

# **DeYoung chosen to lead Minnesota Council of Churches**

“I am eager to join the Minnesota Council of Churches in their important work of building the common good as agents of unity in the faith community and moral voices for a just society,” said the Rev. Dr. Curtiss DeYoung, who was approved on May 16 by the MCC board to be the organization’s new CEO.

DeYoung will replace the Rev. Peg Chamberlin, who is retiring from leading the Council after 22 years. DeYoung will begin his service July 17.

DeYoung is most recently the executive director of Community Renewal Society, a 135-year-old faith-based organization in Chicago that works for racial and economic justice through the programmatic combination of church-based community organizing, policy advocacy and investigative journalism.

DeYoung earned degrees from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C., and Anderson University in Indiana. He is an author and editor of 10 books on reconciliation, multiracial congregations, interfaith activist spirituality, racism and cultural diversity.

Previously, DeYoung was professor of reconciliation studies and co-chair of the department of anthropology, sociology and reconciliation studies at Bethel University in St. Paul.

He was the executive director of the Twin Cities Urban Reconciliation Network and served on staff of congregations in Minneapolis, New York City, and Washington, D.C. He consults and speaks internationally with extensive relationships among activists and peacemakers in South Africa and the Holy Land.

The Minnesota Council of Churches’ mission is to manifest unity in the church and to build the common good in the world. The Minnesota Council of Churches programs align with three broad categories: welcoming refugees, mobilizing the faith community to engage in public policy, and strengthening communities through relationships and understanding.