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**United
Church
News**

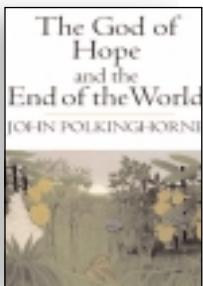
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Misconduct

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Celebration VI: UCC Women of New England

BY CECILE GILSON

**Vine
of Life:
Branches
of Spirit**

In the shadow of the majestic Green Mountains and overlooking Lake Champlain, more than 900 women and a few men gathered for Celebration VI, a gathering of UCC Women of New England held every four years.

Using a theme of "Vine of Life:

Branches of Spirit" the women sang, prayed, listened, shared, ate and celebrated in community. The weather was a little gray and cold (even a few snow flakes) but that in no way dampened any spirits. The gatherings were lively and spirit filled, acquaintances were renewed, new friendships were shaped and everyone left on Sunday with a feeling of warmth and renewal. *Continued on page 3*



The Rev. Dr. Mary Luti (right), senior pastor of the First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, Cambridge, MA

The UCC Coalition For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns Celebrates 30-Year History

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Zero Tolerance on Misconduct



The Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, Conference Minister

With news breaking all around us about clergy sexual misconduct, I want to remind all our readers and members that our Conference has well-established processes for responding to allegations against our clergy. The procedures are carefully designed to ensure fairness to all parties and to express the care and concern of the church for anyone who believes they have been abused.

With every reported instance, we learn ways to make the process more effective, more responsive, and more pastoral.

With my pastoral letter mailed to the clergy and moderators of our churches in early April, I included a summary of the process so that anyone who would like to see it will have one close at hand. This is a summary, not the process itself.

Clergy misconduct is a terrible reality in the life of the church. When a person is abused by an ordained minister, or by any person employed or elected by the church, she or he may experience spiritual, psychological, social and sometimes physical effects. It is not unusual for it to be some years later when she or he begins to unravel the painful past that has distorted life in so many dimensions. Right now, the headlines about misconduct are

causing untold pain to many, many people who had hoped they would not have to deal with the issue again in their lives. For some of them, the headlines will be the spur that causes them to bring a complaint against someone from their past. This very article will stir memories for some among us and thus cause them even more suffering.

Yet the issue belongs in the open. It is only by shedding the searchlight of God's truth on the reality that the church will be able to ensure that healing begins and justice prevails. It is imperative that every church be a safe church, a place where adults, youth and children can gather without fear of molestation or abuse. To that end, our Conference, in response to resolutions brought to Annual Meeting by the West Hartford and Vernon churches in recent years, has been conducting training events for clergy and other church professionals to learn about misconduct, its definition, its early warning signs, and its implications for them and for the church. Our fifteen associations require this training of our clergy in order to maintain their ministerial standing.

Education works for those who may inadvertently stray into misconduct. It does not work for the one who is a predator, who takes advantage of others' vulnerability for his or her own uses. There are only two ways to stop the predator that I can see. One, ensure that she or he never becomes a member of the clergy in the first place. (We will never succeed entirely in that regard, simply because some become predators later in life. Plus, predators are often charming people, capable of fooling even the most astute clinician.) And two, ensure that the lay members of our churches know what is ethical behavior for clergy and that they know the steps to take if they observe unethical conduct. Every church must develop safe-church policies and procedures and review them annually with the membership. Our Conference periodically offers training days for

church leaders to learn about this process.

Besides the terrible, unspeakable toll of abuse on the direct victim, there are others who are profoundly impacted: family members of both the abused and the alleged abuser, leaders and members of the local church, members of the association committee on ministry and response team that must investigate and adjudicate, colleagues in ministry, the one who is accused, your Conference staff who must deal with these cases all too often. The impact on the thousands of faithful clergy and their relationships with parishioners is tragic. Further, the whole life of the Church of Jesus Christ is impaired by these actions, as we are witnessing daily in the news. In the Connecticut Conference, we have zero tolerance for clergy misconduct. If a minister engages in it, he or she needs to know that there will be an adjudication process and the implications for his or her vocation will be serious. Our association committees work hard to ensure that they are fair in their deliberations and that a minister who is wrongly accused is exonerated. They seek to apply the consequences in measures proportional to the misconduct, and to care for the minister as well as the complainant throughout the process. It is zero tolerance, however, and no minister has any excuse for engaging in exploitative or abusive boundary-crossing relationships.

