Venue in Long Beach, California
Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center, 300 E. Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90802 is located in the heart of downtown Long Beach, the Center is within walking distance to first-class accommodations, shopping, dining, attractions, and sightseeing along picturesque bays and 5 1/2 miles of sandy beach. The Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center is a spectacular multi-purpose complex - one of the few such waterfront facilities nationwide. The glass concourse and lobby offer expansive views of the scenic harbor and downtown skyline. A pedestrian promenade links hotels, shops, restaurants and attractions with the Pacific Ocean.

Brief Overview of Events
The General Synod will begin at 1:00 pm on Friday, June 28th with Educational Intensives which will be an opportunity for delegates and visitors to take an in-depth look at issues that come to the General Synod in resolutions. Opening plenary begins at 3:30 pm; the dinner hour will feature sponsored meals; plenary will resume at 7:30 pm and close with the opening worship service. Among the many business items at General Synod 29, delegates and visitors will hear from the candidates for the General Minister and President, the Executive Ministers for Local Church Ministries and Justice and Witness Ministries as delegates prepare to re-elect these officers of the church.

Saturday will be a time of light business in the morning and in the afternoon there will be workshops and service projects and you’ll have an opportunity to purchase tickets to a catered luau with music and dances of the South Pacific, hosted by the Southern California Nevada Conference’s Samoan Ministries Table. Saturday evening will feature the folk and blues sounds of acclaimed Bernice Johnson Reagon and Toshi Reagon in a special concert featuring this mother-daughter collaboration.

On Sunday morning delegates will be in committees for focused deliberation and will recommend action on resolutions and other business items. Sunday afternoon we welcome the members of the local churches of southern California and members of the Long Beach area to a community wide worship service. And then Sunday evening,
delegates and visitors will have the opportunity to attend the hearings on the budget, the 
General Synod Nominating Committee process and on the Formal Motion “The 
Affirmation of Relationship between the United Church of Christ and the Fellowship of 
Affirming Ministries.”

**Monday and Tuesday** General Synod will turn to its business and consider the 
resolutions and other formal motions, the UCC’s unique method of speaking to the 
world, and there will be elections of Officers of the Church and the members of the first 
governing board under the new governance structure. But it won’t be all business. 
Delegates and visitors will hear from fascinating and inspiring speakers in between 
business sessions and, of course, everything wraps up Tuesday evening with a big, 
wonderful and heart-lifting worship service as we end our time in Long Beach and sunny 
southern California.

See the Calendar of Events for a detailed schedule of events.

**Event Registration**
Everyone who attends General Synod is required to register. Registration fees are a 
significant part of the income that supports the General Synod. The registration process 
generates your name badge and other credentials that inform the Convention Center 
security personnel that you are part of this event and will be your ticket into General 
Synod events and activities.

There are a few different registration categories: Full, Youth, Friday – Sunday, and a 
single day Saturday, Monday or Tuesday. You can register online at 
[http://www.ucc.org/synod](http://www.ucc.org/synod), purchase sponsored meal tickets and make your hotel 
arrangements. You can help us in our planning by registering as soon as possible. Please note that online registration will be temporarily closed May 20-24, 2013 with the 
last day to register online being June 20, 2013. The last day to purchase sponsored 
meal tickets is May 19, 2013.

The registration fees for this General Synod have been approved and voted on by the 
UCC Executive Council and are as follows:

- **$225** Registration for the full five days of General Synod;
- **$150** Registration for the full five days of General Synod for youth 18 years and 
younger;
- **$175** Registration for Friday through Sunday
- **$75** Registration for a single day (Saturday, Monday or Tuesday)
On-site Registration Hours
Thursday June 27, 2013 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Friday June 28, 2013 8:30 AM – 7:30 PM
Saturday June 29, 2013 7:30 AM – 7:30 PM

Sunday, June 30 through Tuesday, July 2, 2013, registration assistance will be available in the General Synod office.

Information Table
There will be a table near the registration area located in the Convention Center with information regarding restaurants, local events, shopping and maps.

