



## Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ

April 2016

### Quick Links

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News](#)

### Upcoming Events

Merom Glow 5K  
Louisville, Ky.  
[April 22](#)

Merom 5K  
Merom Conference Center  
[April 30](#)

Insurance Board Webinar:  
Preventing Slips, Trips  
& Falls  
[May 11](#)

Strengthen The Church  
Offering  
[May 15](#)

### Indiana-Kentucky Conference News

#### Annual Gathering Registration Now Open!

Please join us at the University of Indianapolis on June 10-11 for the [53rd Annual Gathering](#)

that will include the corporate annual

business meeting of the

Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Annual Gathering offers an opportunity to dream while awake and rejoice in a vision of what the future may hold.



**Keynote Speaker:** The Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, the ninth General and Minister and President (GMP) of the United Church of Christ, will be the keynote speaker.

**Dreams and Visions:** The IKC Design Team will report to our conference on the work they have been doing and the feedback from across the IKC on priorities, direction, dreams and visions of the people within our conference community.

**Friday Afternoon Activities:** There will be three opportunities to participate in on Friday afternoon:

- Pack/prepare CWS Hygiene Kits. Our way is not to just talk about church, but to be the church. This year, our goal is to assemble 1,000 Church World Service (CWS) Hygiene Kits for the benefit of those less fortunate. We are asking each association to collect specific items for this project. Click [here](#) for more information. We can't achieve our goal without you!
- Conversation with Keynote Speaker, Rev. John Dorhauer, Still Speaking 2.0

IKC Office Closed-  
Memorial Day Observance  
May 30

UCC National ONA  
Gathering  
St. Joseph, Minn.  
[June 7-9](#)

Insurance Board Webinar:  
Security & Your Church  
[June 8](#)

IKC Education Day  
[June 9](#)

IKC Annual Gathering  
University of Indianapolis  
[June 10-11](#)

DPRMT Work Camp  
Salyersville, Ky.  
[June 12-25](#)

IKC Office Closed-  
Annual Gathering  
Compensation Day  
June 13

Christian Church In  
Kentucky Ministry School  
Lexington, Ky.  
[June 20-23](#)

**OCWM Budget Goal**

**OCWM Basic  
Support**

- Conversation with Global Ministries Coordinator,  
Rev. Sarah Haas

**Youth Delegates:** Each of our congregations is urged to bring one additional youth delegate between the ages of 14-21. During lunch on Friday, they will be joined by Rev. Dorhauer for discussion.

**Women's Luncheon:** All women are invited to a special luncheon, in your honor, on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. in the U Indy Banquet Hall, Schwitzer Student Center.

**First Aid Station:** In order to provide first aid stations at Annual Gathering this year, we need volunteers with a medical background available to serve. Volunteers need to be currently licensed in the state of Indiana. Please contact [Val Ruess](#) if you are able to help with this important part of Annual Gathering.

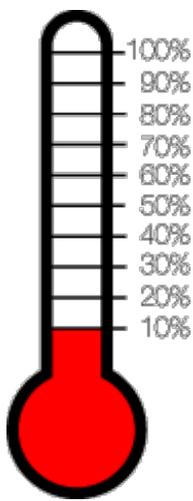
**Hotel:** You will need to make your own hotel room reservations. There are two hotel options for the 2016 Annual Gathering. A limited number of rooms are available at each location so please make your reservation ASAP. Please note the reservation deadline for each hotel.

- The **Holiday Inn Express Indianapolis South** (5151 South East St, Indianapolis, IN 46227) where our negotiated rate is **\$99 per night** for single or double occupancy; book your room [online](#) and use the group code "UCC" or call 1-800-315-2621 and use the group code "IN KY United Church of Christ." This hotel reservation deadline is **Tuesday, May 10.**
- The **Comfort Inn** (3514 South Keystone Ave, Indianapolis, IN, 46227) where our negotiated rate is **\$109 per night** for single or double occupancy; book your room by calling 317-788-3100 and use the group code "Indiana-Kentucky Conference." This hotel reservation deadline is **Monday, May 9.**

We look forward to dreaming and visioning with you at the Annual Gathering!

### **Helpful Tips When Registering For Annual Gathering:**

1. We suggest using Google Chrome or Firefox as your browser when registering.
2. Each attendee must complete a separate registration with a unique email address.
3. If a congregation is paying for delegates or visitors, the registrants may select "pay by check" and have the church office mail the payment in.
4. Opting to pay via PayPal does not require a PayPal account. Simply choose to sign in as a guest after



Goal = \$625,000  
 We Have Reached 11%  
 Of Our Goal  
 As Of 3/31/16

Click [Here](#) For A  
 Remittance Form

Join Our Mailing List!



