

Annual Gathering Agenda/Schedule

June 5 - 7, 2015

The Holiday Inn & Convention Center Kearney, Nebraska

Friday, June 5, 2015

6:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast (on your own)	
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Annual Gathering Registration	<i>Registration A, B, C</i>
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Prairie Association Registration	<i>Executive Room</i> <i>2nd Floor - Elevator accessible</i>
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Prairie Association Meeting	<i>Executive Room</i>
12:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet: Association, Board & Staff members	<i>Stateroom C</i>
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Board of Directors' Meeting	<i>Executive Room</i> <i>2nd Floor - Elevator accessible</i>
1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Prairie Association Team for Authorized Ministry	<i>Room # 174</i>
1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Team for Church Relations	<i>Room # 172</i>
4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.	Annual Gathering 101 with Sue Shear	<i>Room # 172</i>
4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.	Conversations with Roddy	<i>Stateroom A, B, C</i>
5:00 p.m. - 5:50 p.m.	Hearings on Conference Bylaws	<i>Stateroom A, B, C</i>
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner Buffet offered to attendees	<i>Loper Hall South</i>
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	**Plenary - Elections, State of the Conference, Recognitions	<i>Stateroom A, B, C</i>
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Worship with Rev. Jacob Buchholz	<i>Stateroom A, B, C</i>
9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	"Happy Hour" - Wine & Cheese Tasting Party	<i>Loper Hall South</i>

Saturday, June 6, 2015

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast Buffet offered to all attendees **Loper Hall South**

8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Hearing on Conference Bylaws **Stateroom A, B, C**

Break

10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Keynote Address, ***"Ministry at 35,000 Feet"***, presented by Holly MillerShank **Stateroom A, B, C**

Take a moment to climb up into the balcony and see the big picture. Together we will explore societal and church related changes that are effecting ministry in the 21st Century. We will delve into contemporary trends and discuss how the United Church of Christ is responding. Highlights will include the work of the UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Ministry Team and the UCC's Core Values.

11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Question & Answer session with Holly MillerShank **Stateroom A, B, C**

12:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch Buffet offered to attendees **Loper Hall South**

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Choir Practice **Stateroom A, B, C**

2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Plenary Session **Stateroom A, B, C**

Break

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Workshops

Music Workshop for Small Churches - Joyful Noise **Stateroom C**

Music is of great importance in the worship experience of any church. It provides an atmosphere for worship, setting the stage for celebration or contemplation; it brings the members of the congregation into one body. We will explore ideas for enhancing the Music Ministry in the smaller church that may or may not have an accompanist. Including examples that can be taken home and used in your own ministry.

Presented by Adam Lassen, Pastor for Music and Congregational Health, Saint Luke's United Church of Christ, Columbus, Nebraska.

Rogation Services

Room # 174

"Rogation" is connected to the Latin word for "asking," and refers to a traditional time of praying for agriculture. Traditionally celebrated on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the Sixth Sunday in Easter, Rogation Services have been a time to pray for planting and for those working with the land. In rural areas, many people bless the elements used in farming, the fields, the seeds and that animals. In urban areas a blessing of gardens, and local businesses can be done. It might also be a time to show gratitude for soil, water and growth, and to challenge congregation members to think carefully of the food they eat, their care of water, earth and seed. The following are some ideas of prayers and services for Rogation.

For more information on Rogation and a complete Rogation service, look on the web at the [Center for Theology and the Land](#) through Wartburg Seminary of Dubuque, Iowa.

Presented by Suzanne Harland, Pastor at Saint Peter's United Church of Christ, Yutan, Nebraska.

Hunger and Thirst for the Spirit

Stateroom A, B

Romans 12:2 - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind".

~ an exploration into traditions and practices of basic spirituality to find a place of connection with God.

Presented by Rev. Katrina Palan, Intentional Interim Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Nebraska (Disciples of Christ) and Cotner College Executive Director, Lincoln, Nebraska

Animal Ministry: Animals, Humans and the Breath of God

**Executive Room
2nd Floor - Elevator accessible**

What is animal ministry? How do animals and humans connect on a spiritual level? What do animals teach us and how can we honor the presence of God within them?

Presented by Karen M. Clarke, MA, Pastor of Animal Ministry, First-Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Lincoln, Nebraska and Dali Podenski, Animal Ministry Committee member, First-Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Lincoln, Nebraska

Creativity and Critique: Assessing the Marks

Loper Hall North

Spend time with two new resources on the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers in the UCC, an assessment rubrics and journal. Perfect for MIDs, Mentors, COM members, and Authorized Ministers. This is an invitation to play, process and practice discernment.

Presented by Keynote Speaker, Holly MillerShank, Team Leader, Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization, Cleveland, Ohio

5:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. Banquet - Ordination Anniversary Celebration **Loper Hall South**

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Workshops

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Profile Party! An Overview of Search and Call in the UCC

Loper Hall North

Join us for an overall look at the search and call process in the United Church of Christ. We will spend time with the UCC Ministries Opportunities listings and Snapshots as well as the UCC Ministerial Profile. This workshop is ideal for authorized ministers, local churches and anyone who is simply curious.

Presented by Keynote Speaker, Holly MillerShank, Team Leader, Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization, Cleveland, Ohio

Sunday, June 7, 2015

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| 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. | Breakfast Buffet offered to all attendees | <i>Loper Hall South</i> |
| 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Plenary Session- Memorial Service, Installation | <i>Stateroom A, B, C</i> |
| 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Worship with Holly MillerShank | <i>Stateroom A, B, C</i> |
| 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Brunch | ON YOUR OWN |

Vendor Locations:

Room # 173

Soul Desires Bookstore @ The Urban Abby

Soul Desires@Urban Abbey is a full service bookstore specializing in books for your spiritual journey from the world's major religious traditions. We offer a wide range of books from denominational presses including Abingdon, Ave Maria, Jewish Lights, Augsburg, Pilgrim, Iona, Orbis, Liturgical, Loyola, Chalice, Shambhala, and WJK. In addition we offer best sellers and local interest books. We can special order almost any in-print book. Our holy hardware selection includes greeting cards, Fair Trade coffee and gifts, prayer beads and jewelry, singing bowls, crosses and nativities, beautiful stoles & scarves.