Special Needs
Please contact Susan Buchenau at ucclmsam@yahoo.com for details regarding assistance with mobility (wheelchairs and scooters), visual and hearing assistance or other special needs during General Synod. Those who require a wheelchair accessible room should indicate this at the time hotel reservations are made. There will be a special needs table in the registration area at the Convention Center for your assistance.

Childcare and Program for Children Pre K through 8th Grade
Onsite child care for ages 0-3 and a children’s program for Pre-K through 8th grade (which will include offsite field trips) will be offered by the Local Arrangements Committee during all scheduled business sessions and worship services beginning on Friday afternoon, June 28, through Tuesday evening, July 2. The fee is $5 per child per session. All child care staff and volunteers have been screened in compliance with the Southern California Nevada Conference Safe Church Policy.

Each child care session will open 15 minutes prior to scheduled business sessions/worship services and will close 15 minutes after. Parents are expected to drop off and pick up their children within these times. While parents will be picking up their children for lunch and dinner recesses, this program will provide snacks and beverages.

A detailed schedule (including full field trip information and staff contact information for those participating in the offsite components of the children’s program) will be sent to you when it becomes available and upon receipt of your registration form and payment. At this time, we are hoping to offer offsite field trips to the Aquarium of the Pacific (www.aquariumofpacific.org), Rancho Los Alamitos (www.rancholosalamitos.com), and the Queen Mary (www.queenmary.com). Please note that outings may be subject to change due to local availability.

To register your child/children, go to http://www.ucc.org/synod/child-care-childrens.html please fill out a children’s program registration form, enclose your check, and mail it to
the address provided on the form. **Registration deadline is June 1, 2013.** All children must be registered by this date. In order to ensure proper staff to child ratios, drop in care is not available. Questions may be directed to Susie Bjork at pastorsusie@bayshorechurch.org or (562) 433-0401

**Youth and Young Adult Opportunities**

God’s Vision calls the youth and young adults to come unto the Lord. Jesus said, "Don't stop children from coming to me! Children like these are part of God's beloved community." (Matthew 19:14). The youth and young adult program will extend ongoing extravagant welcome in Exhibit Hall C of the Long Beach Convention Center. Pre-Synod activities hosted June 26 through June 28 are for participants registered with the Youth@General Synod program only. All youth and young adult participants registered for General Synod at-large are invited to share in afterhours outreach, workshops, worship and plenary scheduled for June 28—opening plenary & worship through July 02—closing plenary & worship. The Council for Youth and Young Adults Ministries (CYAM) will host a special border immersion experience in collaboration with the UCC’s Centro Romero, Saturday, June 29th. The Council for Youth and Young Adults will also host a sponsored lunch open to all, Monday, July 1, 12 noon to 2:30 PM (Exhibit Hall C). You will find the options to sign up for the border experience, meals and the Pre-Synod youth activities via the General Synod registration site. Share in God’s vision by sharing in youth and young adults outreach at General Synod! Contact Waltrina Middleton, Minister for Youth Advocacy and Leadership Formation, at youth@ucc.org or 216-736-3871.

**Traveling to General Synod**

There are three airports that serve Long Beach; LAX (23 miles), John Wayne Airport (24 miles) and Long Beach Airport (6 miles), although LAX and John Wayne Airport are 23 and 24 miles from the Convention Center, traffic can make the trip a lot longer to and from Long Beach. Sharing a cab is around $70 one-way. You can also make online reservations for the SuperShuttle, a 10% discount will be given (about $17 per person from LAX to the Convention Center for a shared van). Go to [http://www.supershuttle.com/default.aspx?GC=B6HCJ](http://www.supershuttle.com/default.aspx?GC=B6HCJ) and if the code B6HCJ does not appear in the Group/Discount Code box, simply enter it.

Delta Airlines has set up a meeting discount for the United Church of Christ General Synod Meeting in Long Beach, CA. Below are the details:

**Travel dates:** June 22 through July 8, 2013.

**Airports included:** Long Beach, Los Angeles and Ontario.

**Travel origination:** USA or Canada
Discount: 5% off discounted and restricted fares, or 10% off full and non-restricted fares.

