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NEWS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Minnesota Council of Churches
January 12, 2011



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MANAGING YOUR

What to Watch For: 2011 MN Legislative Session

Last week marked the beginning of the 2011 legislative session, with the swearing in of our new Governor and Legislators, and this week the work really began. We are already hearing that the priorities that our elected officials will be focusing on will be the budget and jobs. MCC partner's with the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) to advocate that during the budgeting process our Legislators do not balance the budget on the back of poor and low-income Minnesotans. Many social safety net programs that people depend on as life-lines will be on the chopping block and we want to ensure that the people who need assistance are not forgotten. This session JRLC will also be working to protect child care assistance funding, work for impartiality in our courts, and ensure a fair taxation policy.

For more about JRLC's priorities, read their [2011 Legislative Agenda](#), and stay connected throughout the legislative session by [following the JRLC blog](#). Don't forget [Day on the Hill](#), where you can lobby in person for the issues you care about!

Upcoming Events

Martin Luther King Day Event

Saturday, January 15, 2011 at 10 a.m.

Kwanzaa Community Presbyterian Church, 3700 Bryant Avenue North in Minneapolis,

Rev. Phil Tom will share his thoughts on the civil rights issues raised by immigration and worker's rights. Tom served for 15 years as the director for the office of Small Church and Community Ministry for the Presbyterian Church (USA). [Click here to find out more.](#)

Take Heart

Monday, January 17, 2011, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
10715 Zenith Ave. S, Bloomington, MN**

Share food and conversation with Christians, Muslims, and others through Taking Heart. In honor of Dr. King we will talk about how faith informs our attitudes and actions towards justice. **To RSVP** or for more information contact Gail Anderson at gail.anderson@mnchurches.org, or 612-230-3210. Taking Heart is a program of the Minnesota Council of Churches and the Muslim American Society of Minnesota.

REGISTER NOW: Interfaith Youth Day of Service

Monday, February 21, 2011

Blake School Upper School, 511 Kenwood Parkway, Minneapolis

Calling all youth and youth leaders! Join the Interfaith Youth Leadership

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Coalition for the sixth annual Twin Cities Interfaith Youth Day of Service. The day includes an opening rally with speakers and entertainment, service projects with many local organizations, and workshops on creative expression and leadership for a multi-faith, multi-cultural world. Transportation to and from service sites and lunches and snacks are provided. Since this event fills up quickly, reserve a space for your group now, by February 11!

This event is designed especially with youth 7th-12th grade in mind, but volunteers of all ages are welcome to join us (children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian). Registration materials are available at www.spacc.org/interfaith or by contacting Meghan Paul-Cook at mpaul-cook@spacc.org or 651.789.3852. Interested in volunteering behind the scenes at the event? Please contact Meghan. The Interfaith Youth Leadership Coalition is a program of the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches in collaboration with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas and the Islamic Civic Society of America.

Is New Church Planting for Me?

Friday, February 25, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p. m., DeForest, WI

This discernment retreat is offered with the goal of developing a pool of clergy and lay persons who are ready to respond to a call for new church start ministry. In this workshop:

- Gain greater clarity around how God has wired you
- Understand leadership style
- Learn the questions to ask to clarify your call to consider a new church start
- Align your call, vision and behaviors to starting a church
- If not church planting, then what?

[See the event flyer for more info and registration.](#) This event is sponsored by the Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa Conferences of the United Church of Christ and is open to other denominations.

Rural Ministry Conference

March 6-8, 2011 in Dubuque, IA

The Conference is a gathering of pastors of rural congregations whom come together for inspiration, support, worship, and education. An ecumenical team has planned this year's event with the theme "Hospitality in Changing Times." Keynoting will be Tex Sample - pastor, teacher, and author. Another speaker will be Rev. Rose Wright-Scott, founder and pastor of Victory Christian UCC in Petersburg, VA. [Follow this link to see workshops or register.](#)

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

Friday – Monday, March 25-28, 2011, Washington D.C.

Join faith-based advocates from across the U.C. and explore [Development, Security & Economic Justice: What's Gender Got to Do with It?](#) This year's focus will inspire and equip you to speak out on behalf of people-centered sustainable development and economic justice, physical safety, security and peacemaking, with a particular focus on those most impacted — women, girls and families. Experts will train participants on policy issues and advocacy, culminating on Monday with lobby visits on Capitol Hill. www.advocacydays.org

Advocate

Protect What is Precious

Valentine's Day: Monday, February 14, 2011, 9:00 a.m. – noon
Meet in the State Office Building, Room 300, 100 MLK. Blvd, St. Paul

Does God call you to be a steward of the earth? Do you want toxic chemicals out of children's products and our environment? Help us protect the health of children and the environment by joining Minnesota Council of Churches and Healthy Legacy on Valentine's Day at the Minnesota Capitol. We will be delivering valentines to state lawmakers and talking to them about how they can protect what is precious by supporting state policy that identifies and removes toxic chemicals from children's bubble bath, toys, and other products. Registration is free, but to RSVP please give your name, home city, phone number and home faith community to [Jerad Morey](#) via [email](#) or phone at 612/230-3211.

Resources

Order Eco-Palms

Does your church purchase palms for Palm Sunday? If so, consider buying [Eco-Palms](#) this year. [Continue reading](#) about this ecumenically sponsored resource.

For more information contact:
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