

Saturday, June 11 – Workshop Sessions – 2:30 – 3:30

- 1. Hearing regarding the resolution calling on the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ to stand in support of a basic guaranteed income for all citizens of the United States of America. – ARD 104**
Participate in a discussion on this resolution
- 2. Hearing regarding the resolution calling on the fifty-fourth Conference of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ and its congregations to Covenant as Immigrant Welcoming Congregations. – ARD 105**
Participate in a discussion on this resolution
- 3. Hearing regarding the 2016 Budget and Treasurer’s Report – ARD 107**
Participate in a discussion on the budget
- 4. Hearing regarding the 2016 Compensation Guidelines – ARD 121**
Participate in a discussion on this resolution
- 5. Hearing on Governance Task Force of the Board of Directors – ARD 127**
Participate in a discussion on this

Saturday, June 11 – Workshop Sessions – 3:45 – 5:00

- 1. Stepping Into Stewardship – ARD 104**
Presenter: MN Conference attendees at the recent National UCC/DOC Stewardship Conference
The UCC and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) sponsored a joint stewardship conference earlier this year. It had great plenary speakers and multiple workshops/breakout sessions. This workshop will feature a panel of participants from Minnesota sharing the best “take-aways” for local churches from this conference.
- 2. Fair Trade and Economic Justice – ARD 105**
Presenter: Jane Dow, chair of MATTI (Mankato Area Fair Trade Town Initiative) since 1998
Presenter will explain what Fair Trade is and how it addresses issues of poverty, climate change, and economic trade justice. An excerpt of a film will be shown, “Connected by Coffee,” about the struggles of Central American coffee farmers for indigenous rights, women’s empowerment, agrarian reform, food sovereignty and community resilience.
- 3. Radical Welcome, Church Anti-Racism, Growth and Outreach Practical Steps: Welcoming Those Who are Not Like You – ARD 142**
Presenters: Rev. Kwame Reed, Lawyer, Pastor, Potomac Association Minister; Gary Kwong, EMMAUS Anti-Racism Team

Who is your community and who are you? Practical outreach steps (with a theology basis) towards becoming an anti-racist, radical welcoming, and growing church in your community.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Dialogue on Black Reparations for Enslavement in the US – ARD 107

Presenter: Khalid Moussa Foster, researcher and educator on race, class, and gender

This is a sacred conversation that will reference “The Case of Black Reparations” by Ta-Nahesi Coates, The Atlantic Magazine, June 2014. Participants will view a short film on this topic and discuss the implications for faith communities in the UCC.

5. You Are Not Alone! Tips to Becoming an Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation! – HAB 107

Presenters: The Minnesota Conference UCC Immigration Team

Immigration is a racial issue. At a time when black and brown migrants have experienced abuse by too many in this country, the church needs to be the Prophetic Witness that God calls us to be, extending an extravagant welcome to our migrant brothers and sisters. There are UCC churches and communities in this state who are models for welcoming the immigrant. Come and share YOUR stories OR learn how your church can begin or discuss the journey to become and immigrant-welcoming congregation. The Immigration Team will bring stories of their work in this area and provide encouragement for you to walk this path.

6. The Right to Die in Minnesota, and UCC Perspectives – ARD 121

Presenters: Rebecca Thoman, M.S., Doctors for Divinity; Rev. Kathy Itzen, Pastor, Parkway UCC

Last year, Sen. Chris Eaton (Brooklyn Park) introduced the Compassionate Care Act. Modeled after Oregon’s Death with Dignity law, the bill would authorize medical aid in dying whereby a terminally ill adult of sound mind may ask for and receive prescription medication that they may self-administer for a peaceful death, should their suffering become unbearable. This presentation will provide factual information about the legislation, data from other states where the practice is currently in use, and a discussion of the UCC theological position on medical aid in dying.

7. “How Love Won” – ARD 127

Presenter: Randall Pratt, Union Congregational UCC

This film chronicles how the faith communities of MN organized and successfully defeated the proposed constitutional amendment to forbid same-sex marriage. Grass roots organizing CAN succeed.