### Save The Date

Young Ambassadors  
 Generation 6  
 In Germany  
 July 7-30

National Youth Event  
 Lake Buena Vista, Fla.  
[July 26-29](#)

UCC Office Support Staff  
 Network Annual  
 Conference  
 Rockville, Md.  
[Aug. 4-6](#)

- clicking on the PayPal payment option.
- Attendees will need to make their own hotel room reservations using the information above.

## Indiana-Kentucky Conference News

### IKC Dreams & Visions

In our continuing effort to hear from our conference community, the Design Team has been asking for feedback on specific questions. Our last question to you was "What does Christ-like look like?" We had many great responses and what those told us was that we have great diversity and an expansive understanding of Christ-likeness. What seemed like a consistent theme though, is that Christ-like is "action flowing out of our understanding of God's love."



IKC Dreams and Visions

In the coming weeks, the associations of our conference will be holding their annual spring association meetings. At those meetings, you will have the opportunity to reflect on these questions and others as we narrow our focus to collecting

data specifically about the future of our IKC. Please plan on attending your association's spring meeting so your voice and perspective can be heard!

If you are not able to attend your meeting, don't worry - we will send out a link in our next Design Team email that will allow you to share some of your thoughts via an online survey.

### Your Help Is Needed At DPRMT Work Camps

Join the IKC Disaster Preparedness & Response Ministry Team at the upcoming work camps.

June 12-18 & 19-25: Flood Recovery Projects, Salyersville, Ky.

Projects: Painting, Cleaning, Cooking, Food & Clothing Distribution, Carpentry, Plumbing & Electrical  
 Lodging & Meals: Lakefront Church of God, Salyersville, Ky.  
 Fee: \$110/Person Per Week,  
 Partial Week Registration \$20/Person Per Day & Night

Contact [John Gantt](#) today for more information and registration materials. Please be sure to indicate the days that you are interested in working. Click [here](#) for a printable information sheet.

iMissionworks!

Indianapolis

[Aug. 26-28](#)

Commissioned/Licensed  
Ministry Training Event

Indianapolis

Aug. 27

IKC Women's Retreat  
Merom Conference Center  
Sept. 16-18

## Merom CC News

### Merom CC Receives Anonymous Donation

The Merom Conference Center received \$30,000 donation for repairs to College Hall. The donation was given in response to the need for tuck pointing repairs to part of College Hall. These repairs will take care of the southeast corner of the building where some bricks have come loose and have dropped. The area has been fenced off for the past year. We are excited to have this project checked off our "wish list!" Check out the news story [here](#).



We Have Moved

### IKC Education Day

How do we deal with this season of change in the church? How do we create a community of faith that continues to feed our faithful members but also reaches out to those around us?

This year, Education Day is focused on just this issue and we will discuss the theological and practical issues to deal with "Creating Church" for this day and time. We will learn about Human Centered Design, an approach and set of tools to create innovative approaches to ministry, and we will learn about "Diffusion of Innovations," or how new ideas are heard, evaluated and adopted in organizations. Participants will leave with new insights into how change can happen and tools to help with that work.

Education Day is open to United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) authorized ministers and lay leaders. The event will take place Thursday, June 9, at Faith UCC in Indianapolis. The deadline for registrations is June 1. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

### Global Ministries Coordinator Available

By Sarah Haas

Global Ministries Coordinator

I am excited about the opportunity to serve as a volunteer Global Ministries coordinator for the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. My hope is to support UCC congregations in the IKC in their efforts to connect with our Global Ministries personnel and partners. If your congregation is interested in learning more about Global Ministries curriculum, worship resources, People-to-People Pilgrimages, child or elder sponsorships and/or upcoming events, please feel free to be in touch. If your congregation would like to consider the "Be A Global Mission Church" program, I'd be glad to be of help as well.

I would also like to be praying for and supporting the mission work you are already involved in. Please let me know if you have upcoming mission trips or other events/programs that I can be supporting. I have also heard about several congregations who have openings on the trips they have planned. If you know someone who would like to participate in a trip to Nicaragua this summer or a trip to Back Bay Mission this fall, please [be in touch](#).

