

Welcome



September 17-20, 2026 ♦ Sioux Falls, South Dakota

JAM 2026 Sponsors

Eden Theological School (Silver)

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, MN (Bronze) – Alumni Lunch Sponsor

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary (Bronze)

Zion UCC Burlington IA -The UBUNTU Project Ministry of Inclusivity (TFAM) (Bronze)

The National UCC Mental Health Network (Bronze)

Our Whole Lives Ministries – UCC/UUA (Bronze)

UCC – Love of Church: Faith Education, Innovation and Formation Ministry Team

(Faith INFO) UCC (Bronze) – Confirmand/Youth Rally Dinner Sponsor

A special thank you to Kamp Kaleo for co-sponsoring and supporting the

Confirmand/Youth Rally Pizza Dinner

Experience Sioux Falls, SD (Bronze)



Welcome

from Our Conference Minister Rev. Roberto Ochoa

Welcome delegates and guests to Iowa Nebraska South Dakota Conferences' biennial Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) 2026 at First Congregational and Spirit of Peace UCC, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

On behalf of the UCC Tri Conference Ministries staff, Tri Conference Executive Committee, IA NE SD Boards of Directors, and volunteers, we are thrilled to have you join us for three days of fellowship, workshops, and worship. I am especially happy to welcome the UCC Confirmands from Iowa Nebraska South Dakota attending a special youth rally during JAM. The youth rally planners have created an exciting two days' worth of activities that will be inspirational, fun and engaging. JAM is also proud to present a youth-led contemporary worship service on Friday evening, after pizza! Rev Brian Frederick-Gray, Director for Justice and Advocacy Ministries for Disciples Home Missions, Disciples of Christ (DOC) is our guest preacher for the evening, along with the Worship Band from Placerville UCC, the Red Sea Pedestrians.

I am so grateful for the hard work from our host churches, First Congregational and Spirit of Peace UCC, their staff and their members that have worked so hard to make this gathering of all three of our conferences as joyous as possible. Saturday worship will feature a joint Iowa Nebraska South Dakota choir. We are fortunate to have the newly elected UCC National Ministries Associate General Minister for the Love of Church, Rev Jennifer Sowell to be our guest preacher and keynote speaker. Welcome Rev Jennifer.

I am so grateful for the dedication of our ministerial and administrative staff to lead the planning, from registration and hospitality to workshops and worship. We hope that you will experience new connections, new experiences, and make new friends along with greeting old friends as well. Thank you to our sponsors and marketplace vendors that help support this year's JAM. We so appreciate your financial support and presence.

Most of all, thank YOU for being with us here in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For we make up the Church together. We will be having conversations that will inform us of our future as we reflect and discern 10 years of being part of the TCM. There is no denying we are at a crossroads, and I couldn't be more privileged and honored to be on this journey with y'all.

So let us explore the theme "Living Together as Neighbors in Christ". May the Holy Spirit of wisdom, courage, comfort and compassion guide us together this week in the faith, hope, and love of Jesus' Name.

Bendiciones y Paz,
Rev Roberto

Our Hosts

First Congregational Church UCC

300 South Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls, South Dakota

First Congregational UCC in Sioux Falls, SD welcomes you to Sioux Falls and to JAM. We are excited to share our city with all its historic architecture and growing downtown area. We hope that among the workshops and work that needs to happen at this meeting that you have an opportunity to wander around our city and see what Sioux Falls offers. We hope that you will be inspired by the arc of Dreams which spans the river perchance to dream together for our churches and our communities.

Welcome to Sioux Falls and to JAM.

Rev. Carol Hallman

Pastor

First Congregational Church



Spirit of Peace UCC

6509 S Cliff Ave., Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Spirit of Peace UCC in Sioux Falls, South Dakota welcomes you to JAM! We are excited to host the pre-conference workshops and provide space for Nebraska and South Dakota to meet for their annual meetings. We look forward to sharing coffee, meals, and connections together as we gather as Neighbors in Christ.

