

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



Contact: United Church of Christ Media  
Relations  
330-687-8385  
[PostonA@ucc.org](mailto:PostonA@ucc.org)

## **UCC Advocates Press on for Immigrant Rights During Interfaith Conference**

*Despite delay in the review of the country's deportation policies, United Church of Christ advocates continue to move forward to address the needs of the nation's immigrants*

CLEVELAND, OH (June 5, 2014) – About 100 leaders from the faith community will gather in Los Angeles June 9-11 for "Let My People Work," a three-day interfaith conference that will identify and connect the intersections of immigration reform, economic justice and worker rights. To the Rev. Deborah Lee, a UCC minister and organizer of the event, this is a conversation that could impact the lives and livelihoods of countless families in California and beyond.

"The goal is to lift up that there is a crisis of working poor families in California and across the country, and a lot of them happen to be immigrants as well," said Lee, who is also director of the Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice's Interfaith Immigration Coalition. "We are using a very bold tradition from the faith community to help us think about how we can forge this movement for immigration and economic justice together instead of having them be siloed."

"Let My People Work" will take place at Holman United Methodist Church and will offer a number of workshops, plenaries and speakers, including Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of the National Catholic Social Justice Lobby and organizer of the Nuns on the Bus; Marielena Hincapie, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center; the Rev. James Lawson, former pastor of Holman United Methodist Church and a civil rights leader; and Luis Ojeda of the California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance. The Southern California-Nevada Conference of the UCC is a co-sponsor of the event.

Attendees and participants are a diverse mix of advocates who have been involved with immigration and workers' rights issues for many years and those who are "just getting their feet wet," Lee said. There is also a good mix of elders from the faith community and young leaders who are approaching their advocacy in new ways.

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### **About the United Church of Christ**

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a mainline Protestant denomination with nearly 1 million members and more than 5,100 congregations nationwide, including more than 150 UCC congregations throughout North Carolina.

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's motto ("That they may all be one," (John 17:21)) 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.

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