

WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE E-MEMO

September 13, 2011

*A weekly communication for:
WDC Churches and Pastors*

WDC Executive Board, Commission, Committee and Task Force members

Any content may be used in bulletins and newsletters and forwarded to congregational leaders and members.

WDC E-Memo is also available at: www.mennowdc.org (Conference Life / Publications)

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Pastoral Openings

(Congregational Information Forms can be viewed at: www.mennowdc.org, Conference Life / Pastoral Openings)

Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS - Lead Pastor

Bethel Mennonite Church, Inman, KS - Youth Pastor

First Mennonite Church, Clinton, OK - Pastor

First Mennonite Church of Christian, Moundridge, KS - Pastor

News/Transitions

Jerry Acosta has begun as the church planter at the new WDC church plant in Wichita, KS - Manos de Cristo Iglesia Menonita.

WDC Announcements

1. Greetings from the WDC Immigration Task Force (Cheryl Crichley, Gail Goeke, Nathan Koontz, Nita Nikkel, Marty Troyer, Karin Kaufman Wall) At the recent WDC Assembly in July, our group heard a personal story from a member of one of our churches. He graduated from high school this past year and is undocumented. He has lived in the United States most of his life. The following paragraph is something he wrote to share with the churches regarding support of the DREAM Act.

"From my childhood I always perceived something was odd from the places we lived to the cars we drove, but life went on. I never was the trouble maker. I always managed to win "Student of the Month" in elementary school. From there I went to magnet schools throughout middle and high school, never attending a home school where many get wrapped into skipping, fighting, and doing drugs. I simply faded into society as another American student, however always mindful of who I was, where I came from, and the situation I was dealt. For the past five years I've been volunteering with the fire department in the city I live in. A huge door clearly God has opened. It's a program the city established for teenagers who possess an interest in Fire and E.M.S services.

Leaving out the evident factors for coming to this country as a child, my story begins at the age of five or six when I attended my school's fall festival where everyone was allowed to dress up and roam the grounds playing carnival games. My mom bought me a one piece plastic Sylvester the Cat costume for that event. I argued that I would in no shape or form wear a cat costume in public. So she took me to the store the second time and I got to choose the costume of my liking. I left the store with a fire fighter costume with a helmet and name tag. Ten years later around 2006 up until present day, I have the privilege of wearing real fire fighting gear and a nice uniform with my last name displayed proudly on my chest. Clearly God has been with me. I walk into jails, hospitals, and restricted areas. I've tended to the homeless, the drug addicts and inmates. I've seen people pass away before my eyes, and even tended to an F.B.I agent. No one would guess my situation, not even the guys at the station. It's bitter sweet. My world comes to a screeching stop as well. A few of my buddies are applying for the fire department and are inches away from a job offer while I sit back and watch; others have jobs that fill their wallets, many have a license and drive without worries. Currently I'm going to a community college and hopefully in the near future transfer to a university to pursue a degree in Emergency Management & Planning. The road I walk has taken many turns and is tiring, but my dreams and desires will not shift. It's in my blood to serve, rescue, and help. Although I can't help but wonder and question what my life would be like today if I had worn that cat costume!" (see attached picture)

It is highly unlikely that he would be able to serve as a fireman without the DREAM Act or Comprehensive Immigration Reform being passed. As it stands now, the path to citizenship for people immigrating from some countries to the United States is several years (anywhere from 10 to 20 years in many cases). Therefore, the WDC Immigration Task Force would like to share with you the opportunity to speak out and take action on the DREAM Act this fall. MCC shared with us that faith groups all across the country will be holding DREAM Sabbath events in their churches/synagogues/universities between September 16 and October 9. If your congregation would like to participate and you would like more information, visit http://hq-org2.democracynaction.org/o/5764/t/0/blastContent.jsp?email_blast_KEY=1174582.

2. Scrapbooking! We could write an exciting announcement about all the fun and snazzy stuff that happens at our Scrapbooking Retreat at Camp Mennoscah from Sept. 30-Oct. 2, but you'd think we were exaggerating. (And we might, just a little, but it's a really great retreat.) Check out the brochure at www.mennowdc.org in the Coming Events section or give us a call for more information at [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290).