Rev. Becky Pagone

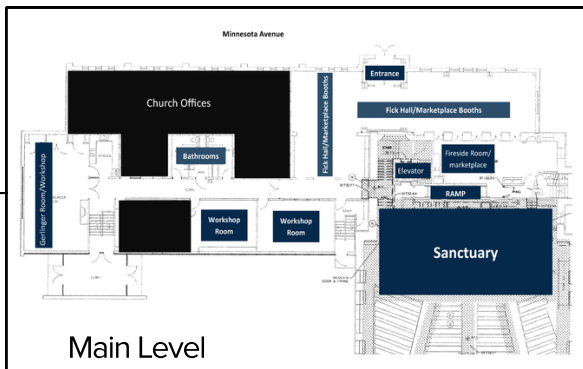
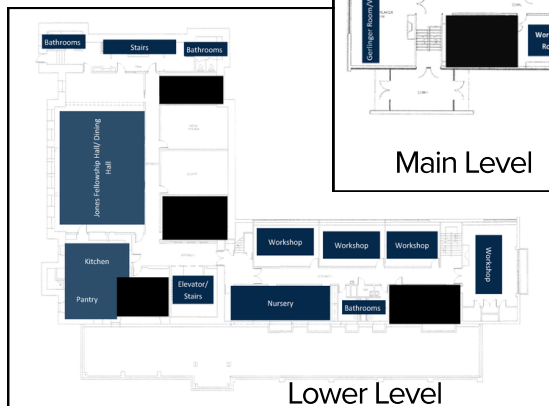
Pastor

Spirit of Peace UCC

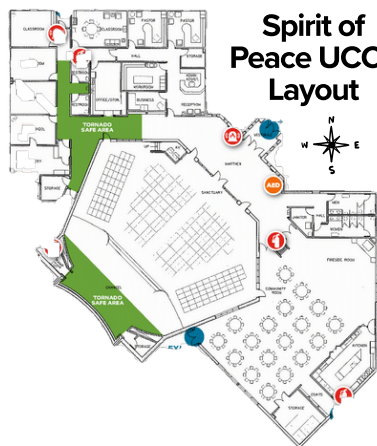


Getting Around

First Congregational Church - Layout



Spirit of Peace UCC - Layout



Scan the QR Code for MAPS for parking in the area and driving directions to and from First Congregational and Spirit of Peace



THE - NEED - TO - KNOW



If needing assistance or information during our time together, look for volunteers in **purple t-shirts**, leis or ask me pins.

Transportation is available for those with limited mobility from the Holiday Inn to First Congregational and will also be available to go to and from First Congregational and Spirit of Peace. Look for signs posted throughout the church for the shuttle schedule.



You can find a map/listing of restaurants in the area and their locations on our website. Visit <https://ucctcm.org/accomodations-restaurants-experience-sioux-falls/> or scan the QR code to the left.

What do the different colors of T-shirts represent?

- Yellow - Iowa UCC
- Green - Nebraska UCC
- Light Blue - South Dakota UCC
- Purple - Volunteers
- Red - Deacons
- Salmon - IA, NE, SD Staff



Event Schedule

Friday

18

11-5 Registration/Check-In Open
 11:30 Contemplative Prayer Lunch+
 (meet @ First Cong. front doors)
 12-5 Marketplace
 2-3 Welcome & Opening Devotional
 3:30-5 Youth Rally & Workshops I**
 5:30-6:30 Pizza Dinner Program
 7-9 Youth Led Worship Service

Saturday

19

8:00-5:00 Registration/ Check-In Open
 12-4 Marketplace
 9-12 Conferences Annual Meeting*
 12-1 Lunch
 2-3 JAM Assembly
 3:30-5 Youth Rally & Workshops II**
 6-7 Dinner (prior registration required)
 7:30-9 Closing Worship

Sunday

20

Join Us for Worship

8:30/10:30 am First Congregational Church
 with Rev. Jennifer Sowell
 10:30 am Spirit of Peace UCC
 with Rev. Roberto Ochoa

