

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



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United Church of Christ to host Fuller Center for Housing cyclists during stop in Downtown Cleveland

Dozens of cyclists will stop at the UCC's Downtown Cleveland headquarters during a cross-country trek to raise funds for housing relief.

CLEVELAND (June 16, 2014) – The United Church of Christ will host more than 40 cyclists from The Fuller Center for Housing at its national headquarters in Downtown Cleveland on Wednesday, June 18. The cyclists, ranging in age from 19 to 65 from across the United States and four other countries, are biking from Atlantic City to Astoria, Ore., to support The Fuller Center's mission of building and repairing homes in impoverished and disaster-stricken areas worldwide.

"We are thrilled to welcome The Fuller Center cyclists to the UCC's national headquarters," said the Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, the UCC's Global Sharing of Resources team leader. "We have a history of working with this organization on disaster recovery efforts in the United States and around the world, and we are blessed with this opportunity to support them right here in Cleveland during this important fundraising and awareness-building initiative."

The UCC and The Fuller Center have partnered on disaster recovery efforts in New Jersey after Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. During The Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure, June 5 through Aug. 10, volunteers will ride 75 miles per day, stopping in nine designated cities along the way to build or repair homes. The group will stop in Aurora, Ohio, on Tuesday, June 17 to help repair homes with one of its partner organizations, Neighbor to Neighbor.

Ryan Iafigliola, the ride coordinator and The Fuller Center's director of international field operations, is a Cleveland native, and says the trek to Cleveland makes it feel like he is riding home.

"We are going to have families and friends who will be coming out, so that's definitely one of the exciting things," he said. "And it's going to be great to connect with the UCC and visit the headquarters of one of our best partners."

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

WHAT: United Church of Christ/The Fuller Center Meet-and-Greet

WHEN: Wednesday, June 18, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WHERE: 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115

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About the United Church of Christ:

The United Church of Christ, headquartered in Cleveland for almost 25 years, is a mainline Protestant denomination with more than 1 million members and nearly 5,200 congregations nationwide. The UCC and its members are tireless advocates for social issues such as LGBT rights, marriage equality, immigration reform, environmental protection and economic justice.

About the Fuller Center for Housing:

The Fuller Center for Housing is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing worldwide. By forming partnerships with local organizations, The Fuller Center provides the structure, guidance and support that communities need to build and repair homes for the impoverished among them.