



Minnesota Conference

United Church of Christ

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Embracing God's Promise

- a future with hope -



55th Annual Meeting | 9-11 June 2017 | College of St. Benedict

March 2017

Attention Minnesota Conference UCC Congregations & Authorized Ministers:

You are hereby called to the Minnesota Conference 55th Annual Meeting, June 9-11, 2017, College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota.

The theme of **"Embracing God's Promise – a Future with Hope"** promises to challenge us as we focus on what it means to be a truly vital church, understanding that vitality is not limited to only the number of people in worship on Sunday. We will explore this theme in a number of different ways.

Our two keynote speakers are Rev. Julian DeShazier, Senior Pastor from University Church in Chicago, who will provide an energetic and inspiring address about how our church is growing and thriving into the future. Rev. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi from the UCC national setting will talk about indicators of church vitality, again highlighting that numbers are just one of many indicators.

Over the course of the weekend, worship will ground and guide our experiences. We will have Bible Study on Saturday and Sunday morning and the leaders will be Rev. Daniel Romero from 1st Congregational Church of MN and Professor Kyle Roberts from United Theological Seminary. There will be worship on Friday and Saturday evenings and

on Sunday morning, Rev. Norma Rae Hunt, Senior Pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in St. Paul will be our preacher for closing worship.

The Annual Meeting will be rich with vital worship experiences, opportunities to meet new people and reconnect with old friends, and in particular this coming June, sacred space in which to share our varied perspectives and experiences with being a vital church. All we do and share together will re-invigorate our faith and stir our hearts.

Registration will open at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 9, and all are asked to arrive for the opening plenary session at 1:30 p.m. that day. We will conclude with Sunday worship. There will also be exhibits to visit, entertainment to enjoy, and workshops to inspire us. Please remember that you are encouraged to bring a young adult (or youth) delegate from your congregation to the Annual Meeting. A full Sunday morning litany and sermon will be provided at a later date for use by local churches.

We request the honor of your presence at the 2017 Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting. Come, let's be Church together!

Sincerely,

2017 Annual Meeting Planning Working Group