3. Work & Play Camp is NOW! From Sept. 18-22, folks of all ages and assortments will be headed to Camp Mennoscah for some work and play fun. It's not too late to let us know that you'd like to join us--give us a call so we can add you to our meal count and then come on out! Have questions about this service-oriented, game-playing retreat? Call us at [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290) or email us at campmno@mennowdc.org It's a fun time (and great for camp, too)!

4. Diamond Celebration gem: The Resource Library of the Western District Conference was served in the early years by Katie Andres who was paid \$3.00 per

week and in 1944 classified all books by the Dewey Decimal System. Helene Goertz served from 1950-63 and the "Loan Library" grew to over 4000 volumes. Blanche Spaulding provided innovative workshops for church librarians, started a children's story hour and assisted college students in their teacher education classes. Her ministry spanned 25 years (1963-1988). After Roseanne Goebel's two-year librarianship, Marlene Bogard was named to that position in 1990 and continues today! Thanks be to God for these faithful servants who mark the 75th anniversary of the Resource Library this year.

5. Eden Mennonite Church, Inola, Oklahoma will host their 7th Country Festival on Saturday, September 24 from 7:30 am - 2:00 pm. A pancake and sausage breakfast will be served from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. There will be activities for everyone, including carriage rides, a free kids' place which includes kiddie train rides, Jupiter Jump, campfire storytime with Cowboy Short and country fair fun games. An auction begins at 9:30 featuring quilts, antiques, a completely furnished doll house, a refurbished 1960 Rockola juke box and many other items. Various demonstrations will be featured throughout the day including antique wood-sawing and making apple butter. There will be many original crafts, a silent auction, bake sale, homemade jams and jellies and kettle corn, and a variety of food booths, including ethnic foods such as Borscht soup, zwieback, German sausage, bratwurst and peppernuts. Music includes Eden's young men's quartet and Cornerstone. An adjacent attraction will be an Amish "Horsin' Around" arena. Proceeds will benefit Mennonite Central Committee Meat Canning, Eden-supported missionaries and the Church Building Fund. Eden Mennonite Church is located at 21905 East 600 Road - 1 1/2 miles south of Highway 412 on the Mayes/Rogers county line. For information call [918-543-2739](tel:918-543-2739) or visit our website at: www.edenmennonite.com.

MC USA Announcements

1. The Mennonite Church USA Newton offices will hold an open house on Thursday, Sept. 15, from 4 to 6 p.m. at 718 N. Main St., Newton, Kan. Everyone is welcome to come meet churchwide staff and Executive Board members of Mennonite Church USA and to tour the newly renovated offices.

2. ATTENTION ALL QUILTERS SAVE THE DATE - October 18, 7:00pm Hesston Mennonite Church 309 S. Main, Hesston, KS: The Quilters Corner and Quilt Committees of the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale invite women of all ages to an evening of information and entertainment featuring Dava Carrell of Winfield, KS. She will be speaking on "WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR LEFTOVERS" and showing many quilts she has made. Dava bought 1 1/2" strips of Aunt Graces material last year at Quilters' Corner and will be showing us how she put a quilt together using the leftover strips. Dava is a long time quilter who has taught classes and lectured extensively in Kansas and surrounding states, as well as judging at the Kansas State Fair. Bring a friend and come prepared to get excited about making quilts, etc. for our MCC Sale. For more information contact: Pam Hostetler-[620-327-2378](tel:620-327-2378), Ruth Vogt-[620-327-4570](tel:620-327-4570)

3. Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary-Great Plains Extension is sponsoring coffee

and a book signing at 9 a.m. on September 24 with Dr. Walter Brueggemann. Brueggemann will be presenting lectures in Wichita titled "Loving the World in Transformational Ways" and "The Evangelical Food Fight" September 23-24, 2011. Dr. Brueggemann, one of the world's leading authorities on the Old Testament, sees "the Bible (as) essentially an open, artistic, imaginative narrative of God's staggering care for the world." He challenges the church to "live faithfully in a world that is increasingly multicultural." The week-end events will be held at University Congregational Church, 9209 E. 29th Street North, Wichita. For more information call the church at [316-634-0430](tel:316-634-0430); cyndi@uccchurch.org. Registration brochures are available at AMBS-Great Plains office, 2505 N. Main Street, N. Newton, Kansas. (See attached.)

