

Welcome to Lovely Long Beach

The Southern California-Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Officers of the Church and the Moderators of the General Synod welcome you to Long Beach, California and the Twenty-ninth General Synod.

Our denominational “family reunion” will be held June 28-July 2, 2013 in the magnificent Long Beach Convention Center overlooking the Pacific Ocean in downtown Long Beach as we contemplate the Synod’s theme **God’s Vision:** _____.

We will gather for lovely worship services, be inspired by prominent speakers, engage in service projects and be entertained. We will conduct the business of the Church, re-electing Geoffrey Black as General Minister and President, Linda Jaramillo as Executive Minister of the Justice and Witness Ministries and elect J. Bennett Guess to his first full term as Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries. We will usher in a new governance structure for the Church and remember and celebrate all the volunteer leaders who have served in the current structure. Delegates will consider a wide range of resolutions and other business, the UCC’s unique method of speaking to the world.

It won’t be all work, work, work; there will be free time for delegates, their families and Synod guests to explore Long Beach and other southern California attractions. The historic ocean liner the Queen Mary, now a floating hotel you may wish to stay at, is moored right across a narrow bay from the convention center. Disneyland is a short ride from Long Beach and downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood are right up the freeway, too. As you walk the palm tree-lined boulevards of downtown Long Beach you will find boutiques, art galleries and wonderful restaurants for any taste and any price range. And, you won’t want to miss a catered luau with music and dances of the South Pacific, hosted by the Conference’s Samoan Ministries Table.

As you plan your trip to Long Beach make arrangements to arrive in time for the Educational Intensives. These primers on the resolution topics were first instituted in Tampa two years ago and proved to be so popular and such a benefit to delegates that we will be conducting them again as the first Synod event, starting at 1:00 on Friday afternoon, June 28th and we will end Synod with a wonderful worship service on Tuesday evening. Synod’s marketplace, the Exhibit Hall, will be open most hours during Synod, again offering the merchandise and services of the many vendors delegates and guests have come to expect over the years.

So, join your friends and bring your family to Long Beach, June 28-July 2, 2013. We think it’s going to be a great time of worship, education, public service and fun. General registration opens January 1, 2013. If you have any questions or need some help with your planning drop us an email at synod@ucc.org or call 216 736-2104 or 216 736-2192.

See you in Long Beach.

W. Mark Clark

Associate General Minister and Administrator of the Twenty-ninth General Synod