Workshops for Annual Meeting

Friday - 2:30-3:30pm

Introduction to Disaster Ministries of the UCC

In this workshop, you will learn how the UCC helps congregations to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters as well as ways in which you and your congregation can provide financial, material, and volunteer support for those affected by disasters.

“Nothing ever happens here,” is often spoken after a disaster or tragic event in communities that imagine that those events only happen somewhere else. Some events we can prepare for, and some events are more difficult to imagine. You will learn about the tools Disaster Ministries of the UCC offers for congregations to prepare for a variety of events.

You will also hear about ways you can support those affected by disasters through disaster recovery trips, preparing Church World Service kits, and offerings of financial assistance.

Led by Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel, CAC Disaster Response Coordinator.

Sacred Change on Capitol Hill: Bending the Arc Toward Love

As Christians, our faith calls on each of us to speak truth to power alongside the most vulnerable. Whether through advocacy, mobilization, or voting, God calls us to speak, act, and lead with love.

Join the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy for a workshop on their work on Capitol Hill, including two current campaigns — "Love Knows No Borders" and "Our Faith, Our Vote" — which address ongoing attacks on our democracy and on our immigrant neighbors. As we near the midterm elections, the stakes we face are higher than ever. Love calls us to act. Come hear how the UCC is showing up this election cycle, and how you and your congregation can get involved!

Saturday 10:30-11:30am

Church is Mutual Aid: Re/Formations for Life Together in Bleak Times

Mutual Aid. Perhaps you know the term. Perhaps it's new to you! Perhaps you're involved in local mutual aid efforts in your community. Perhaps you understand your church as imbued with the spirit and practices of mutual aid. Perhaps you'd like it to be! Wherever you are in engaging in the "new old" practice of mutual aid, we are excited to announce upcoming trainings and resources for congregations in 2026 – pastors, lay leaders, everyone! We will learn from communities and UCC congregations actively practicing mutual aid, why it's so important for many more to undertake mutual aid efforts if we want to have a sustainable economy, what makes mutual aid different from other kinds of service, and that we are not alone in manifesting a beautifully just world. Join Rev. Seth Wispelwey, UCC Minister for Economic Justice, and Dr. Sharon Fennema, New Jersey Association Administrator and Liberating Lineages Collective cofounder, for a dynamic, interactive dive into understanding just how resource-rich we are and deepening our ability to care for one another in exceedingly trying times.

We Are A Justice Seeking People...
Fighting For Our Lives

This is an interactive session for racial justice seekers – seasoned, new, or just curious. The question is Racial Justice! WE are the Answer, we have been seeking! Although this nation is experiencing a level of overt racism that harkens back to the pre-Civil Rights era, we "the church" hold the potential to change this tragic trajectory! Our denomination, though not perfect, has been struggling toward racial equity throughout its history. Our conference includes individuals and congregations who have been intentional in the pursuit of racial justice. Now is the time to expand our reach. Building on the wisdom and experience of some and the insights and intuition of others, we will explore strategies and resources designed to strengthen our internal resolve and to develop our skills to promote change. Join us, YOU are the answer we have been seeking!

Facilitators: Vivian H. Jackson, Ph.D., Rev. Darryl! Moch, Rev. Anne Holmes, Rev. Dr. Marty Kuchma, members of the CAC Racial Justice Leadership Team

The People in Our Neighborhoods:
Responses to Christian Zionism

The CAC Movement for Palestinian Solidarity (CACMPS), formerly CAC Palestine Israel Network or CACPIN), invites participants to learn more about conservative, evangelical Christians - "the people in our neighborhoods" - who are or may be Christian Zionists. Christian Zionists, estimated now at 20-50 million people in the U.S., are our friends,

family members, and elected officials, including Mike Huckabee, Ambassador to Israel. Participants will discuss what Christian Zionism looks like and how it is currently contributing to West Bank violence and U.S. policy in the region. We will engage in group discussions to explore the Biblical justifications that Zionists embrace as well as how the Bible offers rich “anti-Zionist” passages to support justice. Attendees will leave with specific ideas for direct action and resources for engagement in their congregations and communities.

Led by Dr. Gail Burnaford, CACMPS and UCCMPS Steering Committee Member, Rock Spring UCC, Arlington, VA