

## Nearby Hotels

### The Vardin

A Boutique Hotel  
335 Pacific Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(877) 382-7336

### Courtyard Long Beach Downtown

500 East First Street  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(866) 440-3390

### Hyatt Regency Long Beach

200 South Pine Avenue,  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(562) 491-1234

### Renaissance Hotel

111 East Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(562) 437-5900

### Long Beach Marriott (near the airport)

4700 Airport Plaza Drive  
Long Beach, CA 90815  
(562) 425-5210

### Holiday Inn at the Long Beach Airport

2640 N. Lakewood Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90815  
(562) 597-4401

### Best Western Hotel at the Convention Center

517 E 1st Street  
Long Beach, CA, 90802  
(562) 285-0281

## Event Sponsored by:

Southern California Nevada Conference  
United Church of Christ  
2401 N. Lake Ave.  
Altadena, CA 91001  
Phone: 626-798-8082  
Fax: 626-798-6648  
Email: roberts@scncucc.org

for details see [www.scncucc.org](http://www.scncucc.org)

Sponsored by  
Southern California  
Nevada Conferences



**For Pastors,  
Lay Leaders &  
Growth Teams**

**February  
19-20, 2010**

**First Congregational Church  
Long Beach, CA**

details at [www.scncucc.org](http://www.scncucc.org)

# Keynote Speakers



### Rev. Anthony B. Robinson

Tony has served four congregations, the latest being Plymouth Church in downtown Seattle. His present ministry is a multi-faceted one. He travels throughout North America as a speaker, teacher, preacher, consultant and coach serving congregations and their leaders. He has taught at several schools including Emmanuel College/ Toronto School of Theology, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University and Vancouver School of Theology.

He is the President of Congregational Leadership Northwest, a Seattle-based ecumenical group that offers leadership education and support for congregational leaders.

Tony is the author of nine books, the most recent Changing the Conversation: A Third Way for Congregations, published by Eerdmans Publishing Company in 2008. He is at work on two new books, one on preaching and leadership, the other on Scripture and ethics. He is also a frequent contributor to various magazines and journals, including The Christian Century, Congregations, and Perspectives. Tony also writes for the Northwest on-line newsource, crosscut.com.

### Rev. Michael Piazza

Michael is a spiritual visionary, author and social justice advocate who currently serves as Dean of the Cathedral of Hope, a congregation of the United Church of Christ, known as the world's largest liberal Christian church with a predominantly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender outreach, as well as President of Hope for Peace and Justice, a non-profit ministry of Cathedral of Hope whose mission is equipping progressive people of faith to be champions for peace and justice.

A native of Georgia, Rev. Piazza has served in ministry for more than three decades, pastoring churches in Texas, Georgia, Oklahoma and Florida. He holds Bachelor Degrees in history and psychology from Valdosta State College in Georgia and a Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology, Emory University in Atlanta.

The "Advocate" magazine named Rev. Piazza one of the most influential people in the gay and lesbian movement (August 1999). His published books include Gay by God: How to be Lesbian or Gay and Christian (formerly Holy Homosexuals), Queeries: Questions Lesbians and Gays have for God, The Real antiChrist: How America Sold its Soul and Prophetic Renewal: Hope for the Liberal Church, designed to help restore vitality to liberal congregations. He currently is at work on Confessions of a Rain-maker about fundraising in difficult times. Rev. Piazza and his partner Bill have been together since 1980 and have two daughters.



details at [www.scncucc.org](http://www.scncucc.org)

# Worship Experiences

At this Event, you will have the opportunity to experience the incredible range of UCC worship styles in Southern California & Nevada. Each worship experience will feature a sampling of typical worship singing from that church tradition, a short message that helps you understand the history and rationale for that worship style, and provides an opportunity for you to participate in worship in this cultural setting:

## Experience I Samoan

## Experience II Emergent

## Experience III Latino

With these experiences and at least 3 of the Special Subject presentations, you can return with a series of ideas about how to make your worship experience more attractive to both new worshipers and your current membership.

**For More Information**

<http://www.scncucc.org>

Phone: (626) 798-8082

E-mail: [Roberts@scncucc.org](mailto:Roberts@scncucc.org)

# Special Subjects

**MORNING (10:20 am — 11:50 am)**

## Good to Great: Membership to Discipleship

Turning Volunteers into Spiritual Leaders

Led by Rev. Cameron Trimble & Rev. Hamleth Terrones —

Lay Leadership Training is a key part of developing a Vital Church, and yet few UCC churches do much more in this area of their life than a New Membership Class and a Nominating Committee. This offering will help you think about how you implement a Lay Leadership Training plan to address this critical need for most churches.