Discount is only available when booking with MTS Travel and a $33.00 ticketing MTS ticketing fee applies. (Discount not available directly with Delta.) The lowest fare inventories are excluded from the discount; those inventories are T, U & L. The consultants will know which fares may or may not be discounted. The meeting discount is not valid with other discounts, certificates, coupons or other promotional offers. This meeting discount may help travelers with some savings if the lower fare inventories are full when they are ready to confirm their travel.

Liz Prom and Jacqueline Ripley are the travel consultants with MTS Travel that arrange the UCC travel and are aware of the meeting discount and appropriate ticketing entries. They will be happy to assist you. Contact MTS and ask for either Jacqueline Ripley or Liz Prom at 800-247-7035 or at ucc@mtstravel.com.

Arriving in Long Beach
We encourage you to plan to arrive in Long Beach in time to drop off your luggage, make your way to the Convention Center, pick up your credentials at the registration area and attend the Educational Intensives that begin at 1:00 PM. Keep in mind that the Educational Intensives will focus on the issues of the resolutions that will come before the General Synod. This is actually the educational part of committees (separated intentionally from the deliberation and action time) so it’s especially important that delegates attend these sessions. The opening plenary will begin at 3:30 pm in Hall A in the Convention Center.

Hotel check in time varies, but at most hotels the time is 3:00 PM; the hotel may allow you to check in early if there are rooms available. If there aren’t any rooms available, store your luggage at your hotel and make your way to the Convention Center.

Accommodations
Those of you who are seasoned General Synod visitors are used to making your hotel arrangements on-line through a housing bureau after the registration process was completed. Long Beach does not have a housing bureau; consequently General Synod registrants will make their own hotel reservations by contacting the hotel directly. We have negotiated with several hotels in the city and reserved blocks of rooms. Registration will open January 21, 2013. Upon successful completion of the registration process you will be provided with a link that will have a list of the contracted hotels and contact information. If you have any questions please contact Christina Sattler at sattlerc@ucc.org or 216-736-2131. Hotel space close to the Convention Center is extremely limited so you are advised to make your reservations early.
Educational Intensives, Hearings and Committees

The Educational Intensives 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 General Synod event, starting at 1:00 on Friday afternoon, June 28th. They're open to anybody who is registered for General Synod and are conducted by experts in the field of the respective topic. These primers are a real aide to delegates who will later be attending the committee session on the issue.

The General Synod committees will convene Sunday morning and continue into Sunday afternoon. Delegates are assigned a committee, by random draw, prior to General Synod and are expected to attend their assigned committee session. The committees will recommend on the disposition of General Synod resolutions, recommending approval or defeat. The committees may also amend resolutions or recommend tabling a resolution. Beginning Monday morning the committee chairs will report the committee finding to a plenary of the General Synod where delegates will vote the issue.

General Synod Hearings will be in session Sunday evening. There will be a hearing on the budget and on the nominating process. There will also be a hearing on the Formal Motion “Affirmation of Relationship between the United Church of Christ and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries.” General Synod Hearings are open to all delegates and visitors.

Worship Themes

The theme for General Synod 2013 in Long Beach is “God’s Vision: __________” inspired by the Prophet Habakkuk:

I will stand at my watch-post,  
and station myself on the rampart;  
I will keep watch to see what the Holy One will say to me,  
and what God will answer concerning my complaint.

2 Then God answered me and said:  
Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so that a runner may read it.

3 For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.  
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
it will surely come, it will not delay.

Habakkuk 2: 1-3: NRSV, adapted

In this transitional moment for the UCC we will seek God’s vision throughout the five worship experiences of General Synod.
On Friday evening we will look for God’s prophetic vision: edgy, risky, calling us to the edge of ministry for justice. The Rev. Neichelle R. Guidry-Jones of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago will preach on the classic text of prophetic vocation leading to Jesus “on the edge”: Luke 4: 14-30: “Spirit of the Lord is upon me….”