*Conferences Annual Meetings

Iowa Conference at First Congregational Church
 Nebraska Conference at Spirit of Peace UCC
 South Dakota Conference at Spirit of Peace UCC

**WORKSHOP I - Friday (please choose one)

- A Place at the Table - A Presentation by Evangelical Conservative Orthodox or Traditional Ministries (ECOT) of the United Church of Christ
- New Earth Literacy
- Called to Serve? Exploring Lay Ministry and Ministry Education, The Nebraska LAMP program. Open to All!
- Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)
- Growing Hope Ministries: Rural Churches Changing the World
- The Marks of Faithful and Vital UCC Churches

**WORKSHOP II - Saturday (please choose one)

- Open and Affirming in Small Town and Rural Churches
- Talk Saves Lives
- Artificial Intelligence: A Reader's Digest Introduction for the Church
- Strengthening Our Connections

Keynote Speakers

Rev. Jennifer Sowell



Rev. Jennifer Sowell is the Associate General Minister for Love of Church. She was recently elected to this position at a special online meeting of the General Synod on May 9, 2026.

Rev. Sowell has over 20 years of proven pastoral experience as Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor of United Church of Christ congregations in three Conferences. Her experiences in programmatic

design and implementation are intergenerational. She has served in small town congregations, in large congregations and brings a broad experience and understanding of the church that reflects the diversity of the wider church. She currently serves as the Senior Pastor of St. John United Church of Christ in Collinsville, IL, a town of approximately 24,000 people, east of St. Louis, Missouri, in the Illinois South Conference. *(Rev. Sowell's complete bio can be found at: <https://ucctcm.org/keynote-speakers/>)*

Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray



Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and currently serves as the Director for Justice and Advocacy Ministries for Disciples Home Missions (DHM), a role he began in September 2023. In this position, he leads DHM's coordinated efforts in refugee and immigration ministry, climate change and environmental justice, and racial justice initiatives, while empowering congregations to

use their voices and actions for greater justice and mercy.

He also holds a part-time role as Director of Mission Support & The Peace Intern Program with Disciples Peace Fellowship, where he strengthens connections with the wider church and equips young adults as ambassadors for peace and justice.

Rev. Frederick-Gray resides in Cambridge, MA with his wife, Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray (President of the Unitarian Universalist Association) and their son, Henry. He continues his work with Disciples Peace Fellowship in his current roles. *(Rev. Frederick-Gray's complete bio can be found at: <https://ucctcm.org/keynote-speakers/>)*

Acknowledgements

JAM Planning Team Members

Iowa:

Jane Buck - *Vendor/Sponsorship*
 Dixie Laube - *Tech, T-shirts*
 Frank Shepherd, Jr. - *Worship*

Nebraska:

Penny Greer - *Workshops*
 Brad Hindsley - *Youth Rally*
 Steven Mitchell - *Workshops*
 Sue Shear - *Volunteer/Hospitality*

South Dakota:

Carol Hallman - *Worship*
 Deb Kraft - *Workshops, Youth Rally*
 Doug Wilkinson - *CAIM*

Staff:

Jane Estrada - *Hospitality*
 Kendy Miller - *Workshops*
 Kim Springer - *Registration, Tech, T-shirts, Communications/PR, Volunteer/Hospitality*
 Roberto Ochoa - *Worship, Youth Rally, Vendor/Sponsorship, Catering Communications/PR, Transportation*
 Susan Russell - *Budget/Finance*
 Tami Spindler - *Tech, Communications/PR, Volunteer/Hospitality*

Youth Rally Planning Team Members

Iowa:

Janet Secor
 McKenzie Hinegardner

Nebraska:

Brad Hindsley
 Holly Gage

South Dakota:

Deb Kraft
 Keith Kraft
 Kerry Steever
 Sharla Steever
 Kylie Steever-Laki

First Congregational UCC

Rev. Carol Hallman
 Cameron Sublette
 Deb Hubers
 Lisa Hasting
 Kevin Wehle
 Matthew Frederick
 Naomi Buck