Our new address is:

Indiana-Kentucky  
Conference  
United Church of Christ  
1100 W. 42nd Street  
Suite 155  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

## News From Our Partners

### **Christian Church In Ky. Offers Ministry School**

The Christian Church in Kentucky (DOC) is offering a ministry school June 20-23 to equip leaders to serve the church and provide licensed and commissioned ministers a forum for collegial support. The cost for the program is \$125 and the class size is limited to 25. Classes offered include "Pastoral Care and Ministry," "The Abrahamic Religions: Friends or Foes in Faith?" and "Foundations of Christian Education." Click [here](#) for more information.

### **Global Ministries To Offer New Event**

¡Missionworks!, a new regional weekend event held by Global Ministries, will take place Aug. 26-28 in Indianapolis.

¡Missionworks! is an experience for pastors, mission board members and anyone interested in global mission to connect with the global work of the

### **Summer Camp 2016**

The 2016 summer camping season is quickly approaching. All your favorite camps are back this year, along with a few new offerings from the Outdoor Ministries Committee. Check out the links below for more information and to get registered.

[2016 Outdoor Ministries Brochure](#)

[Registration Forms](#)

[Bulletin Insert](#)

### **Cheerful Giving**

By Rev. Michael Erwin  
Pastor, Christ Church UCC & Church Financial Consultant

The annual pledge campaign is not about money. It's about growing generous givers. Generous, cheerful giving is a perfect entrée to more meaningful spirituality. "The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being." The pledge campaign is an essential component in a holistic strategy to encourage stewardship and generosity in congregations. Now is the time to begin considering what format your congregation will use this fall: every member visits, small groups or a congregation-wide appeal.

Next week, I'm offering a free webinar, "Choosing an Annual Pledge Campaign Format." The webinar is Tuesday, April 19 at 3 p.m. (EDT). Click [here](#) to register. The webinar will be recorded, so if you are not able to participate live, register to receive a notification when the recording is available to view.

### **IKC Women's Board Update**

By Gayle Morley Jahn  
IKC Women's Board President

April is Earth Month. God has made us stewards of creation and we have too often exploited it. We need to work to heal the earth's wounds; doubling our efforts to care for our beautiful planet and undoing what damage that has been done. All of us can do a better job of the "three Rs":

- Reduce-Don't buy things with excessive or non-recyclable packaging. Plan your driving, reducing the number of car trips. Think about energy use around the house and work place, turning things off when not in use.
- Reuse-Take care of your stuff so things last longer and can be used again.
- Recycle-Everyone needs to be recycling! Did you know that 85% our trash flow is recyclable? Yes, it

church. Over the weekend you will find out how to build on your congregation's existing passion for mission and receive tools for sharing about God's mission in the world. Click [here](#) to learn more.

### **Scholarships For UCC Students At United Theological Seminary**

Is someone in your congregation considering seminary? United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities has scholarships available for UCC students intending to serve in congregations and ministries of the United Church of Christ and are enrolled as full-time students at United. Eligible students may qualify for a \$5,000 renewable scholarship. For more information, please contact [Michelle Turnau](#).

### **Global Ministries Visit To Middle East**

Representatives from the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) participated in a recent Global Ministries leadership delegation visit to the Middle East. Rev. Rick Spleth, Regional Minister for the Indiana Region of the Christian Church (DOC) wrote [this reflection](#), while the delegation was still in Jerusalem.

takes a little extra time now, but it is easier than trying to clean up the mess in years to come. If you're just starting out, try recycling cardboard and paper and then branch out!

We must change our lifestyles and joyously care for the home God gave us. It is our job to lead the way.

### **Save The Date - Licensed Ministry Training Event**

The next Commission/Licensed Ministry Training Event will be held Saturday, Aug. 27, from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in Indianapolis. The subject will be "Dealing with Mental Health Challenges in Your Congregation." Rev. Sarah Lund, from Christian Theological Seminary, will lead the event. Look for more information in the coming months.

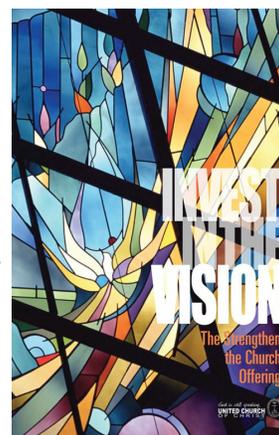
### **ACM Contributes To CARD Blog**

Check out this [blog post](#) on UCC history, polity and theology that our own, Carrie Call, associate conference minister, helped write for the UCC Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD) office!