It is just plain awful (sorry I have no more eloquent words!) that the church must deal with these instances of abuse of the pastoral role. But deal we must and deal we will. It is our generation's burden to bear, and we must demonstrate our faithfulness to Christ's intent for his church. In this season of Eastertide, a time of hope and renewal in the church's life, I hope you will join me in prayer for all of those who have been touched by misconduct, and for the renewal of the Church of Jesus Christ in our time.

• United Church News •

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Contact Edition
Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ
125 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105-2281
Phone: 860/233-5564
Fax: 860/231-8111
www.ctucc.org

Editor:
The Rev. Hal Chorpenning
e-mail: halc@ctucc.org

Editorial Assistant:
Ms. Cecile Gilson
e-mail: cecileg@ctucc.org

Designer:
James Baker

Send classified ads to
classifieds@ctucc.org
Send events listings to
events@ctucc.org

National Edition
The Rev. Robert Chase
Publisher
The Rev. W. Evan Golder
Editor
Barbara A. Powell
Associate for Production
Randy Varcho
Graphic Designer/Writer
Jimi Izrael
Writer
Gayle Starling-Melvin
Editorial Assistant/Writer
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ORIGINAL SPIN • THE REV. HAL CHORPENNING

The Prophet Motive

What Industry and the Church Can Learn from One Another

Having spent some years as the owner of a marketing communications and public relations practice in my pre-ordination days, I've had the experience of working with clients from higher education to high technology. My primary clients were

Apple Computer and Sun Microsystems, and I learned a lot (a whole lot) writing for their employee magazines and developing communication materials for these Silicon Valley giants. I also saw plenty of disillusionment (from a visionary Apple Computer set to "change the world one person at a time" that evolved into a corporation running scared to keep up quarterly return on investment for its large institutional shareholders).

I've also had some experience as an ordained minister in the UCC.

And I remember being struck when I began working with the Connecticut Conference that there was, in some quarters, antipathy between church members whose primary work orientation was in business and clergy whose work lives had been spent in the church. Only rarely did one "side" want to hear the other's organizational perspective. Both seemed convinced that their way of managing was the right way.

I've heard search committees in our churches fume about the duration of the search-and-call process in the UCC. I can remember one person saying that if it took this long for a corporation to hire someone they would be out of business before the end of the year. But calling a minister is manifestly different than hiring an employee; it's more akin to adopting a family member. It isn't a hire. It takes prayerful discernment, and it often takes a congregation that is willing to do some soul-searching about its own needs, foibles, and qualities. What would it be like if Christians in business started taking seriously the idea that they need to do prayerful discernment in hiring,
Continued on page 3

Celebration VI continued from page 1



188 women from Connecticut attended Celebration VI.

On Friday evening the chair-women of the five previous celebrations were thanked for their vision and given a corsage that included a sprig of rosemary for remembrance. In 1980 when the first event was being planned, the leadership was hoping to put together a regional event that would bring the local women out of their pews and provide them with other ideas and experiences. This sixth event certainly accomplished that according to Susan Waldron, President of Connecticut Women of the United Church of Christ and a member of the steering committee. The excellent caliber of the speakers, workshop leaders, worship leaders

and phenomenal music enabled these women to experience the word of God in a new way.

The Connecticut Conference introduced a delegation of women from South Korea, representatives of the partnership with Kyungi Presbytery. Robed in spectacular Korean garb they sang and danced traditional Korean folk songs.

The Rev. Kathy Wonson Eddy, pastor of Bethany United Church of Christ in Randolph, Vt., led the participants in song throughout the weekend using both traditional music and her own compositions.

Noted storyteller Valerie Tutson shared Bible stories from the perspective of observers of the Biblical events leading new insights into the stories of Jesus. The Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, senior pastor of the First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, Mass., used stories and songs in her keynote address entitled "Apart From Me...The Delight of Depending".

The Rev. John H. Thomas, general minister and presi-

Commission on the Status of Women in Connecticut spoke about "The Power of Women as a Force for the Future."

