

Dear Friends:

It is with praise for God and with high esteem for its choice that your General Minister and President Search Committee has selected the Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer for nomination for call by election as the next General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. The Search Committee's choice now comes to you, the Board of Directors, at the March meeting where you will be asked to nominate Rev. Dorhauer, by no less than two-thirds of those members voting, to the Thirtieth General Synod.

Rev. Dorhauer was selected earlier today by the Board's 18 member Search Committee.

An impassioned speaker for the marginalized and disenfranchised people, Rev. Dorhauer makes his extravagantly welcoming ministry manifest in his proclamations, sermons and writings through his work, currently as Conference Minister for the Southwest Conference.

Relying on his understandings of scriptures, he is called to the mission of Extravagant Welcome to all. As a result, he is a visionary catalyst to action. Within the Southwest Conference, he engages the faith and secular communities to positive action for social justice, including State House rallies, protest marches, letter-writing campaigns as well as a mountain of "behind-the-scenes" activities necessary for legal representation, fundraising and community organization.

His initial ministries in rural Missouri placed his family with communities of hard-baked fundamentalism who distrust the "other," whoever the "other" may be. He and his family lived through the terror of neo-Nazi-like groups who vandalized their home, their church and the community. The heinous acts hardened John and his family's resolve for positive social change.

Rev. Dorhauer and his wife of over 30 years are blessed with three children. The family has been the firm foundation for his ministry.

Rev. Dorhauer took the position of Associate Conference Minister in the Missouri Mid-South Conference for five years before being called to be the Conference Minister in the Southwest Conference 2008.

He was ordained on June 5, 1988. His Doctoral degree in Ministry was completed in 2005 with a focus on White Privilege Studies. His ministry has focused on the deconstruction of all institutionalized systems of "privilege" by race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or class.

The Board will meet Rev. Dorhauer at its March meeting, most likely on the evening of Thursday, March 19th. He will be introduced; he will address you and take your questions before you are asked to consider nominating him for call by election by the General Synod in June. Upon your affirmative vote he becomes the nominee of the Board and the work of the Search Committee is complete. It is hoped all members of the Board will actively advocate for his election during that time prior to action by the General Synod, where 60 percent of those Synod delegates voting must call him by election to the first of three possible four-year terms.

I want to thank each and every member of the Search Committee for their careful and considered evaluation of each and every candidate who offered themselves for the position. The work was sometimes anguished as we considered such a wonderfully diverse, skilled and devoted pool of candidates resulting in our selection earlier today. Please communicate this wonderful news to your fellow members of the United Church of Christ.

With thanks to God,
Rev. Dr. Bernard R. Wilson
Chair-The United Church of Christ Board of Directors