MINISTRY FOCUS
Franklinton Center at Bricks

“During the boyhood of one still living, students at Bricks were told how this farm was once a place where ‘unruly’ slaves were sent to be subdued and ‘broken in.’ It was impressed upon us that this was still a place where people were sent to be ‘broken,’ not as slaves for a slave state, but as free men and women for a place of service in a free and democratic society.”

Ross W. Sanderson, President, Board of Trustees
Franklin Center at Bricks (1955)

From its history as a place of oppression, the place now known as Franklinton Center has evolved into a safe and nurturing place, promoting and encouraging justice and empowerment, leadership development and education, especially for the marginalized, oppressed and poor.

The Center, which is associated with Justice and Witness Ministries of the national United Church of Christ, is situated on 200-plus acres in rural North Carolina (near Whitakers) and is an ideal setting for retreats, conferences and educational events. In addition to hosting and facilitating events, the Center also develops programs that address the cultural, spiritual, educational and leadership development and empowerment of youth, church and community leaders, particularly for its surrounding communities, but also for the entire United Church of Christ.

“One cannot go to Franklinton Center without feeling the awesome power of redemption and transformation that it represents through its very existence and evolution,” according to Justice and Witness Ministries Executive Minister Linda Jaramillo. “The human suffering that took place on that ground, juxtaposed with the commitment of so many involved with the Center—Board, staff and program participants—to a future of justice and peace for all is a source of great inspiration for all of us involved with Justice and Witness Ministries. We invite the whole United Church of Christ to join us in this witness of faith and hope through their financial support, prayers and participation in the programs of the Center.”

According to director Ervin Milton, the Center’s recent programming has included a Strong Men’s Day Conference, where men from the Southern Conference of the United Church

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Thinking About Establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity?
Here’s How it Works:

1. Requests for information about gift annuities are communicated to the United Church of Christ (UCC) Financial Development Ministry by prospective donors or their representatives, institutional development officers, church pastors or committees, UCC staff and others.

2. The UCC Financial Development office prepares illustrations based on beneficiary age(s), estimated gift amount and type of funding and sends them directly to the prospect or his/her representative. A cover letter summarizing the benefits, an application form and an informative brochure accompany the illustration. Please note that we are happy to provide this information, whether the donor proceeds with a gift or not. Call (800) 846-6822 or e-mail giving@ucc.org to request an illustration.

3. The donor reviews the illustration(s) and, after consulting with family and professional advisors, returns the application with check enclosed, made payable to the United Church Foundation. Cash gifts are dated by the postmark on the envelope in which the check is mailed.

   If funding a gift with securities, appreciated stock must be transferred to the UCC in order to preserve the capital gain advantage. Contact the Financial Development office for instructions. Deprecated stock should be sold by the donor’s broker so the loss may be declared on his/her tax return. Stock gifts are valued on the date they arrive in the UCC’s account. The high and low prices for that date are ascertained, divided by two to determine the mean price per share, and multiplied by the number of shares transferred to arrive at the value of the gift (this is an IRS-dictated formula).

4. Once application form and gift are received in the Cleveland office, the contract is prepared for signature. The donor(s) will receive two originals of the contract. Donor(s) sign both contracts, keep one for their personal files, and return the other to Cleveland in the pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope provided.

5. Once the process is completed, checks or direct deposits will be conveyed to the donor on the basis established in the agreement. Income payments are made by a law firm in Boston with whom the Financial Development Ministry is partnered.

6. In January of each year, an IRS Form 1099 and accompanying tax information letter is sent to each income recipient.

7. Upon the death of the life income beneficiary(ies), a death certificate should be forwarded to the Financial Development office. The remaining principal of the gift is then remitted to the charitable remainder beneficiary(ies). The remaining principal must be designated at least 50% to a UCC-related entity.
Payments for Life From a Charitable Gift Annuity

You can secure fixed annual payments for your lifetime by establishing a United Church of Christ (UCC) charitable gift annuity.

The annuity will pay you (and a survivor, if you wish) a fixed dollar amount when you make an irrevocable gift to fund the future of a mission and ministry that is dear to your heart. The rate of return is determined by your age at the time of your contribution.

The annuity rates are higher for older donors, but the rate remains constant once the gift is made. For two lives, the rate of return is slightly lower because the period of payment is usually longer.