4. Online and face-to-face resources from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary

Webinars (Join from anywhere in North America)

Advent Planning: Awesome deeds we do not expect

Presenters: Marlene Kropf and Rosanna McFadden

Tuesday, October 18, 7:30-8:45 p.m. EDT [Get details and register by October 14](#)

Engaging the Bible in the Congregation

Presenter: Robert J. Suderman

Tuesday, November 8, 1:45-3:00 p.m. EST [Get details and register by November 4](#)

Identity crisis in the pulpit: What is the preacher's purpose and authority?

Presenter: Ryan Ahlgrim

Wednesday, November 16, 2:00-3:30 p.m. EST [Get details & register by November 12](#)

Workshops

Advent Planner: Awesome deeds we do not expect

Presenters: Marlene Kropf and Rosanna McFadden

Friday, October 7 [Get details and register by September 23](#)

Difficult Issues--Congregational Discernment--Faithful Living

Presenter: Robert J. (Jack) Suderman

Thursday, October 13 [Get details and register by September 29](#)

Pastors and Business Leaders: Partners in leadership and ministry?

Presenter: David B. Miller

Thursday, November 3

Offered in Lancaster, Pa., in conjunction with Mennonite Economic Development Associates convention [Get details and register by October 1](#)

Coming in January

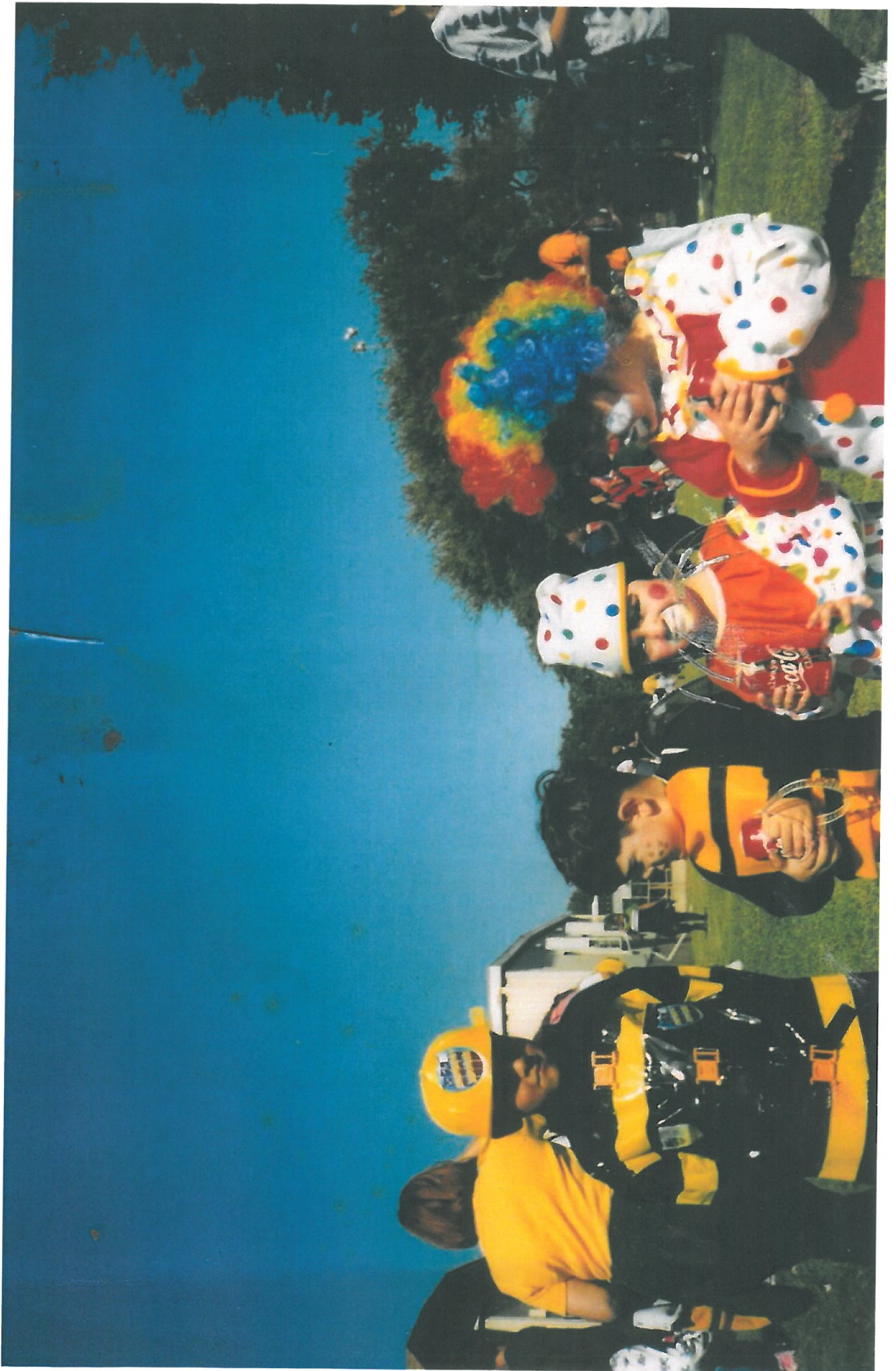
Leadership Clinics Monday, January 23

- **Turning Disgust, Demoralization and Depression into Empowerment for Ministry**--Gregory A. Hinkle
- **Immigration and the Congregation**--Iris de Leon-Hartshorn, Saulo Padilla, and Andre Gingerich Stoner
- **Gathering for New Pastors**--Linford King, Karen Martens Zimmerly
- God's Story, Worship and the Arts--Rebecca Slough

[Get details and register by January 5.](#)

See a full listing of AMBS Church Leadership Center events
<http://www.ambs.edu/programs-institutes/clc/workshops/leadership-clinics>

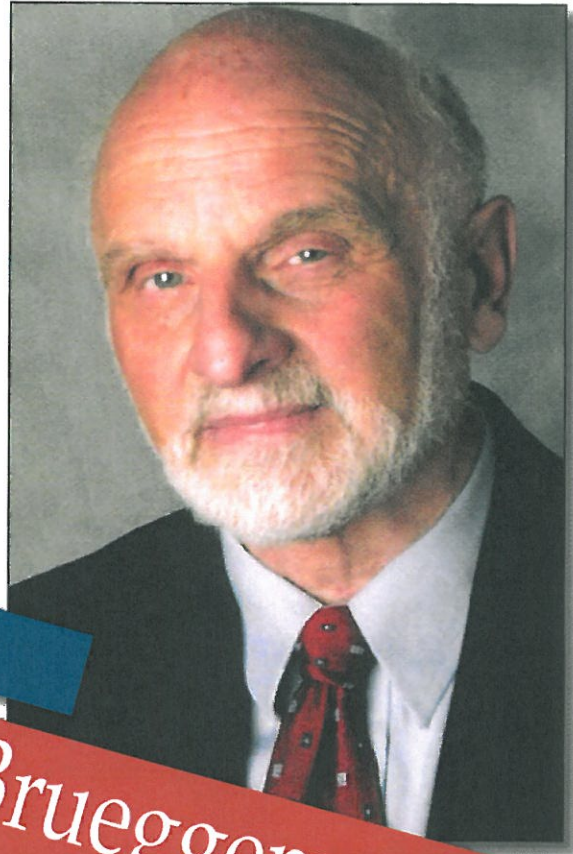
Western District Conference
2517 North Main, PO Box 306
North Newton KS 67117
[316-283-6300](tel:316-283-6300); FAX: [316-283-0620](tel:316-283-0620)
Email: wdc@mennowdc.org
Website: www.mennowdc.org



Robert Meyers Lecture Series 2011

“Renowned scholar Walter Brueggemann mines Old Testament biblical narratives for interpretations applicable to contemporary capitalistic states and presents a counter-narrative: trusting in God’s abundance and obeying God’s economic commandments frees people to be good neighbors.”

