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Church Vitality

**For Pastors,
Lay Leaders &
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Sponsored by
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**UNITED CHURCH
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*February 1-2
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Success Stories



Rev. Laurene Beth Bowers

First Congregational UCC
Randolph, MA

When Rev. Bowers arrived in 1998, the congregation was concerned that the demographics were shifting in their community, but the membership did not reflect that change. Through an intentional process, the church moved through the wilderness and has become a multicultural congregation.

*Rev. Bowers is the author of *Becoming a Multicultural Church* (Pilgrim Press, 2006) and *Designing Contemporary Congregations* (Pilgrim Press, release date 2008). Dr. Bowers is also Adjunct Professor of World Religions at Quincy College. She is an 8 time Boston Marathoner and an avid quilter.*

details at www.scncucc.org



**Rev. Ama Zenya & Rev.
Lynise Pinkard**

First Congregational Church of
Oakland, CA

Over the last 6 years, First Congregational of Oakland has learned to intentionally engage people of all racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds, ages, abilities and sexual orientation in building a multicultural, spirit-led, peace-and-justice community. In the process, the worshiping community has also tripled in size, and the church campus has become an active community center for people of all faiths.

Big Ideas

choose one

Take a Pulse - - - on YOUR church's vitality — Rev. David Schoen, Evangelism Team Leader, Local Church Ministries

The communities our churches serve today are very different than the world in which many of us grew up. Come hear the latest thinking about why and how to reach out to people in an increasingly pluralistic and unchurched world. Experience some of the resources available through the UCC's StillSpeaking Initiative and the Congregational Vitality Initiative, resources that you can take home to make an immediate difference in your church's ministry.

Step into a whole new world: the multicultural church — Rev. Eric H. F. Law from *Kaleidoscope Institute*

The cultural diversity in many of our communities is increasing rapidly, and yet most of our churches serve only one cultural group within their community. Eric will help us begin to understand some of the assumptions and attitudes which worked for our churches a decade or two ago, but will need to be re-thought for churches to remain viable in the future.

411 - - - Web Sites that Invite — David McCollough, Webmaster, Cathedral of Hope, Dallas TX

As recently as 5 years ago, church web sites were simple and inexpensive ways to advertise, but little more. In the last few years, web sites have become the principal way new people find churches, where communities of like-minded people can gather, and relationships are formed around common interests. Today, even a small church's web site is potentially a powerful communication tool that is interactive, engaging, and geographically unlimited. Come to hear learn how your web site can become the focus of a whole new ministry team at your church, with the possibility of transforming everything from your newsletter to how you connect with people interested in your church's ministries.

Special Subjects



SESSION A— CHOOSE ONE

Roundtable with SCNC/SWC Multicultural Churches – What can we learn from them that is useful in other SCNC/SWC churches Led by Rev. Rosario Ibarra

Basic Tools for Diverse Communities – Experience 3 helpful tools in beginning cross cultural dialogue in our own churches. Drawn from the experience, work and wisdom of Eric H.F. Law of Kaleidoscope Institute – Led by Rev. Jake Pomeroy

Different strokes in Worship – The different styles of worship that appeal to different generations - Rev. Cameron Trimble

Cool Tools for Web Ministry – Blogs, Podcasting & other exotica that can build existing communities, and reach new and younger communities. David McCollough

One Brick at a Time – Build your church with Justice – Revs. Randy Mayer & Joe McGowan

Starting a small-group ministry – How to implement this key ministry that can keep a church “small” and intimate as it grows - Rev. Hamleth Terrones

Q& A with Laurene – A chance to follow up with Rev. Laurene Bowers

YOUR Congregation's Vitality – time to follow-up with Rev. David Schoen

SESSION B – CHOOSE ONE

Diversity Training in My Church – SCNC Programs & assistance for building community in diversity in a local church—Rev. Rosario Ibarra

What are we afraid of? – An exploration of some reasons multicultural churches are uncommon in a multicultural world – Rev. Jake Pomeroy, Rev. James McKnight, Rev. Lee Tanuvasa and Pastor Guillermo Fernandez

Roundtable with New Churches in SCNC/SWC – What can we learn from them that is useful in other SCNC/SWC churches Led by Rev. Hamleth Terrones

Holy Conversations – Learning to talk about our faith and our UCC church - Richard Peace

Evoking Creativity – incorporating people's stories into the worship experience – Rev. Katharine Harts

Emergent Church – The coffee-house (or wherever) movement – Revs. Cameron Trimble & Randy Mayer

STAYING on the message!! – Tools to keep a church from becoming known as “that church,” but for the wrong reasons - Charlie Cutler

Q&A with Ama & Lenise – Follow up with Revs. Ama Zenya & Lenise Pinkard

Conference Registration Fees*

All-inclusive Registration: \$130

OR -

A La Carte Registration:

Conference Fee: \$95

PLUS

Friday Dinner: \$25

Saturday breakfast: \$10

Saturday lunch: \$15

* **Hotel Registration is separate**

Parking is \$5.00 w/ registration

or

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For More Information

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