Bill Wildey, Director of the Northern New England Region for Church World Service, spoke over breakfast of "Looking into the eyes of God." Dr. Dale Bishop, executive minister for Wider Church Ministries, UCC spoke about "The Ideal Me and the Real You" and



Valerie Tutson, story-teller and host of "Cultural Tapestry" and award-winning show celebrating diverse cultures.

ORIGINAL SPIN • continued

firing, and "redeployment?"

Does that mean the church has got it 100 percent right? By no means! Why can't our UCC Office of Parish Life and Leadership construct an Internet-based system that would give search committees and ministerial candidates code-word access to each others' profiles? This isn't rocket science. Part of the reason the UCC hasn't been done is that it takes money to develop systems, and many of our churches have not been funding the denomination adequately through Our Church's Wider Mission. (We don't sell stock in the UCC, but your congregation invests as a shareholder in the church through OCWM.)

Why are "marketing" and "money" naughty words, especially among our clergy and our more progressive congregations? We all pretend that we can't afford accessible churches/better mission giving/more congenial meeting and office space/a living wage for Christian Educators and musicians

because we don't have the money. If we look at how many of our families live (with nice houses, private colleges for their kids, vacation homes), it becomes obvious that if we were better at sharing our resources, the common amenities and services in our churches would improve greatly.

If we weren't scared of marketing, more of us would be doing what Asylum Hill Congregational Church does: advertising in the Calendar section of the *Hartford Courant* - not in the church directory section, which is read mostly by people who already have a church home.

The church is not a business. And industry isn't the church. But we have a lot to learn from one another. My hunch is that we in the church are more apt to learn lessons from the private sector than corporate America is willing to glean from the church. And we should be out there learning all we can.

dent of the UCC spoke on "The State of Women in the United Church of Christ" and used women from the past and present as examples of leadership and excellence among UCC women.

Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson, executive minister of Justice and Witness Ministries, UCC, spoke over lunch about how women do justice in times like these. Barbara De Baptiste, immediate past president of the Permanent

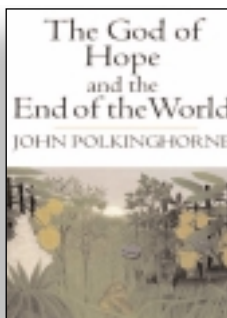
shared his experiences from his recent trip to Iran.

Many workshops were offered Saturday morning and afternoon to enrich the participants experiences.

The event ended with worship on Sunday morning, a joyous celebration of the gathered as branches of the spirit. As the sun came out over Lake Champlain the participants headed home nourished and refreshed.

The Dynamic Heaven

The God of Hope and the End of the World
by John Polkinghorne
Yale University Press
192 pp. \$19.95



It is no wonder that John Polkinghorne has just been awarded the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. To enter his world is to enter a world where contemporary science and traditional Christianity not only converse but make strange and lovely music.

Polkinghorne has had two careers: that of a physicist, in which he made important contributions to particle physics, and that of Anglican priest and theologian. His latest book, "The God of Hope and the End of the World," had its origins in a three-year interdisciplinary conference on Christian eschatology. Eschatology is not a common word. It comprises the topics of death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and humankind.

Many believe that modern science has shown the futility of eschatology. Not so, argues Polkinghorne. As a particle physicist, he explored the extremities of knowledge. Here, he does so as a Christian thinker. In an earlier book, "Faith, Science & Understanding" (Yale, 2000), Polkinghorne places his own work in the tradition of English natural theology. As in science, so in theology, he says, "we have to believe in order to understand," (echoing the great sentence from St. Anselm that provides the epigraph to his book).

He recommends "the modest, unrheterical tone that has tended to characterize English discourse." And that modest tone serves him well in the present book, focused as it is on topics most readers never think about. In fact, Polkinghorne's tone reflects a deeper discipline that separates him from many more fashionable authors such as Sir Stephen Hawking and Paul Davies. Polkinghorne is a model public intellectual; he refuses to distort one body of knowledge to advance his own position on another. He

applies his Christian principles to tough cases and observes the limits of knowledge while recognizing the challenges posed by contemporary science to traditional belief. He accepts both continuity and discontinuity as part of his model of knowledge.

