

**CONFERENCE NOTES**

# Prepare for Annual Meeting/Retreat at Asilomar May 19-22

## Tentative schedule for Annual Meeting 2005 *God's Radical Hospitality*

At press time (March 15) this is the latest tentative schedule for Annual Meeting Retreat May 19-22. Registration has closed for on-site housing, but day visitors are welcome. Some people stay at other local motels. Contact Joy Davis, registrar for more information: 510-247-8995, <joy@ncncucc.org>

You will notice some old favorites like the Women' Network Lunch, The Open and Affirming Dinner, morning speakers, Saturday afternoon business, Association gatherings (Saturday 5-6pm.)

There are also new things, like more of a retreat feel, with inspiration and nurture opportunities in the early morning and Friday afternoon. Affinity groups Friday and Saturday 5-6pm give people with similar interests a chance to meet and share ideas. Contact Deborah Streeter for more information and suggestions for both inspiration opportunities and affinity groups. <dstreeter@ncncucc.org>

The theme of "Radical Hospitality" will set the tone for the evening program each night. Come ready to be welcomed and welcoming!!

For general program questions contact Moderator Rev. Tauoa Head at <kalavariaucc@aol.com> or Vice Moderator Kyle Lovett at <pastor@sfsjtjohnsucc.org.>

### Thursday, May 19

3 p.m. Registration opens  
5 - 6 p.m. Orientation  
6 - 7 p.m. Dinner  
7:15 - 9 p.m. Opening celebration (Samoan Welcoming Ceremony)

### Friday, May 20

7 - 7:30 a.m. Morning nurture and inspiration opportunities  
7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Friday breakfast  
8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Travel time  
8:45 - 10:15 a.m. Gathered Together in Worship and Work  
Radical and Prophetic Hospitality, Randi Walker  
10:45 - noon Radical and Prophetic Hospitality Break-Out  
Groups Session 1  
Noon - 1 p.m.. Friday lunch  
1:15 - 1:45 Gathered Together in Worship and Work  
2 - 6 p.m. Free time (with discernment sessions, affinity groups, nurture and inspiration opportunities)  
6 - 7 p.m. Friday dinner (youth dinner)  
7:15 - 9:30 p.m. Gathered Together in Worship, Work and Celebration

### Saturday, May 21

7 - 7:30 a.m. Morning nurture and inspiration opportunities  
7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Saturday breakfast (PSR breakfast)  
8:45 - 10:15 a.m. Gathered Together in Worship and Work  
Radical and Prophetic Hospitality, Carlton Pearson  
10:45 - noon Radical and prophetic Hospitality Break-Out  
Groups Session II  
Noon - 1 p.m. Saturday lunch (Womens' Network luncheon)  
1:15 - 4:45 p.m. Gathered together in Worship and Work  
5 - 6 p.m. Free time (with affinity groups and association gatherings)  
6 - 7 p.m. Saturday dinner (Open and Affirming Dinner)  
7:15 - 9:45 p.m. Gathered together in Worship, Work and Celebration  
10 p.m. Youth communion on the beach

### Sunday, May 22

7 - 7:30 a.m. Morning Nurture and Inspiration Opportunities  
7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast  
9:45 - 11:30 a.m. Worship and communion  
Noon Lunch and depar

## NCNC Earth Stewards lead national effort for UCC environmental action

The NCNC Earth Stewards Committee is bringing to Annual Meeting an administrative action asking delegates to vote to send to General Synod the resolution "Call for Environmental Education and Action." This resolution calls for more education and activism at a UCC national level on environmental issues. Four other conferences are also in the process of signing on: Rocky Mountain, Connecticut, Central Pacific and Massachusetts.

Hugo Steensma of First UCC, Sonoma, originated the idea of a General Synod resolution, when he sought to find out what other conferences were doing around environmental justice. After bringing a resolution to the 2003 NCNC Annual Meeting that formed the NCNC Earth Stewards, Hugo and the rest of the Steering Committee have networked extensively with folks in other conferences. They have agreed that the UCC needs strong national education and activism on environmental issues.

Here is the resolutions summary and the body of what is to be voted. The full text will be on the website and in annual meeting packets. For more information contact Hugo at <sica4HS@aol.com>

**SUMMARY:** This Resolution calls on all expressions of the United Church of Christ to implement programs for education and action to address issues of environmental protection, environmental justice and sustainable development. It establishes an Environmental Steering Committee to implement this Resolution in close coordination with Justice and Witness Ministries.

### RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS it is recognized that each of us has the responsibility of caring for God's Earth, individually and collectively and that it is our responsibility to protect, preserve and, to the extent possible, restore the natural systems worldwide for the benefit of current and future generations of all living species, and

WHEREAS humankind's unsustainable practices and ongoing destruction of God's Creation are contrary to our deepest values and are spiritually, ethically and pragmatically unacceptable, and WHEREAS it is essential that individually and collectively we become aware of and take action with respect to the many viable solutions which exist or are in the process of being developed to protect, preserve and restore the natural systems that nurture us and God's other creatures, and

WHEREAS many faith - based organizations are taking action on these environmental issues and are actively articulating their environmental positions and it is important that the UCC denomination projects an equally well coordinated and articulated approach to our common concerns about the environment and environmental justice, and

WHEREAS the UCC has by Resolutions, Pronouncements and Proposals for Action over many years proven itself to be concerned with issues of the environment, including but not limited to, issues of eco-justice, environmental racism, air and water quality, sustainable growth and matters of national and international environmental policy, and

WHEREAS many different environmentally focused and faith-based organizations, including entities belonging to the UCC, have resources available to assist Congregations and Conferences with information and materials for environmental worship, education, youth programs and action, and

WHEREAS all Congregations and Conferences would benefit if these resources and suggested programs would be shared for use in their churches as well as in church-initiated or sponsored ecumenical and community environmental events, and

WHEREAS it would be most efficient for Congregations and Conferences to establish a central venue to provide information, resources and support as well as a to identify, share and exchange information on what the different Congregations are doing about environmental stewardship;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the twenty-fifth General Synod urges congregations and conferences to agree to initiate programs to:

- 1) increase awareness and change public consciousness about our interaction with the natural world, indigenous communities, eco-justice and environmental racism and its consequences;
- 2) promote the study of our Biblical and historical heritage of caring



The Heffernan Group is the agent for the UCC Insurance Broad churches in both the Northern California Nevada Conference and the Southern California Nevada Conference.

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**Resolutions**

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- about the environment;
  - 3) create regular congregational and/or community venues for discussions about environmental issues, solutions, and alternatives; and why we believe God wants us to be good stewards of all creation;
  - 4) focus collective and individual action to transform our society's unsustainable practices and policies for the long-term benefit and survival of all life on earth;
  - 5) work vigorously as advocates and activists for the protection and restoration of our local and global environment.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the twenty-fifth General Synod directs the Executive Council to request that Justice and Witness Ministries establish and empower a UCC Environmental Steering Committee responsible for the execution of this resolution and to assign to this Committee the following tasks and responsibilities, which are to be executed in close coordination with Justice and Witness Ministries:
- to develop policies and procedures to identify, prioritize and take action on the environmental subjects covered in this Resolution and to define and suggest actions to be taken by the UCC denomination and/or its Congregations or Conferences;
  - to develop a strategic plan by December 31, 2005 to implement such policies and procedures;
  - to develop procedures to appoint members to the Environmental Steering Committee, set term limits and cover any other matters considered useful in the efficient and effective functioning of this Committee;
  - to report periodically, but at least annually, on its work, activities and achievements to Justice and Witness Ministries.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the twenty-fifth General Synod directs the Executive Council to request that Justice and Witness Ministries assist and support the UCC Environmental Steering Committee in the efforts required to achieve the objectives of this Resolution and for this purpose to assign the responsibility for implementation as appropriate;
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the twenty-fifth General Synod directs the Executive Council to request that Justice and Witness Ministries establish this UCC Environmental Steering Committee by initially appointing 12 volunteers representing interested Conferences;
- The funding for the implementation of this Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

**Pacific deadlines and special May issue**

The Pacific and UC News now publish regularly every other month: February, April, June, August, October and December. Deadlines are about five weeks before the first of the month of publication, e.g. for the June issue, we need items by April 26.

Look for more news on the conference website <nncucc.org> and the national website <ucc.org>.

We will have a special Annual Meeting/Retreat issue of the Pacific in the packets at Asilomar, including annual reports. It will not be mailed, but extra copies will be available to take home. Deadline is April 15.

**Action of the board of directors:** Celia Scott's Ministerial Standing was suspended in November as an outcome of a Fitness for Ministry Review.

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**GOD'S CALLING**

Northern California Nevada Conference  
United Church of Christ

**Summer Camp 2005**

<b>Camp Cazadero</b>	
Kids Camp (entering grades 2-4)	July 10-14
Arts camp (entering grades 7-12)	July 10-16
Post High Camp (H.S. Grads & older)	July 15-17
Jr. Camp (entering grades 5 & 6)	July 17-23
Jr. High (entering grades 7-9)	July 24-30
Senior High (entering grades 10 -12)	July 31-Aug 6
Community Camp (multigenerational)	Sept. 3-6
<b>Camp Tamarack</b>	
Jr. Camp (entering grades 3-5)	July 17-23
Counselors in Training	July 17-23
High School Camp (entering grades 9-12)	July 24-30
Jr. High Camp (entering grades 6-8)	July 31-Aug 6
Community Camp (multigenerational)	Aug 19-21 July 20-24
<b>Camp San Francisco (entering grades 7-10)</b> July 20-24	



**unpack**

relaxation songs beauty fun growth  
swimming trees play think people  
sacred space serenity hiking kids  
circle of life service peace camp  
hospitality eat laughter walking  
stretch art adventure awakening  
quiet connect friendship

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