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UCC issues open invite to progressive installation for ninth General Minister and President John C. Dorhauer

Liberal Protestant denomination plans a three-day worship service in three cities, crossing the country in an extravagant welcome

CLEVELAND (April 5, 2016) —The United Church of Christ, a mainline Protestant denomination of almost 1 million members, is issuing an extravagant welcome to a progressive installation of its ninth general minister and president, the **Rev. John C. Dorhauer**, in a three-city, progressive service April 15-17, with worship events in New York, Chicago and Seattle.

NYC's The Riverside Church hosts the first service April 15 at 7:30 p.m. EDT. Three short vision sermons, titled "This is Our Time," will be delivered by the **Rev. Amy Butler**, senior minister at The Riverside Church; the **Rev. Kent Siladi**, conference minister of the UCC's Connecticut Conference; and the **Rev. Freeman Palmer**, associate conference minister of the UCC's New York Conference.

Trinity United Church of Christ, on Chicago's South Side, hosts the second service, April 16 at 4 p.m. central time. Three short vision sermons will be delivered by **Raven Clarissa Rowe**, a seminary student at the UCC's Chicago Theological Seminary; the **Rev. Heather Arcovitch**, senior pastor at First Congregational UCC in St. Louis; and the **Rev. Marilyn Pagán-Banks**, executive director of A Just Harvest.

Plymouth United Church of Christ hosts the final portion of the progressive service April 17 at 3 p.m. pacific time. Three short vision sermons will be delivered by the **Rev. Darrell Goodwin**, pastor of Liberation UCC in Seattle; the **Rev. Richard Gamble**, pastor of Keystone Congregational UCC, also in Seattle; and the **Rev. Sue Artt**, moderator of the UCC's biennial General Synod.

"We are called to serve the wider setting," said Dorhauer. "Having this progressive installation in three cities represents something symbolic — that we are all in this together — and allows us to open this amazing moment up to more people."

Since his election at the UCC's 2015 General Synod in Cleveland, Dorhauer has often shared his belief that the Holy Spirit envisions a future in which the UCC matters. He hopes his progressive installation helps illuminate that vision.

The three-city installation will welcome ecumenical and interfaith guests. It also will feature members of Dorhauer's circle of family and friends. All three services feature specially commissioned music by **Mark A. Miller**, minister of music at Christ Church, a UCC and American

Baptist congregation in Summit, N.J. Planned as a pivotal moment for the future and mission of the denomination, are services are open to the public. A short reception will follow in each location.

The three events will also be streamed live, so members of the wider church unable to attend can watch the proceedings online at www.ucc.org/installation.

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About the United Church of Christ The United Church of Christ is a mainline Protestant denomination with nearly 1 million members and more than 5,000 congregations nationwide. Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, the UCC is a church of many firsts, including the first mainline denomination to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly-gay man and the first predominantly white denomination to ordain an African American.

The UCC and its members are tireless advocates for social issues such as immigration reform, racial equality, LGBT rights, marriage equality, environmental protection and economic justice.