Spirit of Peace UCC

Becky Pagone
 LeAnn Minister

Volunteers

Janel Fillingsness Bak
 Janice Farrell
 Laura Houser Jankord
 Kristi May
 Elaine Miller
 Becky Pagone
 K. Scott Robertson
 Chad Savage
 Kelly Tyrrell

Choir Volunteers

Lisa Gaston
 Janice Farrell
 Nicole Larson
 Ashley Mazur
 Melissa Miller
 Anna Mary Mueller

TCM UCC Board of Directors

Dustin Bartlett, *Chair* - SD
 Erika Breddin - IA
 Bryce Duling, *Treasurer* - IA
 Debra Kraft - SD
 Adam Lassen - NE
 Steven Mitchell - NE
 Scott Meyer - IA
 SueShear, *Secretary* - NE
 Linda Sue Weidenbach, *Vice Chair* - SD

Iowa UCC Board of Directors

Erika Breddin
 Allison Castle
 Jennifer Cohrt
 David Eberbach, *Treasurer*

Paul Lasley
 Scott Meyer, *Chair*
 Daniel Moore
 Heather Santi-Brown
 Janet Secor
 Frank Shepherd, Jr.
 Todd Siefker
 Maxine Tone
 Martha Wolf, *Secretary*
 Alan Yungclas

Nebraska UCC

Board of Directors

Grace Baker
 Jerry Cassidy
 Penny Greer
 Brad Hindsley, *Treasurer*
 Ashley Iliff
 Adam Lassen
 Dan Loven-Crum
 Steven Mitchell, *Vice - President*
 Bobby Parish
 Coral Parmente, *Secretary*
 Randy Sanders
 Sue Shear, *President*

South Dakota UCC

Board of Directors

Dustin Bartlett
 Cherlyn Christiansen
 Wendy Figland
 Deb Kraft, *Chair*
 Allen Schaefer, *Treasurer*
 Barry Rempp
 James Taylor
 Margo Taylor
 Mike Wiederrich
 Doug Wilkinson
 Melinda Williams

TCM UCC Ministerial & Administrative Staff

Rev. Roberto Ochoa - IA, NE, SD UCC
 Conference Minister
 Rev. Kendy Miller, Iowa ACM
 Rev. Corey Larson, Iowa COM
 Rev. Jeff Haggaman, Deacon
 Coordinator
 Rev. Shonda Deranleau, Resource
 Deacon
 Jane Estrada, Admin
 Kailee Swartz - Data Entry Assistant
 Jill Korver, Finance Assistant
 Susan Russell, Financial Director
 Tami Spindler, Communications
 Specialist
 Kim Springer, Executive Admin

Deacons

Iowa:

Rev. Dr. Charles Kniker - *Central*
 Rev. Dixie Laube - *Northeast*
 Rev. Bob Molsberry - *Eastern & Northeast*
 Rev. Chad Savage - *Southeastern & Southwestern*

Nebraska:

Rev. Jeff Hagaman - *Heartland & Living Waters*
 Rev. Shelby Moock - *Prairie*

South Dakota:

Rev. Emily Munger - *Black Hills, Dakota & Oahe*
 Rev. Lorah Houser Jankford - *Prairie Lakes & Twin Rivers*

Thank You to our Sponsors

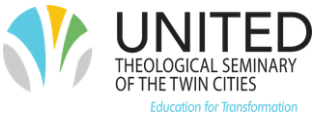
We extend our gratitude to the generous sponsors who helped make the Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) possible. Your support and commitment to our ministry make a meaningful impact.

Because of your generosity, we are able to gather together to worship, renew, reflect and continue the work that makes this ministry important.

Silver Level Sponsor



Bronze Level Sponsors



UNIVERSITY of DUBUQUE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



A special Thank You to Kamp Kaleo for
co-sponsoring and supporting the Confirmand/Youth
Rally Pizza Dinner with Faith INFO