And yet the yield of the investigation is substantial. Any number of traditional topics gain new life under his examination. Polkinghorne has important things to say about the soul, time, evolution, the Fall, death, divine judgment, and revelation. His range does not lead him to sacrifice reason or particularity.

For example, his commentaries on biblical texts are fresh and sometimes piercing. Considering the accounts of Jesus' resurrection, he notes "a common thread" among what might first seem "a gaggle of made up stories": In each, "it was difficult to recognize the risen Christ."

The scientist in him responds well to this kind of difficulty. He goes on to note that the accounts contain both moments of "palpability" – "even the eating of food" – and moments of life-changing intensity. The scientist in him responds well to this kind of diversity.

Could it be that eschatology is avoided because it takes us deep into the mysteries of life, especially the mystery of time? Polkinghorne has much to say about time. He realizes that St. Paul used the science of his age when he compared the process of salvation to the image of the seed that dies.

Polkinghorne's grasp of the entire reach of earthly time, from the big

bang to the biological end in a distant future, does not make him join his fellow scientists in embracing the futility of it all. On the contrary, he grounds his belief in God's faithful love for his creation.

"The Creator is patient and subtle," he says, "one who is very far from being a God in a hurry." And he concludes: "Already/not yet is an intrinsically necessary component to our eschatological thinking."

This mighty little book could well make eschatology sexy. That is: to return to these important topics some of their original charge. Should we not, more generally, understand desire within the context of judgment? Is identity separable from that longing for bliss that traditional thought reserves for heaven? Polkinghorne stands firm: He rejects the idea of perfection as static (and heaven as changeless) and accepts "a more dynamic concept."

"Music should be our guiding image, not sculpture," he says. Indeed, while his rhetoric is modest, his means rational, and his tone conversational, Polkinghorne's overall achievement here is musical. It brings the attentive reader closer to an underlying harmony, one that requires our desire and belief to apprehend, one that can only be called hope.

Thomas D'Evelyn is an editorial consultant in Providence, R.I. This review first appeared in The Christian Science Monitor on March 28, 2002 and is reproduced with permission. © 2002 The Christian Science Monitor (www.csmonitor.com). All rights reserved.



Enlivening worship was the topic of a multiday workshop at Immanuel Congregational Church, UCC, in Hartford. Music Director Larry Allen and Senior Pastor Ed Horstmann (L-R) planned the event, which was cosponsored by Immanuel, the American Guild of Organists, and the Connecticut Conference. Clergy, musicians, and laypeople from around the conference came to hear John Ferguson, choral director at St. Olaf College and Marva Dawn, renowned preacher and teacher of homiletics, work with participants on ways to bring a breath of new life into worship through music and spoken word.

74th

Annual Meeting, CT Women of the UCC

Where: Immanuel Congregational Church • 10 Woodland St. Hartford, Ct

When: Saturday, May 11, 2002

Registration & Exhibits open at 9 a.m. We hope to end by 3 P.M.
Installation of Officers, District meetings, Worship and Communion

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chopp, Dean, Yale Divinity School
"New Visions, New Choices: Women and Church in a Changing World".
Dr. Chopp will share the joys of the new ways we "do church" and the exciting roles for women in this changing environment.

Registration Forms: Available from the CT Women Secretary, Pam DiDio at 1-866-367-2822, ext 101 or email at pamd@ctucc.org

Cost: \$10.00 includes registration and a delicious lunch served by the women at Immanuel

Our Offering will go to the CT Women cabin at Silver Lake

FREEDOM SUMMER 2002

A Civil Rights Immersion Experience

Offered by
First Congregational UCC
Memphis, Tennessee,
a Just Peace, Open and
Affirming congregation located
in a racially and economically
diverse neighborhood
in Memphis, TN.

- How do you relate to people who are different from you?
- Do you think violence is ever justified?
- How do you identify injustice?

Tour The National
Civil Rights Museum,
Action Street, Beale Street,
LeMoyn-Owen College.

Dialogue Sessions on:
Racial injustice, Conflict Resolution,
Stereotypes, Gender Roles

Weeklong Sessions \$200 per person
(Includes tours, meals and lodging.)
June 23-28
July 7-12
July 21-26

Weekend Retreats \$100 per person
(Includes tours, meals and lodging.)
August 2-4
August 9-11
August 16-18

To receive a registration packet
or for additional information
Call 901-278-6786 ext. 4
Or visit their website at
www.firstcongo.com

Mark Your Calendar Now!

