



UCAN Stop AIDS eNews - March 2010

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National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS

On Sunday, March 7 through Saturday, March 13, 2010, every Church, Mosque, Synagogue, Temple and Home is invited to various events during the [National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS](#). It is a time for education, advocacy and service for the healing of AIDS in the United States and the World.



The ***National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS*** is the coming together of all people of faith to unite with purpose, compassion and hope. Through the power of God's love we will educate every American about HIV prevention facts; encourage and support HIV testing; advocate for the availability of compassionate care and treatment for all those living with the disease in every community in America; and love unconditionally all persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS is the inclusive, expansion of the highly successful Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS which concluded its 20th year anniversary in 2009. The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS was the nation's FIRST national mobilization campaign that specifically focused on HIV/AIDS. In 2010, the event will call America's faith communities' of all races, creeds and cultures to prayer and to educate their congregations and others about the ever-alarming AIDS epidemic in the United States.



Rev. Geoffrey Black, the United Church of Christ's General Minister and President, also calls us to a time of prayer, education, advocacy and service for the healing of AIDS. He serves as a national spokesperson for the National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS and has written this [statement](#) which calls us to live the promise to stop AIDS.

UCAN also has [resources](#) online that you may use throughout The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS.

UCAN Network Partners Host National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS Events

Benefit Concert for HIV positive Haitians

The week begins at [Mayflower UCC](#) in Oklahoma City, OK with a free [benefit concert](#) to purchase medicine for HIV positive Haitians. 100% of the proceeds will be sent to the Global AIDS Ministry Fund, which is a One Great Hour of Sharing fund designated for Global AIDS work. This benefit will be filled with music, poetry, and inspirational speaking. At the end of the benefit we hope that you will be moved to donate what you can in order to assist in the Haitian relief effort. If you are not able to be in the Oklahoma City area during the benefit concert, you can make an online gift to the [Global AIDS Ministry Fund](#). Or send your check payable to:

One Great Hour of Sharing, memo: Global AIDS Fund - Haiti
United Church of Christ WCM
700 Prospect Ave E
Cleveland, OH 44115

For questions and inquiries about the event, please contact Rev. Loyce Newton-Edwards by phone: (405) 642-0124, or by email: loycee@sbcglobal.net

"Come Heal with Us" at Riverside Church

[Riverside Church](#) (New York City, NY) will be hosting "[Come Heal with Us](#)", an evening of reflection and worship on Wednesday, March 10. From 4:00-6:00pm, the Riverside Church Chapel will be open for meditation and reflection led by Rev. Stacy Latimer and Chaplin Dina Mann. Refreshments will then be served, followed by "Space for Grace", a praise and worship service. Ms. Darlene Cheek, the New York Director of [The Balm in Gilead](#), will be giving the evening's Moment for Mission.

For questions and inquiries about the event at Riverside Church, please contact Oliver W. