

2015 Ohio Conference Annual Gathering • Workshops • 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

United Seminary in Dayton

1. Becoming an Attractive Church (Adam Long)
2. Our Call to Do Economic Justice (Edith Rassel/Marilyn Lloyd)
3. Empowering YOUR Team (Nicole Havelka)

Defiance College

1. Rethinking our Ministry with Older Adults (Beth Long-Higgins)
2. Empowering YOUR Team (Nicole Havelka) (via videoconference)

Lorain County Community College in Elyria

1. Is That Stillspeaking God Making it Confusing to Talk about the UCC? (Loey Powell)
2. Workshop as Worship: Deepening Discipleship through Service (Vicki McGaw)
3. Empowering YOUR Team (Nicole Havelka) (via videoconference)

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Dayton

1. *Our Call to Do Economic Justice: God's Abundant Resources Are Given to Be Shared among All God's People*, with Edith Rassel and Marilyn E. Lloyd

The gap between the rich and poor is widening. The middle is disappearing. God created a world of abundance, but why is there so much poverty and economic hardship? This workshop will briefly review recent economic trends and their causes and discuss ways we can work together for a world that more closely matches God's vision.

Edith (Edie) Rassel is on the national staff of the United Church of Christ serving as Minister for Economic Justice in Justice and Witness Ministries. She works with UCC congregations around the country as well as national and international organizations to educate and mobilize the faith community and to bring greater economic justice to people in the U.S. and around the world, especially the poor and marginalized. She is known for her ability to make economic matters understandable, relevant, and interesting.

Rassel serves on the boards of Interfaith Worker Justice, the National Farm Worker Ministry, and Citizens for Tax Justice.

Rassel is a UCC layperson and holds a Ph.D. in economics. Before coming to the UCC she worked for 12 years at the Economic Policy Institute, a highly regarded, progressive think tank in Washington, D.C. Rassel's most recent work can be found on her webpages accessed through the UCC's economic justice home page at http://www.ucc.org/justice_economic-justice/

Marilyn E. Lloyd is an active member of North Congregational UCC, Columbus Ohio. Marilyn serves as a member of the Congregational Vitality department, as well as a newly formed Covenantal Elders group of the Central South East Association. Marilyn has been a participant in the planning of the Ohio Conference Annual Gathering for the past four years. She is currently a student of the SONKA Lay Ministry School. Marilyn recently became a member of the Economic Justice League working with Edith Rassel, Minister of Economic Justice UCC with an interest of assisting others to be economically just.

2. *Becoming an Attractive Church: How to Inspire Guests to Get Involved with Your Congregation*, with Adam Long, Lead Pastor, Move United Church, Columbus.

Your congregation might have a great personality. But if you want guests to return for another “date,” you’re going to have to work on becoming more attractive. If you’re interested in becoming an attractive church—a congregation that excels at welcoming and involving guests—then join us for this workshop. You’ll be inspired by stories of both failure and success and equipped with practical steps for developing a systematic process for connecting well with guests.

Adam Long, Ph.D., serves as Lead Pastor of Move United Church in Columbus, Ohio, and teaches sociology at Ohio Wesleyan University and The Ohio State University. He is thrilled to have joined the United Church of Christ in 2014.

Defiance

1. *Rethinking Our Ministry with Older Adults*, with Beth Long-Higgins, Director of Outreach and Mission Integration, United Church Homes

The population of our communities is changing. There are now more people over the age of 65 than there are school age children in the state of Ohio. So what changes do we need to make in the way we think and in the things we do in our local churches and communities to meet the needs of the oldest third of the population? If we make some shifts, there is a very real potential for growth in our communities. We will look at some of the hard core statistics and explore the opportunities that are before us as we rethink our ministries with older adults.