## **UCC News**

### **Strengthen The Church Special Offering May 15**

Strengthen The Church (STC) is a special mission offering to re-imagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.



As God calls our congregations to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking," message. Most congregations will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 15.

For STC resources, click [here](#).

## **UCC News**

### **UCC Pattern Of Giving Survey**

The UCC is seeking your feedback on giving patterns in the UCC. Please consider taking this 10-15 minute [survey](#) by April 30. Your feedback will contribute to recommendations presented to the UCC Board this fall --



The Indiana-Kentucky  
Conference of the  
United Church of Christ  
was selected as a  
Constant Contact  
All Star  
in 2011, 2012 & 2013

Send story ideas or  
comments to the editor,  
[Nikki Richards](#). Story  
ideas should be within the  
mission and ministry of  
the IKC and may be edited  
for space.

*\*This newsletter was  
made possible by your  
OCWM donations.*

Thank you for reading the  
Inky e-news. If you know  
someone that would like to  
receive the e-news, you  
can forward them this  
email and they can sign  
up using the "Join Our  
Mailing List" button or they  
can email  
[n.richards@ikcucc.org](mailto:n.richards@ikcucc.org) and  
request to be added to the  
list.

Sincerely,

Nikki Richards

Communications  
Coordinator  
Inky e-news Editor

and you could even get a chance to win an iPad!

### **Common Ground Still Speaking Worship Event**

The Faith Formation Team of UCC Local Church  
Ministries in conjunction with Common Grounds at First  
Churches of Northampton, Mass., is hosting a Still  
Speaking Worship event June 2-3. Common Ground, A  
Farm-To-Table Dinner Ministry Retreat is an invitation to  
reimagine church community in the garden and at the  
table.

These events are designed to network UCC churches  
with other UCC churches' innovative practices in the  
area of faith formation. Churches are invited to send  
people to observe and experience the practice and then  
reflect on the experience and participate in discussion  
around bringing this practice back to their own ministry  
settings.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

### **Political Activity Reminder From UCC General Counsel**

In the midst of this election year, we are reminded by the UCC  
Office of General Counsel that organizations that are tax-  
exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code  
may not engage in activities that are considered to be political  
campaign interventions.

Violating this prohibition on political campaign activity can  
cause a church to lose its tax-exempt status. Click [here](#) to  
read the full statement from the General Counsel.

### **UCC National ONA Gathering**

Now that marriage  
equality is the law of the  
land, what's next for the  
Open and Affirming  
movement in the United



Church of Christ? "ONA NEXT" is the theme of this year's  
National ONA Gathering June 7-9 at the College of St.  
Benedict in St. Joseph, Minn.

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, executive for Justice and  
Witness Ministries, is the keynote speaker. National ONA  
Gathering is the signature annual event for the UCC's  
rapidly growing movement of ONA churches. With  
inspiring worship and music, unforgettable preaching,  
informative workshops, and opportunities for rest and  
play, an ONA Gathering is an opportunity to renew a  
congregation's passion for ONA ministry and mission.  
Click [here](#) for more information.

### UCC HIV & AIDS Network Survey

The 2016 [UCC HIV Ministries survey](#) is your opportunity to share with the leadership team of the UCC HIV & AIDS Network (UCAN) about the HIV ministries happening in and through your local church. You will also have the opportunity to share how you think UCAN is doing and what you need from UCAN to better serve you.

### UCCOSSN Annual Conference Announced



The UCC Office Support Staff Network (UCCOSSN) Annual Conference will take place Aug. 4-6 in Rockville, Md. The theme this year is Balance Work & Life. Rockville United Church in Rockville, Md. will host the event this year. Look

for registration to open in May. For more information, click [here](#) or contact [Sarah Petermann](#) or [Lettie Eagar](#).

### Important Update To NYE Registration

Organizers of the United Church of Christ's upcoming [National Youth Event](#) are making a revision to the registration window to ensure youth participants have the first rights to register for the July gathering, before opening registration to reasonably accommodate families that hope to take part in the event.



The decision to delay family registration allows youth participants and chaperones a dedicated registration period until May 1. But in recognizing the importance of family, and understanding that an event at Walt Disney World holds a wide appeal, family members of participants will be able to register on a first-come, first-served basis beginning May 1. [Read more...](#)

Indiana-Kentucky Conference, United Church of Christ | (317) 924-1395 |  
[ikc@ikcucc.org](mailto:ikc@ikcucc.org) | <http://www.ikcucc.org>  
1100 West 42nd St., Ste. 155  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

### Stay Connected