8. What Next? How to Be Open and Affirming in the 21st Century – HAB 102B

Presenters: Open and Affirming Team members

Was your church one of the first to become a designated open and affirming church? If so, your Welcoming Statement may need to be refreshed. The first half of the workshop will provide examples of powerful Open and Affirming statements and detail how to craft a strong, updated statement. The second half will provide ideas on how to make sure that your statement is more than just a statement and that your church feels welcoming to Transgender, Bisexual, Lesbian,

Gary or Queer individuals and families. A list of years that Minnesota Conference churches became Open and Affirming will be included.

9. A Biblical and Theological Dialogue on Rural and Small Church Ministry from a Multi-Point Parish Perspective – HAB 117

Presenter: Rev. John Tschudy, Pastor, Rainy River Regional Parish UCC

This will be an opportunity for attendees to have a dialogue on how multi-point churches can provide, if approached in the proper way, an opportunity for the church to give witness to the Gospel's progressive message of social justice, in remote areas, and in small congregations.

10. Best New Practices for Faith Formation in YOUR Church! – HAB 118

Presenters: Members of the MN Conference Faith Formation Team

This workshop will lead you through some of the new ways faith formation is being created in mainline progressive Christian churches throughout the USA> Based on our experience at the Faith Forward event in April, 2016 in Chicago, your Faith Formation Team will offer ways to support you in your quest to improve faith formation in your church.

11. The Practicing Life in God's Realm: Worship for the Whole Community – HAB 106

Presenters: Members of the MN Conference Faith Formation Team

Come experience how creative, multi-sensory, and intergenerational worship can become a vital place of faith formation for the entire community. All are welcome to engage this highly participatory worship experience and practice being and living God's dream of love and justice for our world.

12. Change in Congregations: The One Consistent Thing – HAB 121

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Anita L. Bradshaw, Transitional Pastor, St. Luke Presbyterian Church, Minnetonka, MN

This session will offer a fresh perspective on change and the conflict that often comes with it. Change and conflict are often feared in churches – but they don't need to be. When we learn to see these difficulties as normal, healthy parts of being a community, it is much easier to navigate them with a minimum of anxiety and bad behavior. We are able to let go of our fears and face change and conflict as catalysts for moving forward in the missions of showing God's love and justice to the world. In fact, there is no way to move forward in mission without change and conflict.

13. Peer Ministry Leadership – HAB 119

Presenter: Lyle Griner, Executive Director, Peer Ministry Leadership

Youth directly influence the faith and life of other teens. PML youth learn the skills of caring, welcoming, and affirming other youth, that they can use daily, as they are most aware and able to listen and guide teens in the many issues that they face. PML youth become the models and mentors of a positive, faith-exploring, faith-practicing culture essential for ministry programs. We'll explore the what's, why's, and how's of PML through interactive skill building experiences.

14. Your Legacy: Family, Church, Charity – HAB 101

Presenter: Shirley Bachman, Financial Advisor, Thrivent Financial

Unleash your generosity! Want to help sustain your church's foundation? Or your alma mater's endowment fund? And leave an inheritance? If there are people or causes you care about, we can help you uncover ways to enrich their futures. Join us for a presentation on estate and giving strategies and we'll discuss how to ensure your legacy lives on.

15. Signs of Hope in the Holy Land: What Your Church Can Do – HAB 128

Presenter: Working Group on Just Peace in Israel and Palestine

We all wish we knew more about the Holy Land, and how to make a difference. Learn about resources for MN congregations that will empower you to keep the dialogue going in the coming year. We welcome your thoughts on how we can support the conversation in your church.

16. Faith in Action: How to be the Voice for the Poor in Our Legislative Process – HAB 012

Presenter: Anne Krisnik, Executive Director, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition

We are called to provide for those less fortunate among us – the poor, children, victims of human trafficking. How do we use our faith as a framework to bring about change? Come learn about our legislative process, current issues and how you can be a voice for those who are often forgotten.