-Publishers Weekly, on his book, Journey to the Common Good



A Weekend With
Dr. Walter Brueggemann
September 23rd – 25th

Friday, September 23rd
7:00 pm Lecture: Dr. Walter Brueggemann
8:00 pm Wine & Cheese Reception
for all attendees

Saturday, September 24th
9:00 am Coffee & Book Signing
10:00 am Lecture: Dr. Walter Brueggemann

Sunday, September 25th
10:30 am Worship Service

“If this is God’s world and if the rule of love is at work, then our mandate is not draw into a cocoon of safety; rather, it is to be out and alive in the world in concrete acts and policies whereby the fearful anxiety among us is dispatched and adversaries can be turned into allies and to friends.”

-from his book, Mandate to Difference

For More Information:



universitycongregationalchurch

9209 E. 29th Street North · Wichita, KS 67226
316-634-0430 · www.ucchurch.org

Tickets & Sponsorship

\$25/person Friday night
\$15/person Saturday morning
\$35/person for both sessions

Series Sponsorship

Gold Sponsor (8 tickets) \$500
Silver Sponsor (4 tickets) \$250
Bronze Sponsor (2 tickets) \$100

All sponsors will receive tickets for both sessions.

Registration Form

Please reserve...

- Tickets \$25/person Friday night
- Tickets \$15/person Saturday morning
- Tickets \$35/person for both sessions

Sign me up!

Series Sponsorship

--- Gold (8 tickets) \$500
--- Silver (4 tickets) \$250
--- Bronze (2 tickets) \$100

Send my tickets to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St _____ Zip _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

Please enclose this panel in an envelope with your payment and mail to:

University Congregational Church
9209 E. 29th Street North
Wichita, KS 67226

For More Information: www.ucchurch.org
316-634-0430 • cyndi@ucchurch.org



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Robert Meyers
Lecture Series 2011



A Weekend With

Dr. Walter Brueggemann

September 23rd - 25th



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316-634-0430 · www.ucchurch.org

Friday, September 23

7:00 pm Lecture: *Loving the World in Transformational Ways*

8:00 pm Wine & Cheese Reception for all attendees

Saturday, September 24

9:00 am Coffee & Book Signing sponsored by



Web site: www.ambss.edu/GreatPlains
2505 N. Main Street/PO. Box 306
North Newton, Kansas, 67117
316-283-7098; eraid@ambss.edu

10:00 am Lecture: *The Evangelical Food Fight*

11:30 am Clergy Lunch by reservation

Lecture: *Prophetic Preaching in a Society of Loss*

Sunday, September 25

10:30 am Worship Service
Sermon by Dr. Brueggemann

Child care will be provided. Guarantee your space today by sending in your reservation.



In honor of our founding minister, Dr. Robert Meyers, the Robert Meyers Lecture Series was established fall of 2008.

LODGING:

A block of hotel rooms are reserved at the Marriot Courtyard at the corner of Webb and 29th St. N. at a cost of \$87.00 per room plus tax. When making a reservation they need to refer to the UCC Lecture. Rooms will be held until Sept. 2nd.



Meet Our Guest Lecturer

Dr. Walter Brueggemann

Standing at the juncture of an economic recession, a continuing war on terrorism, deadlock in Washington, and the decline of American Protestantism is Dr. Walter Brueggemann. He wonders what authority the Bible still carries and how it will impact the life, faith, and practice of Christian congregations. How does the church live faithfully in a world that is increasingly multicultural as it is increasingly xenophobic? In the midst of all of this Brueggemann consistently asks, "What of the common good?"

Dr. Walter Brueggemann is the emeritus professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary. The author of 58 books and hundreds of articles and lectures, he is a much sought after speaker. He is acclaimed by many to be the world's leading authority on the Old Testament.

“The Bible is essentially an open, artistic, imaginative narrative of God’s staggering care for the world.”

— Dr. Walter Brueggemann



Rev. Dr. Gary Blaine

About University Congregational Church

Welcome to UCC! We are a progressive Christian Congregation where the head, heart, and hands are equal partners in faith. Our Christian Education offers experiential curriculum for children, youth, and adults. Music is one of the premier qualities of UCC, featuring a scholarship program for college students who are voice or music majors in local colleges. UCC's Outreach ministries include such programs as the Head to Toe Hygiene Pantry and the Community in Schools holiday gift program.

Our senior minister is the Rev. Dr. Gary Blaine who is charged to offer intellectual and inspiring sermons. He is also an adjunct teacher at Phillips Theological Seminary in the area of Church and Society.