

Ministry Jazz: Improvise, Inspire, Ignite



CSE Annual Fall Gathering

October 25

St. John's Evangelical Protestant UCC, Columbus

Ministry Jazz: Improvise, Inspire, Ignite is the theme for the 45th Annual Fall Gathering of the Central Southeast Ohio Association. The Fall Gathering will be Saturday, October 25 at **St. John's Evangelical Protestant UCC**, 51 East Mound Street in downtown Columbus.

The theme borrows a metaphor from the author Max DePree, who wrote *Leadership Jazz*, and alters it for ministry. If Leadership is like Jazz, so is Ministry. Improvisation and rules, inspiration and restraint must be blended to ignite the renewal and vitality required in our churches.

The New Song Trio, a group of jazz musicians who play for worship at New Song Community Church, our new church start with the Disciples of Christ, will be providing music in the morning.

The Rev. Felix Carrion, Stillspeaking Coordinator in the Office of General Ministries of the United Church of Christ, is our keynote speaker. Felix brings a wealth of experience as a former local church pastor and a member of the national staff to our Fall Gathering. Felix has the ability to improvise, inspire and ignite.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., and the Gathering will conclude by 3:00 pm.

Prepare the Future Ohio launches public education initiative

The Central Southeast Ohio Association is one of 18 organizations that are part of Prepare the Future Ohio. Most of the 18 are faith based organizations, committed to quality public education that will prepare all of Ohio's children for life.

Prepare the Future intends to create a values-driven, grassroots, technologically sophisticated organization that holds local, state and national policy makers accountable for the well being of all our children and families, with special advocacy for those we historically have left out.

The 18 organizations have

been working on developing an educational agenda for Ohio that involves comprehensive and systemic change in the public school system, built on the conviction that all children can and must learn to high standards and have the knowledge and skills for effective citizenship and that the financing of public education be equitable and fair.

We are now inviting people to join an "action tree," an online community of advocates for quality and equitable public education for all students in Ohio. The Association is working to recruit a base

of 40 people who will make four commitments: 1) to quality education for all children; 2) to take at least one advocacy action every quarter in support of the Educational Agenda; 3) to contribute \$20 a year to maintain the organization and 4) to find five friends or neighbors who will make the same four commitments.

If you are interested in more information or becoming a participant in our Prepare the Future action tree, please email the Association office (cse@ocucc.org). Invitations to join the action tree will be issued electronically.

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.

North Congregational to host events featuring the Rev. Malcolm Himschoot November 14-16

North Congregational UCC, Columbus, will host a weekend of events November 14-16 under the banner "Called to Be: An Affirming Dialogue with the Transgender Community, featuring the Rev. Malcolm Himschoot."

Rev. Himschoot, of Denver, Colorado, is one of the few openly transgender clergy members in the United States and is the focus of the documentary film *Call Me Malcolm*.

He will participate in activities at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) earlier that week.

In addition to North Church and MTSO, a variety of central Ohio organizations, including several that serve the GLBT community, are co-sponsoring and helping to plan "Called to Be."

"It's been an enriching experience for North Church members to partner with other groups and individuals who are committed to fostering an understanding of, and support for, the transgender community, both within the church and within the greater community," said the Rev. Eric Williams, senior pastor.

"Hosting this event is an important way of living into the Open and Affirming status that our congregation adopted 12 years ago."

The weekend will include:

- A "meet and greet" session at the church the evening of November 14 for transgender individuals and their significant others.

- A full day of activities on November 15, including a keynote speech by Rev. Himschoot, a panel discussion featuring members of the transgender community and their loved ones, and a series of breakout sessions for attendees on topics ranging from issues facing the transgender community to support for family members and friends, to spirituality and theology and inclusion of transgender individuals.

- Rev. Himschoot will take part in worship November 16, leading an Adult Education discussion at 9:15 a.m. and offering the sermon at the 10:30 worship service.

There is a fee for the November 15 event, which is open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to register in advance. A link to the registration website is available at www.northchurchucc.org.

North Congregational UCC is located at 2040 W. Henderson Road in Columbus, phone: 614-451-1835.

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