

Central Southeast NEWS

Central Southeast Ohio Association

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Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please send copy to the Association office by the first of the month for publication the following month.

Equipping the Saints – March 1

Two by Two: Partners in Ministry

“Two by Two: Partners in Ministry” is the theme for this year’s Equipping the Saints, a day-long leadership training event for clergy and laity of the Christian Church (DOC) and United Church of Christ. Whether we think of partners as our two denominations cooperating in ministry, clergy and laity serving together, or two of Jesus’ disciples working side by side, Luke 10 shows that Jesus saw the wisdom in sending disciples out not alone but two by two.

Equipping the Saints, sponsored annually by the Metropolitan Commission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Central Southeast Ohio Association of the UCC, will take place on Saturday, March 1 from 9:15

a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at **First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus. The \$15 registration fee includes lunch, a choice of two workshops, and a day of fellowship.

Rev. William Edwards, Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Ohio, will be the morning keynote speaker. Bill has served in local congregations and on the Disciples national staff in Indianapolis. He is a powerful, inspirational speaker with a rich sense of humor.

Register by Friday, February 22 through the Central Southeast Ohio Association office at 6161 Busch Blvd., Columbus, OH 43229, 614-885-0722, Ext. 218 or cse@ocucc.org.

Equipping the Saints Workshops

Participants will be able to choose one morning and one afternoon workshop. Topics and leaders below.

- *Partners in Prayer: Intercession*
Rev. Kerry Reed, Gender Road Christian
- *Christians in a Multi-Religious America*
Rev. Dr. Paul Numrich, Theological Consortium
- *Spiritual Types*
Rev. G. Forrest Hoppe, UCC, CSE Association Minister
- *Twenty-first Century Church, Youth & Young Adult Panel*
moderated by Erica Gonzales, Karl Road Christian
- *Beyond Ourselves: Missions and the Local Congregation*
Panel led by Rev. Paul Baumer, First Community Church
- *Co-Pastors: The Blessings and Challenges of Working as Equals*
Rev. Jeff Wheeler, Northwest Christian
- *Missionaries in South Africa: Global Missions Partners*
William and Veronica Kyle
- *Reclaiming the Healing Ministry of the Church*
Rev. Mary Ann Goetz, nurse in Columbus Public Schools
- *Nesting Congregations: Unity in Diversity*
Highpoint Evangelical Christian and Northwest Christian
- *Each One a Minister*
Jo Anne Nay, North Congregational UCC

Prepare the Future

As part of its focus on quality public education for all children, the Central Southeast Ohio Association Department for Church in the World has made a good faith commitment to sponsor an “Action Tree” which gathers commitments for modest but collectively powerful actions in support of the cause.

The Department is working with *Prepare the Future*, a national organization embracing widely shared values—fairness, trust and responsibility—that create the opportunity for children, families and communities to thrive.

Prepare the Future seeks to create a voice that insists that such values shape discourse and action in the public square and that demands quality public education to prepare all our children for life.

The effort to build the CSEOA Action Tree will begin this spring

by identifying 40 people who are willing to make four commitments: 1) To the agenda of quality public education for all children. 2) To take at least one advocacy action, like writing a letter to a policy maker, every three months, 3) To contribute \$20 a year to support the effort, 4) To find five others who will make these same commitments.

Ohio, Colorado and California are the first three states where efforts to create Action Trees are being focused. Our Department for Church in the World is one of twelve Ohio groups that have made a commitment to build an Action Tree.

Others include the East and West Ohio Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church, the Ohio Council of Churches, Christ Cathedral (Episcopal) in Cincinnati, the Ohio Fair Schools Campaign, Greater Dayton Christian Connections and the Columbus

Metropolitan Area Church Council.

Prepare the Future is attempting to build an infrastructure that citizens in communities across the country can use to effectively address other important issues affecting the health and well-being of our children and youth.

The commitment by the Department for Church in the World to build an Action Tree is a step in the process of developing the infrastructure that can influence public policy and create the political will to make sure all children have a quality public education.

Prepare the Future was founded by former Maryland State Superintendent of Schools David Hornbeck. He has also served as Philadelphia’s Superintendent of Schools and was a principal architect of Kentucky’s 1990 comprehensive school reform program, KERA.

CSEOA Annual Meeting

Partners in Christ’s Service

Saturday, May 3

Orchard Hill UCC • Chillicothe

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CSEOA representatives to visit Nicaragua in March

The Central Southeast Ohio Association has been invited to send representatives to the General Meeting of the Iglesia Mision Cristiana, March 27 to 30, 2008 in Nicaragua.

Jim Clausung, a member of **Grace UCC, Lancaster**, the Rev. Jenny Steindam, a member at **Westerville Community UCC**

and the Rev. Dr. G. Forrest Hoppe, CSEOA Minister, are planning to represent the Association at this annual meeting of our prospective partner church.

The Partnership Covenant between the Iglesia Mision Cristiana and the Central Southeast Ohio Association will be adopted at the General Meeting.

Representatives from the Iglesia Mision Cristiana have been invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Association on May 3, 2008 at **Orchard Hill UCC in Chillicothe**.

The Association will formally adopt the Partnership Covenant Agreement at that meeting. These exchanges of visits mark a new stage in the developing relationships between the two churches and new ministry focus of the Association.



A group from David’s UCC, Canal Winchester, led by David Long-Higgins, traveled to Nicaragua in 2007. Long-Higgins is chair of the task force that is leading the effort to nurture a partner relationship between churches in CSEOA and in the Iglesia Mision Cristiana. The David’s group is pictured after setting the cornerstone for the church parsonage in La Paz, Carazo. Readying the ground for the parsonage was the group’s primary project.