**Current Charitable Gift Annuity Rates**

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<th>Rate of Return</th>
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<td>90/95+</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
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**Generous Income Tax Advantages, Too**

When you itemize deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for part of the value of your gift when you file that year's income tax return. The amount depends, in part, on your age. The deduction may be carried over the next five years, if necessary.

**Example:** Jean, aged 70, funds a gift annuity for herself with $25,000 in cash. A 6.5 percent rate of return (the rate for her age as suggested by the American Council on Gift Annuities) will provide her $1,625 each year for the rest of her life. Approximately half of her income will be tax-free for 16 years, when her actuarial life expectancy is achieved, after which all income will be taxable at the ordinary rate. Jean is allowed a charitable deduction of $11,068.*

**Worry-Free Funds**

A charitable gift annuity ensures you fixed and attractive payments with no investment worries or responsibilities. It is also a superb way to make an enduring gift when the remainder becomes available to your church or other designated charitable beneficiary.

To find out how you can benefit from a UCC gift annuity, contact the Financial Development Ministry at (800) 846-6822 or giving@ucc.org.

* Assumes quarterly payments and a 6.2 percent Charitable Federal Midterm Rate

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**Free Brochure**

Presents information about UCC gift annuities in a question/answer format, including sample rates and charitable deductions
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of Christ gathered to share in scripture, prayer, praise and worship with the hope of building stronger families, communities and churches; a four-day youth empowerment camp for young men and women from the surrounding communities in North Carolina; the annual convocation of the Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice of the United Church of Christ; and work and study camps on justice and leadership for youth groups from around the country.

The Transformation Continues
At its meeting in the winter of 2005, the Board of Directors of Franklinton Center announced plans for the construction of a new $1.5 million retreat facility to enhance the capacity of the Center to provide hospitality and programming to regional and national groups. Yet to be named, the sleeping facility will consist of 22 double occupancy rooms (with handicap-accessible baths), wireless Internet access throughout the facility, and a fitness center and fellowship hall. According to Rev. Milton, the “ultimate goal is to build a retreat center that will become a greater asset for the whole United Church of Christ, and a more accessible and useful facility for those in the local community.”

A fundraising committee, chaired by Board Chair Yvonne Delk and former Justice and Witness Executive Minister Bernice Powell Jackson, has developed a plan to raise the funds necessary for the completion of the project. As of June 2006, this effort has resulted in more than $500,000 in investments in the future of the Center by individuals and church groups and organizations.

From L to R: The Rev. Ervin Milton, Director; The Rev. Yvonne Delk, Chair of The Franklinton Campaign; The Rev. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister of UCC Justice and Witness Ministries

“We are pleased with our progress thus far in engaging UCC members about the work and potential of Franklinton Center,” said Rev. Dr. Delk, “but we understand that many in our Church don’t know about this life-changing place. We’re confident that as they come to know this work, we’ll succeed in carrying on the tradition of service, leadership and prophetic ministry that is so critical to today’s world.”

For more information on the work of Franklinton Center, and to find out how you might participate in its programs, please contact Rev. Ervin Milton at (800) 345-1850, or visit www.ucc.org/justice/franklinton.htm.

To make a contribution to the Campaign for Franklinton Center, please contact the Financial Development Office at (800) 846-6822 or via e-mail at giving@ucc.org.

A Giving Opportunity . . .

The recently signed Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows eligible taxpayers to make outright lifetime gifts of retirement assets through direct rollovers from their traditional IRAs to charitable organizations, such as the United Church of Christ (including local congregations, conferences, national ministries and related institutions of the UCC). Some donor benefits of a direct IRA Rollover are:

• The donor does not receive a charitable deduction, but the transfer is not treated as an income distribution; the donor enjoys the equivalent of a charitable deduction by avoiding the tax that would have been due.
• The gift is not subject to deduction limitations or phase-outs for donors in higher income brackets or who have otherwise exceeded their charitable deductions for the year.

This option cannot be used to fund life interest gifts such as charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts or pooled income funds. The maximum transfer is $100,000 per year and the donor must be at least 70½ by the date of contribution. The legislation is effective for transfers made in 2006 and 2007.

Please contact us for more information.

For further information, contact:

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