October 18-20, 2002

135th Annual Meeting of The Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ

Hill Career Regional High School, New Haven, CT
Sunday afternoon worship United Church
on the Green in New Haven
Hosted by the New Haven Association

All are welcome to attend!

Bristol

The youth group of First Congregational Church sponsored The Fastest Spring-Cleaning Outreach Event ever. In exchange for a drink and a munchie 4 to 6 youth tackled jobs that could be completed in 30 minutes for members of the congregation and moved on to another location.

Farmington

Drumming and Embodiment of the Spirit was offered to adult women of First Church. The African drumming session was offered as an opportunity to enrich their spiritual lives.

Bethany

The youth of First Church of Christ created a 6.5 foot cow that appeared around town as a fund raiser for Heifer Project International. For \$15 the cow could be placed on a lawn or if preferred removed from the lawn. Their goal was \$500.

New Haven

United Church on the Green gathered on one Sunday during Lent to remember loved ones who have died. The service was structured around a major choral work. This year they sang The Requiem by Johannes Brahms.

Glastonbury

First Church offered an hour of learning how to sing some favorite hymns and new ones as part of a workshop on basic vocal techniques to enhance enjoyment of singing hymns in worship and to be able to sing with greater confidence.

Granby

South Congregational Church suggested that during Lent everyone

consider taking an information fast one day a week. The suggestion was to take a Sabbath from all the "stuff" that comes at us each day. In addition there was a program offered to the youth entitled "Good Sex (what almost no one will tell you about sexuality)". The focus was to help them come to a better understanding of the role of sexuality in their lives.

New Britain

The Women of South Church held a special program including works of poetry written by two of their members and displays of works of crewel, afghans, lithophanes, sewing, photographs, painting, origami, petti-point, fishing lures, jewelry and colored glass. The Easter Sunday offering was dedicated to South Church's Book Scholarship Ministry which helps support full-time, part-time college and seminarian students among their membership.

Windsor

First Church had an All-Church Breakfast prepared by the Confirmation Class to benefit One Great Hour of Sharing.

Redding Center

First Church of Christ Men's group held an Hors d'oeuvres Party. Guests were asked to bring their favorite Hors d'oeuvres the men's group provided liquid refreshments.

South Windsor

Wapping Community Church provides prayer postcards. When they pray for friends and loved ones across the country a postcard is mailed to that person to let them know of the support of the congregation.

Somersville

The Youth of Congregational Church held a special Lenten Collection to benefit CT Children's home. Collections of socks, cash, and fast food coupons were taken and dedicated on Palm Sunday. The church also offers interest free educational loans for members of the congregation.

Naugatuck

The Congregational Church participated in an ancient Christian ritual after Easter. Members were invited to bring small, hand held bells to worship and ring them every time the word "alleluia" was said or sung during the service.

East Windsor

The First Congregational Church compiled favorite graces for a "Grace Booklet" that was distributed to families in the congregation.

Avon

West Avon Congregational Church held a prayer vigil following the Meal in the Upper Room Service on Thursday evening before Easter and continuing through sunrise on Good Friday.

Tolland

United Congregational Church Men's Breakfast fellowship had a Father-Child Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast.

Southbury

United Church of Christ held an educational seminar entitled 2001 Tax Relief and Your Finances. It was intended to help enlighten members on new investments, education, retirement, income, and estate tax savings opportunities.

THE UCC COALITION FOR LGBT CONCERNS CELEBRATES 30-YEAR HISTORY

BY MITZI EILTS

The United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns will hold its 2002 National Gathering from June 24 to 27 in Seattle, Washington. This Gathering will mark the 30th anniversary of the organization and will conclude with a public anniversary program on June 27 from 6:00 to 9:30 pm.

Thirty years ago, organizations such as The Coalition were virtually nonexistent. The Coalition not only existed but helped foster movement within the United Church of Christ, and has witnessed the ordination of openly lgbt people and the development of the Open and Affirming Program, whereby lgbt people are welcomed into full participation and ministry in the church. Special Guests for the anniversary celebration will be the Rev. John Thomas, UCC General Minister and President; and Linda Jaramillo, UCC General Synod 2001 Vice-Moderator.

