team of the MN Conference invites you to this interactive and conversational workshop, where participants will receive (and share their own) resources and best practices for seeking racial justice in local congregations. We'll discuss the *Racial Justice: Let's Talk* curriculum and its use around the Conference, plus take time for hands-on evaluation of racial justice resources that are publicly available and/or on loan from the Resource Center for Churches.

9. **Reclaiming the Ancient Dying, Death, and Mourning Rituals of our Faith – HAB 121**
Presenter: Rev. Sarah Campbell, Team Lead Minister Mayflower UCC
We as a people of faith are finding our way back to the way of our ancestors during the bewildering time of dying, death, and mourning. We are reclaiming the ancient/old fashioned practices of our faith even as we introduce new practices such as green funerals. There are practices that are universal or nearly so: the family cares for the body from death unto final disposition; the community encircles and cares for the family; time is carved out and protected – ie. one week, one month, one year – as the mourners gradually turn back to the world. (*From Rev. Campbell's booklet: Ars Moriendi et Ars Maerendi: A Guide for Progressive Christians*)

10. **Keeping Alive Now Spiritually – HAB 115**
Presenter: Rev. Dr. John F. Roschen
Rev. Roschen has subscribed to *Alive Now* from its Test Issue in 1971 through its final print edition, March/April 2017. He has annotated over 8,700 pieces, arranging them into multiple categories in a Topical Index and a Scriptural Index. Presently being developed utilizing these annotations is the “Seventy-one/Seventeen Series: Keeping Alive Now Spiritually” – projected to be up to 200 study sessions suitable for small-group discussion, personal reflection, or worship and sermon referencing. This workshop will feature small group (6-8 persons) discussions on "Civility," "Respectful Living," and "Respectful Conversation"--representative topics from the spirituality series.

11. **Faith Communities' Role in Moving Families into Economic Stability – ASC 104**
Presenter: Ana Ashby, Statewide Organizer, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
How do you put your faith into action? This session will provide advocacy tools to help shape public policy. The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, which is the oldest interfaith advocacy organization in the country, will provide background on state legislative issues that affect low-income families, and offer participants tools to get involved and work toward substantive change on these issues. This session is for individuals who want to get involved, as well as those looking at actions within their congregations.

12. **Monks on Main Street + Nuns on the Net – ASC 105**
Presenter: Paul Martin, Union Congregational UCC and Community of Aidan and Hilda
Monastic life – living under vows within a supportive community – has time and again been the ‘hearth’ from which renewal of God’s people has ‘burst into flame.’ However, very few now want to enter a cloister or live as a hermit. How can we rekindle that flame in our time?

13. **Liberating Sexuality: A UCC Perspective – ASC 107**
Presenter: Lori Alford, MN Conference UCC
Our current political cycle has reopened a national discussion about how we talk about consent, sex, and gender roles and expectations. In this workshop inspired by Miquel A. De La Torre’s book *Liberating Sexuality*, we will peel back layers of the patriarchy in search of a biblically-based sexual ethic that liberates all people. Sexual justice is a social justice issue and it is time to bring the conversation out from under the sheets!

14. United Theological Seminary: It's Not Your Father's Buick! – ASC 121

Presenter: Lewis Zeidner, PhD, President of United Theological Seminary

There is a palpable and pervasive state of anxiety and depression across many mid-career mainline Protestant clergy as they wrestle with the strains of sustaining vibrancy in their ministries. They have worked hard and long to develop the skills of ministry yet the world is changing and seems to value aspects of those skills less. It is difficult and personally painful for professionals to let go of deeply held philosophical beliefs about their career paths. This workshop will focus on ways in which seminaries, like United, are offering students better professional and personal tools for living into an understanding of God's Promise. These offerings are working to balance cost and effectiveness, while ensuring that students have done the theological and personal formation work appropriate to this phase of their careers. Similarly, United has developed offerings for mid-career clergy to ensure that they have an opportunity to build new skills and receive the emotional support needed to lead with Hope.

15. Vital Giving: No Money, No Mission; Know Mission, Know Money – ASC 127

Presenter: Rev. Andy DeBraber, UCC Office of Philanthropy & Stewardship

The landscape of giving has changed radically over the past 20 years. Many churches, however, have not changed with the times. Now, instead of being the first place someone gives their hard-earned dollars, churches find themselves lower down on the list. In this workshop, you will explore the importance of mission clarity to giving and learn specific take-home practices around vital story-telling, asking for money, and saying thank you well (a step we as churches have, ironically, often not done well).

16. Advanced LGBTQ+ Ally Training: Action Steps for Affirming Our Queer Siblings in Christ – ASC 142

Presenter: Austen Hartke, MN Conference Open and Affirming Team

How can you use your privilege for good, as an individual? How can your church create safe spaces and work for justice, as an organization? Join in this workshop devoted to answering these questions, and building an authentically welcoming community. Let's get together to move our theology from the hypothetical to the practical, and to make full inclusion of all God's children a reality.

17. What is God Calling Our Church to do About Immigration? – HAB 101

Presenter: MN Conference Immigration Team

The MN Conference became an Immigrant Welcoming Conference in 2016 and called for our congregations to consider becoming immigrant welcoming as well. With the recent executive orders regarding undocumented immigrants and refugees, the raids that are occurring all around the country, and the President indicating that he plans to deport 11 million undocumented immigrants, we have a dilemma on our hands. The United Church of Christ holds fast to our Biblical mandate to not mistreat foreigners but to welcome them and treat them as citizens among us and love them as we love ourselves (Lev. 19:34). Come and learn about considering becoming an immigrant welcoming, a sanctuary or sanctuary supporting congregation.