Saturday Morning Prayer will help us create a space in ourselves for God’s vision: accepting Jesus’ invitation to “Come away and rest” (Mark 6: 30-32) we will engage in a prayerful, joyful, contemplative time, calling us to make “space for grace” in our own selves and in our community.

Sunday’s Service of Holy Communion will celebrate God’s vision of being all in all in our world: We will explore Revelation 22: 4 in The Message translation: ‘Everyone Mirrors God’ in a diverse community of justice and peace. The Rev. Martin Copenhaver, Senior Minister of Wellesley United Church of Christ, in Wellesley, MA will preach.

Monday Evening Prayer will open us up to the power of God’s vision, calling us to transformation. After a day of business which will help move us from the old structure into the new, we will call on Julian DeShazier, Senior Minister of University Church in Chicago, also known as hip hop artist J.Kwest, to lead us in a prayer of letting go, and opening up space for the new thing God is doing in our midst.

Tuesday’s Closing Worship, God’s Vision calls us to New Life will use the musical tradition of a New Orleans style Jazz Funeral to celebrate all that is past and look toward the future. The Rev. Jo Hudson, Senior Minister of the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, TX, will send us forth with words of hope, justice and joy.

Exhibit Hall
Be sure to visit the exhibit hall (Hall B) which will feature displays, resources, shopping opportunities, refreshments and plenty of areas to sit down and catch up with old and new acquaintances!

Workshops
The always popular General Synod workshops will be conducted Saturday afternoon of General Synod. These informative and educational sessions are open to all delegates and registered visitors. Topics generally offer helpful hints for the local church, local church pastors and church staff and volunteers; help for everything from managing the church choir to youth ministry. A full schedule of the Long Beach workshops will be posted on the website in early May.
Service and Immersion Projects
Listed below are several different opportunities to engage in service while you are in Long Beach:

Saturday, June 29 6:30 AM - 7:30 AM
Sunday, June 30 6:30 AM - 7:30 AM
Monday, July 1 6:30 AM - 7:30 AM
Tuesday, July 2 6:30 AM - 7:30 AM

Beach Walk & Clean-Up Participants will walk the beach front for exercise and practice environmental stewardship by picking up trash. No registration needed. Cost: None; Maximum Number: Open

Saturday, June 29 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM - All Day Event

Border Immersion Experience hosted by CYYAM (Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries)
Participants will experience the U.S. – Mexico border through the ministries of the UCC’s Centro Romero Center – an immersion center of Justice and Witness Ministries. Members of CYYAM will lead reflection on issues encountered. Experience the leadership of these youth and young adults. The border is about a 2 hour drive south of Long Beach. Registration is open to all registered General Synod participants except voting delegates. This will be a multi-generational group. Voting General Synod delegates are expected to be in business session during Saturday morning. All participants must be 18 and older unless accompanied by a guardian or adult chaperone. All participants must have a current and valid passport. All participants are responsible for costs for the experience and transportation. Cost: $130.00 Non-refundable; Maximum Number: Based on registration.
All of the following service projects require a mandatory orientation beginning at 11:30 AM

Saturday, June 29 11:30 AM– 4:00 PM

Food Bank
Participants will assist with food distribution and learn of the network of systems in place to address hunger and advocate for food sustainability. Lunch will be provided. Cost: $15; Maximum Number: 100

Local Church Community Outreach Ministries
Participants will engage with a local UCC congregation’s direct service work in the Long Beach area. Lunch will be provided. Cost: $15; Maximum Number: 30

Prison Visitation
Participants will visit the Terminal Island Federal Correctional Institution located in San Pedro, CA near Long Beach. The experience will include a tour by prison officials, conversation with volunteers who visit as part of the UCC-supported Prisoner Visitation and Support Program, and informal discussion of criminal justice and human rights. Lunch will be provided. Cost: $15; Maximum Number: 100

Retirement Communities
Participants will assist with projects at local retirement communities. Lunch will be provided. Cost: $15; Maximum Number: 50