Program Leaders for the National Gathering include the Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, United Church of Christ Southwest Conference Minister from Phoenix, Arizona; Ron Buford, staff with the United Church of Christ Proclamation, Identity and Communications Ministry in Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. Mary Ann Tolbert, Director of the Center for Gay & Lesbian Studies at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California; and the Rev. Laurie Rudel, a member of Interplay/Spiritplay from Seattle, Washington.

The UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns provides support and sanctuary for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender persons and their families and friends; advocates for the full inclusion of LGBT people in church and society; and brings Christ's affirming message of love and justice for all people.

The Rev. Mitzi Eilts is national coordinator for the Coalition.

CLASSIFIEDS

Positions

AVON—Avon Congregational Church seeks choir director. One Sunday service. Responsibilities include, periodic meetings of music committee and music staff. Collaborating with organist, youth choir director, youth bell director and volunteer music administrator. 12-15 hours/week. Position available September 2002. Year runs through third week in June. \$10k/year. Contact: Organist, Sue Smith 860-297-0035 days, 860-673-2104 evenings. Suesmith@avon-church.org [6/02]

BLOOMFIELD—First Congregational Church of Bloomfield—Youth Music Director position available. Rehearse with Cherub and Junior Choirs on Sundays from 9 AM to 10 AM. Successful candidate must be able to play piano for rehearsals. Accompanist is available for worship services. Contact: Church Office 860-242-0776 [5/02]

BRIDGEPORT—Business Manager The United Congregational Church of Bridgeport (UCC) has a full time opening for a Business Manager. The duties and responsibilities are varied and include: Office Management, Facilities Administration, Budgeting, Financial Administration, Operations, Fund Raising, and Public Relations. The candidate selected will be the one who best demonstrates the experience and skills necessary to be successful in this position. No particular religious affiliation is required. The position will report to the Senior Minister and support the Board of Trustees. While the hours are Monday through Friday, occasional night, Sunday or weekend work with compensatory time off will be required. They offer competitive salary and benefit plans. An equal opportunity employer. Send your resume to: Business Manager Search The United Congregational Church 877 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604-4694 [7/02]

GREENWICH—Director of Ministries for Children and Young Families Looking for a person who feels a deep calling to minister to and with children and their families. While it would be preferable for the person to have a degree in an education related field and have experience in ministry in a church setting, Second Church is seeking a person who has a deep love for children and desires a creative place in which to minister. Contact: Mail resume to Rev. Robert H. Naylor, Second Congregational Church, 139 E. Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830 or email info@2cc.org.[7/02]

HARTFORD—Warburton Urban Residency is a nine-month, full-time ministry in urban human services and congregational life for third-year, graduating seminarians or recent graduates. A collaborative program of the Trustees of the Warburton Chapel, Center City Churches and First Church of Christ in Hartford (Center Church), it presents the opportunity to practice ministry in both public and congregational settings and to strengthen a seminarian's gifts. September 2002 through May 2003. Salary: \$2,650 per month, plus employee benefits and relocation assistance. Contact: For information, contact Ron Krom, Center City Churches, 1 Buckingham Street, Hartford, CT 06106, (860) 249-7543, e-mail rkrom@ccchartford.org. [6/02]

HARTFORD — Associate in Youth Ministries Specialist sought to serve as a resource to the churches of the CT Conference with a major emphasis on initiating and strengthening the youth ministries of local congregations and conference-wide. The position is full time with benefits. For a complete job description and to apply please contact the office of the Rev. Kathy Peters, Associate Conference Minister for Local Church Ministry at 125 Sherman Street Hartford 06105. Telephone: 860-233-5564 Ext. 121. E-mail kathyp@ctucc.org*

NAUGATUCK—The Congregational Church is seeking a full time Organist/Director of Music Ministry (part time considered) for 400+ membership. 1971 three manual 42-rank Austin. Adult and Children's choir Chancel, Alleluia, Handbell and Djembe Drum choirs. Two Sunday and Special Services Professional Training with Sacred Music Emphasis. Contact: Music Search Committee Division Street Naugatuck, CT 06770 [6/02]

