

BECOMING INVOLVED

Late Breaking News!

So, what does the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ offer us? A lot! Here are some great opportunities for teaming and outreach. Since these opportunities are self supporting, they usually entail a fee.

Possible Trip to the Philippines

A trip to the Philippines is being considered by the Philippine Partnership Committee of the Covenant Association. The 2008 trip would likely last two and a half weeks, and would probably be from the end of August through the beginning of September. It should be emphasized that no details have been worked out, and that it is not known for certain that the trip will happen in 2008. The Committee would like to team who might be interested in going. If you would like to be put on a list of potential travelers, please contact Rev. Bill Ingraham via e-mail (pastor@cogsaa.org). You may also call him at The Church of the Good Shepherd UCC in Ann Arbor (734-971-6133).

Boundary Training

only training date for 2008!

Thursday, April 17. Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Due to rising costs this training is now \$15 per person. This amount includes materials and lunch. The Association Church and Ministry Committees of the Michigan Conference now require all pastors to participate in Boundary Training. You must pre-register and pre-pay for this training. Space is limited to 25 people. If you have further questions please contact Karen at the Conference office, Karen@michucc.org or see Dr. Bob Several. St. Andrew's members have taken this course and found it to be excellent.

Back Bay Mission Trips

The first trip is for adults and will be scheduled for February 3 - 8. Cost is approximately \$200. The second trip is for youth 14 years and older who have completed one year of high school and is scheduled for June 15 - 20. For more information please visit the VISION website at <http://www.camptalahi.org/>.

New Website for VISION

www.camptalahi.org

The VISION and Camp Talahi website went on line in October. The website has helpful info for pastors, youth ministers, youth advisors, VISION program participants, parents everyone. You are able to register on line for ALL VISION programs and Camp through Thriva, a company specializing in secure camp and event registrations. You will be able to find info about upcoming events and the outdoor ministry program. Application forms are also available at the website.

Jesus Seminar

March 28 - 29 The People's Church in East Lansing will be hosting speakers from the Jesus Seminar, through Westar Institute: "Jesus in First and Twenty-First Century." Speakers: Bernard Brandon Scott (Ph.D. Vanderbilt University) and Jarmo Tarkki (Ph.D. University of Helsinki). The event begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. There will be 3 workshops offered on Saturday. Cost: All sessions & registering before March 7 is \$50, \$60 if you registered after March 7; Single session Friday evening is \$15; Saturday morning or afternoon \$25. To register please go to www.westarinstitute.org or see Dr. Bob, who is planning to attend.

Michigan Youth Gathering

March 7 - 9 at Camp Talahi

Cost is \$100 Theme: Come to the PARTY! Gather with DaVita McCallister, UCC, and DOC youth from across Michigan for fun, fellowship, great food, and faith exploration. Register online at www.camptalahi.org.

Experiencing Urban Ministry

June 12 -16 in Detroit

Cost: \$250. Come to the city of Detroit and explore urban ministry with Rev. Steven Archer. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about issues of unemployment, poverty, injustice, and homelessness. Register online at www.camptalahi.org.

National Youth Event

July 24 - 28

Cost: \$345. This event will be held at University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Theme: "Living the Life." VISION will be arranging transportation for Michigan Youth and Advisors at a cost of \$100 per person, and a pre-event gathering where groups can gather for some community building activities, worship, and a meal prior to boarding busses.

Register online for VISION Transportation at www.camptalahi.org. If you are planning to bring youth please e-mail Marcia Beer at Marcia @[michucc.org](mailto:marcia@michucc.org) to get on the NYE Group e-mail.

St. Francis Retreat

The following programs are offered in partnership with Sustaining Pastoral Excellence at St. Francis Retreat Center. For more information, please go to:

<http://www.spe-stfrancis.org/Programs/SpiritualDirectorTraining/tabid/64/Default.aspx>

- Jan 24, 2008** Spiritual Direction and Social Justice Presenter:
Dorothy Ritter, RN
- Feb 7, 2008** Creation as Communion: Guiding the Artistic Experience of God Presenter:
Rev. Sharon Mick McAuley
- Feb 21, 2008** Basic Mental Health Assessment for Spiritual Directors: Anxiety, Depression
and Suicide - Presenter: Teresa Disch, OP
- Mar. 6, 2008** Group Spiritual Direction - Presenter: Sue Eichhorn, OP
- Apr. 3, 2008** Spiritual Direction with Survivors of Domestic Abuse Presenter:
Diane Kilmer
- Apr. 10, 2008** Legal and Ethical Issues in Spiritual Direction Presenter: Carol
Johannes, OP.
- Apr. 17, 2008** Sexuality and Spirituality - Presenter: Rev. Anita Smith Buckwalter