## Visual Arts in Worship

Creating Sacred Space

Led by Rev. Susan Brecht —

Rev. Brecht will be illustrating a series of ways to keep the space where your church worships fresh for both regular worshipers and visitors, with a series of decoration ideas that can significantly deepen the worship experience.

## Alternative Styles of Worship

Contemporary, Emergent and Beyond

Led by Michael Carlson & John McLain —

Adding a worship service with a distinct style is the easiest way for a church to reach out to new people. This offering is for anyone thinking about how to update or add a worship service to respond to the diversity of preferences in worship styles in the community they serve. Leaders will help you find music and other Resources and discuss the politics of new worship with your existing members.

## Finding Your Niche

Becoming Something That Others Aren't

Led by Rev. Paul Nickerson —

The time has past when a church could rely solely on a denominational identity for its own identity. Also, many people today barely know who the UCC is. This session will help you envision and develop an identity that is distinct from other churches in your community.

## Narrative Budgets

Explaining the Money through Mission

Led by Rev. Jake Pomeroy —

This workshop by the regional representative of the Cornerstone Fund introduces the narrative budget or Mission Spending Plan. Learn how to re-format your budget to more fully describe your church's various ministries so that members can see themselves and the programs they value in the church budget. The workshop includes hands-on practice and generates lots of great ideas and conversation.

## Turning Tippers into Tithers:

Stewardship Strategies for Growing Churches

Led by Rev. Michael Piazza —

Members of Vital Churches are excited for their opportunity to further the ministry where they worship, learn, and serve. Most new members don't start there, obviously. And even long-time members often don't understand that their stewardship is part of their discipleship.

## Making Church Boards into Spiritual Leaders

Led by Rev. Jane Fisler Hoffman & Tony Robinson —

Church boards are often filled with people that love their church, but don't entirely understand the nature of their work on the Board. This conversation will help the members of your church boards re-envision their service as a form of spiritual leadership.

**AFTERNOON (1:15 pm — 2:45 pm)**

## Moderator as Church Leader

Led by Rev. Jane Fisler Hoffman —

Have you just been elected Moderator of your church? Jane will be leading a panel discussion with experienced moderators about the nature of your calling.

## Social Media

A Tool for Building Community

Led by Keith Clark —

An introduction to the world of Web 2.0 sites like Facebook, Twitter & Blogging and how these tools can help you build community in your church.

## Strategic Planning

A Tool for Growth

Led by Rev. Felix Villanueva —

A common vision is important to a church's vitality. Strategic planning is one effective way of developing a common vision in congregations. Come hear how this has worked in one congregation, and how you could use this process in your congregation.

## Unbinding The Gospel

Led by Rev. Paul Nickerson —

Among other things, Paul coaches churches in all-church study of Unbinding Your Heart. "This book is about untying the knots that keep us from living exciting lives" ... with God and with each other. It's also a prayer journal with many forms of classic Christian prayer included in the daily prayers that accompany the study. Come hear how this might work at your church.

## Blended Worship

Worship for New Folks AND Old Folks

Led by Rev. Michael Piazza —

Many congregations want to reach a larger segment of their community, but also desire to continue as a single worshipping community. Rev. Piazza will discuss his experience in designing worship that meets these twin goals, and provide guidance for how to plan blended worship in your church.

## Want More Members?

Led by Rev. Cameron Trimble —

Every congregation needs new members in order to have a vital ministry, if only to replace members that move or pass away. Cameron will show you a series of strategies, administrative tricks, and IT tools that will give you tools to grow your membership.

## Good Little (or Big) Ideas

A Sharing of Best Practices from Churches

Led by Rev. Heather Miner —

The Vitality Event's Planning Team will be asking churches to offer ideas that can be shared with other church leaders. This time with Rev. Miner will be for you to present and explain a practice you have found effective, and also learn from the best practices of other SCNC churches.

## Conference Registration Fees

**Event Registration: \$95**

*Includes Friday Dinner & Saturday Lunch)  
available to registrations received prior to February 5, 2010*

**Late Registration Fee: \$20**

*for all registrations received after February 5, 2010*

**Child Care: (Suggested Donation) \$40**

*(available to registrations received prior to February 5, 2010)*

**Pre-Event Registration: N/C**

**Pre-Event Child Care: (Suggested Donation) \$10**

*(available to registrations received prior to February 5, 2010)*

## Two Ways To Register

online with your M/C or Visa



at

[www.signmeup.com/67790](http://www.signmeup.com/67790)

Or

By Mail with a check



Paper Registration forms are available at all UCC churches.

**For More Information**

<http://www.scncucc.org>

Phone: (626) 798-8082

E-mail: [Roberts@scncucc.org](mailto:Roberts@scncucc.org)