NEW BRITAIN—South Congregational-First Baptist Church seeks a Minister of Christian Education for children, youth and adults. Plan, develop, and administer overall educational ministry in an urban church with a heart for the city. Lay or ordained candidates with experi-

ence in education. Send resume to South Church. Contact: 90 Main Street, new Britain, CT 06051 Attn: Search Committee; MceSearch@southchurch.org [5/02]

NORTH GUILFORD—The Congregational Church is seeking a half time (approx. 20 hrs/wk) Director of Christian Education. Dynamic individual will direct growth and development of Christian Education program. Responsibilities include church school and involvement in youth and family ministry. ACE certification or equivalent preferred. \$13,000-\$15,000/ year Contact: Annis Homer c/o North Guilford Congregational Church 159 Ledge Rd. North Guilford, CT 06437 Fax 203-457-0657 [5/02]

SOMERS—Congregational Church is seeking an Organist and/or Choir Director. There are two Sunday Service, holidays and special services. The organ is a two Manual Casavant Pipe Organ. Sr. Choir, children's choirs and a bell choir participate in the services. Contact: 860-763-4021 or SomersCong@aol.com [5/02]

SOUTH WINDSOR—Organist/Choir Director is needed for First Congregational Church of South Windsor. Adult Choir, Thursday rehearsal, occasional youth choir. 1 Sunday service 10 am. Hook & Hastings tracker organ. Contact: Beverly Nielsen, 860-289-8606 [6/02]

TERRYVILLE—Director of Christian Education sought for a viable and growing church community. Responsibilities include preparing special events, teaching materials, and selecting curriculum. Working in conjunction with the Board of Christian Education in recruiting, training and supporting teachers and youth advisors. Flexible, 25-hour week includes Sundays, 40 weeks with Vacation Bible School. ACE training or equivalent preferred. Contact: DCE Terryville Congregational Church, 233 Main St. Terryville, CT 06786. (860) 589-0182. [5/02]

THOMASTON—First Congregational Church is seeking a part time Youth Director for newly developing youth ministry program. Approximately ten hours per week. Must have some youth ministry experience. Please send resume and brief statement of belief. Contact:

First Congregational Church, 135 Main Street, Thomaston, CT 06787 c/o Youth Director Search Committee first.congregational@snet.net or Carol Pytel, 860-283-4937 [7/02]

TOLLAND—United Congregational Church is seeking a part time Director of Youth Fellowships. This new position will provide leadership for the Junior and Senior PF's. Both groups currently meet on Sundays and lay leadership is in place. The director would have over-all responsibility. Position description and salary information available. Contact: Director of Youth Fellowships Search Committee PO Box 160 Tolland, CT 06084 united.cong.church01@snet.net [5/02]

WEST HARTFORD—Westminster Presbyterian Church is searching for a full-time Director of Christian Education. The DCE will be responsible for the development and direction of: Christian Education opportunities for all ages, activities for youth in mission, training and ongoing support for volunteers, selection of curriculum and resources, and participation or support in worship services. candidates must possess an Associate degree or higher in an education of Christian studies related field, or equivalent experience. This full-time position offers a competitive salary and benefits. Contact: Chair, DCE Search Committee, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2080 Boulevard, West Hartford, CT 06107 Fax 860-521-5733 or email Jcozzolongo@attbi.com [5/02]

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ence in education. Send resume to South Church. Contact: 90 Main Street, new Britain, CT 06051 Attn: Search Committee; MceSearch@southchurch.org [5/02]

NORTH GUILFORD—The Congregational Church is seeking a half time (approx. 20 hrs/wk) Director of Christian Education. Dynamic individual will direct growth and development of Christian Education program. Responsibilities include church school and involvement in youth and family ministry. ACE certification or equivalent preferred. \$13,000-\$15,000/ year Contact: Annis Homer c/o North Guilford Congregational Church 159 Ledge Rd. North Guilford, CT 06437 Fax 203-457-0657 [5/02]

SOMERS—Congregational Church is seeking an Organist and/or Choir Director. There are two Sunday Service, holidays and special services. The organ is a two Manual Casavant Pipe Organ. Sr. Choir, children's choirs and a bell choir participate in the services. Contact: 860-763-4021 or SomersCong@aol.com [5/02]