Rev. Beth Long-Higgins is currently serving as the Director of Outreach and Mission Integration with United Church Homes. She came to the position in 2013 after having served two congregations as co-pastor over the course of 25 years along with her spouse, Dave. Her most recent congregational setting was at David’s United Church of Christ in Canal Winchester, Ohio, where Dave is now the senior pastor. They have two grown children and have shared an intergenerational home with Beth’s mom and sister for a dozen years. Beth is an artist, a musician and quilter.

NOTE: The workshop, *From Dreaming to Doing*, to be led by Phil Hart, will not be presented. Please select one of the other two workshops. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Elyria

1. *Workship as Worship: Deepening Discipleship through Service*, with Vicki McGaw, Pastor, Middleburg Heights Community UCC

There isn’t much in the gospel that calls us as followers of Jesus to show up in worship each week to sit in pews, sing a couple songs, hear a sermon and go home. We ARE called, however, to serve the least of these (Matthew 25) and to make disciples (Matthew 28). As we seek to deepen our faith and grow our discipleship, our congregation decided that four times a year, our worship would be in service as we leave the sanctuary and go into the community to serve. Come hear the story of how we are changing the lives of both our participants and those we serve on these energizing Sundays.

Vicki McGaw has been privileged to serve as the pastor of Middleburg Heights Community United Church of Christ since November, 2013. She brings her passion for justice, extravagant welcome and multi-sensory worship to her ministry. She is a graduate of Eden Theological Seminary and Michigan State University and has worked on the national staff of the United Church of Christ, as Vice President of McGaw Technology, Inc. and as a bank manager. She and her husband, Mike, are parents of two grown children. In her spare time, Vicki loves to travel, cook and listen to music of all kinds.

2. Is That Stillspeaking God Making it Confusing to Talk about the UCC?

Life in our local congregations is lively and vibrant, but sometimes members are confused by, disturbed by, or delighted by the decisions or positions of other settings of the United Church of Christ. Or we may not really know and understand why certain things happen. Let's talk together about all this and explore ways to come to know and understand the UCC more broadly in our local congregational settings.

Rev. Loey Powell recently concluded 18 years of service in the national setting of the UCC. She has a long history of serving on Conference and national boards and committees, and has served the UCC as a pastor in a new church start and in Tallahassee, FL. She is currently working with the UCC's Council for Health and Human Service Ministries.

All Locations ("Live" in Dayton; via videoconference in Defiance and Elyria)

Empowering YOUR Team with Nicole Havelka, Minister for Resourcing, Networking and Creativity, Ohio Conference UCC (via teleconference from Dayton)

Whether you're a local church pastor, a hospital chaplain, a non-profit director, church moderator or committee chair, your ministry **DEPENDS** on teams of people working together. Delve first into **WHY** we do ministry collaboratively, then take away **HOW** you do it with lots of tools, tips and best practices for empowering teams to work effectively.

Nicole Havelka currently serves as the Designated Minister for Networking, Resourcing and Creativity in the Ohio Conference UCC. She comes to Ohio with a history of making space for creativity and innovation in the wider church. She served the wider church first as the Associate Conference Minister for Youth and Young Adult Ministries in Iowa and most recently as Area Minister in Michigan. She brings a wide breadth of experience as a coach, teacher and trainer specializing in youth ministry for the [Center for Progressive Renewal](#) and as an associate consultant with [Vibrant Faith Ministries](#). She has also been a digital ministry innovator when she served as one of the founding staff members of [Extravagance UCC](#) (an online ministry based in the Ohio Conference).

She is thrilled to be part of this Holy Experiment in Ohio that uses all her gifts and more to connect, support and encourage local churches to develop creative and relevant ministries. She has helped build a new online presence for the United Church of Christ in Ohio through a new (and still improving) website: www.ohioucc.org and social media that can be found on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram. Just search for the names Ohio UCC and Holy Experiments to connect with resources and best practices for YOUR church ministries on social media.

In her "spare time," Nicole does yoga, cooks for friends and watches as many Oscar-nominated movies as possible. She recently took up the hobby of training for and competing in triathlons; this spring she ran her first two half marathons.