

*God is still speaking,*  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



**For Immediate Release**

**Media Contact:**

**Emily Schappacher**

**United Church of Christ**

**Communications Specialist**

**(216) 736-2177 (office)**

**(216) 571-8967 (mobile)**

[schappachere@ucc.org](mailto:schappachere@ucc.org)

## **Franklinton Center at Bricks to honor the first ordained African-American woman during annual community celebration**

*Franklinton Center Day, Aug. 2, is expected to draw a crowd of nearly 3,000 for food, fun and fellowship.*

**Whitakers, N.C. (July 31, 2014)** – As part of an annual day of food, fun and fellowship, the United Church of Christ's Franklinton Center at Bricks (FCAB) will honor the first African-American female ordained in the UCC, the Rev. Yvonne Delk, during Franklinton Center Day, Saturday, Aug. 2, in Whitakers, N.C. The event, expected to draw a crowd of nearly 3,000, will celebrate Delk's four decades of ministry and her life-long pursuit of human and civil rights for African Americans, children and the poor.

"Rev. Delk considers Franklinton Center as the sacred space where women and men of faith helped her affirm her call in ministry and nurtured her to help her see social justice as a life-long calling which includes working in the freedom struggle," said Vivian Lucas, executive director of FCAB. "FCAB is also the place she says the very feet of the enslaved ancestors worked on the land and left their footprints providing a path which she followed to answer God's call to ordained ministry."

The day-long celebration will be held Saturday, Aug. 2, at the Franklinton Center facility in Whitakers, N.C.

Delk, the featured preacher, was the first African-American female ordained in the UCC 40 years ago in 1974. For the 2014 event honoring Delk, FCAB has extended an invite to 3,000 people. The gathering will also provide opportunities for FCAB program updates, community engagement and rejuvenation with food, music, swimming, games, tours and a farmer's market.

"FCAB exists as the coming together of many important histories including that of the UCC, the communities, and local congregations," Lucas said. "Franklinton Center Day provides a wonderful

opportunity to celebrate the collaborative work that seeks to improve the quality of life for those living in the area where we are located."

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**About Franklinton Center at Bricks:**

FCAB is a faith-based conference center that promotes social justice by empowering people through training, education, community development and action. Since 1895, the FCAB has been a leader in providing programming and services to African Americans throughout the southern United States. For decades in the rural South, the center helped break the cycle of poverty for many, providing educational opportunities, leadership development, transformative farming, and economic development programming.

**About the United Church of Christ:**

The United Church of Christ, headquartered in Cleveland, is a mainline Protestant denomination with 38 regional conferences, nearly 1 million members and more than 5,100 congregations nationwide. In addition to being the first major religious sponsor of the Gay Games, the UCC is also the first mainline denomination to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly-gay man, the first predominantly white denomination to ordain an African American, and the first denomination to vote to move toward divestment from fossil fuel companies as a strategy to combat climate change.

The UCC's motto ("That they may all be one") and tagline (God is still speaking,) supports the church's long-standing commitment to social justice issues and its extravagant welcome to all, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.