SOUTH WINDSOR—Organist/Choir Director is needed for First Congregational Church of South Windsor. Adult Choir, Thursday rehearsal, occasional youth choir. 1 Sunday service 10 am. Hook & Hastings tracker organ. Contact: Beverly Nielsen, 860-289-8606 [6/02]

TERRYVILLE—Director of Christian Education sought for a viable and growing church community. Responsibilities include preparing special events, teaching materials, and selecting curriculum. Working in conjunction with the Board of Christian Education in recruiting, training and supporting teachers and youth advisors. Flexible, 25-hour week includes Sundays, 40 weeks with Vacation Bible School. ACE training or equivalent preferred. Contact: DCE Terryville Congregational Church, 233 Main St. Terryville, CT 06786. (860) 589-0182. [5/02]

THOMASTON—First Congregational Church is seeking a part time Youth Director for newly developing youth ministry program. Approximately ten hours per week. Must have some youth ministry experience. Please send resume and brief statement of belief. Contact:

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EVENTS

Thursday, May 2, 2002 5-8:30 PM Hartford Seminary 77 Sherman St. Hartford, CT A Compassionate Hispanic-Latino Church response to HIV/AIDS Cost Free Contact Aids Ministry Program 860-543-8406 ext. 135.

May 3-4, 2002 • Capital Community College, 61 Woodland Street, Hartford. • Hartford Seminary's Reunion Weekend • A special lecture by The Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Young, Jr. will be held Friday, May 3 at 7:30 PM at Capital Community College, 61 Woodland Street, Hartford. This presentation is open to the public. Contact: Shantee McKissick 860-509-9521 or alum@hartsem.edu

Tuesday, May 7, 2002 9:15-1:15 • Plantsville Congregational Church • Keeping Body and Soul Together • "How churches can prepare teens (and oth-

ers) for sexual love, health, and responsibility." Marvin Ellison, Professor of Christian Ethics at Bangor Theological Seminary. Cost: \$10 for lunch Contact: Susan Furness 866-367-2822 susanf@ctucc.org

Saturday, May 11, 2002 9AM - 3 PM Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland St. Hartford, CT 74th Annual Meeting of The Connecticut Women of the United Church of Christ Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chopp, Dean, Yale Divinity School "New Visions, New Choices: Women and Church in a Changing World" Cost \$10 Contact , Pam DiDio at 1-866-367-2822, ext 101 or email at pamd@ctucc.org

Sunday, May 19, 2002 4 PM • First Congregational Church of Guilford • Sundays at Four Concert Series "Gloria!" • A program of festive music for chorus and

orchestra featuring First Church's own Senior Choir and an ensemble of outstanding instrumentalists under the direction of Paul Jordan. Works include major portions of Johann Sebastian Bach's Missa Brevis No. 1 in F major and Missa Brevis No. 4 in G Major. Cost: \$8 (\$6 seniors citizens) Contact: 203-458-9701

November 7-9, 2002 • St. Louis, Missouri • Children and the Church VI • Multi-cultural dimensions of safety, health, peace, advocacy, and spiritual nurture. Key Leaders Dr. Barbara Myers, Rev. Dr. William Myers and Rev. Dr. Yolanda Yvette Smith. Sponsored by Eden Theological Seminary and the Local Church Ministries, a Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ. Cost: \$150 before 10/7/02, \$200 after Contact: Carolyn Landers Pettigrew 216-736-3863 pettigrc@ucc.org

The United Black Christians Youth and Young Adult Caucus of the United Church of Christ Presents

Harambee

(Pulling Together)

Seventh National U.B.C. Youth & Young Adult Event

July 5-9, 2002
At Norfolk State University
Norfolk, Virginia

For More Information Contact:
Mary L. Grant, National Youth Advisor
214 Woodward Street, Bishopville, SC 28020
803-484-6455
or Brenda James, National Youth Coordinator
336-297-0554

"Forward With Faith... To the Promises of God"
United Black Christians and Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice
Joint 17th Biennial Convention and Ministers Convocation

July 9-13, 2002 • Sheraton Waterside Hotel • Norfolk, VA

United Black Christians