

Warm greetings and blessings to you in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus the Christ.

In 2007 and 2009 the General Synod referred two Resolutions entitled *The Legalization of Physician Aid In Dying* and *Physician Aid in Dying* respectively, for further study. In response, a task force of diverse members representing health and human service ministries within the United Church of Christ was convened by Justice and Witness Ministries. They are part of a larger national conversation on issues around death and dying. The subject is not an easy one to engage in a death-denying culture; however, as people of faith we grapple with the issues that surround death and dying to insure that transition to another stage of eternal life is as peaceful as possible for those who are dying and for those who love them. We know that God is present in both our living and our dying; therefore we are comforted in difficult times.

We applaud the Task Force's pledge to work together over the last two years. Their respect for one another even in the struggle to understand the many and diverse opinions on this subject is to be commended. What emerged is uniformity and commitment to the content and integrity of this six-week guide, *Faithfully Facing Dying: A Lenten Study Guide on Critical Issues and Decisions for the Members of the United Church of Christ*. It is offered as a resource for this delicate dialogue and intended to assist churches, associations and conferences, as they study the range of choices which surround their understanding of death and dying.

The Collegium invites and encourages all congregations, associations and conferences to participate and engage in serious dialogue and discussion during the Lenten Season and provide feedback to the Task Force that will assist them in the preparation of new resources that will help clergy and lay members of the UCC when these issues do arise.

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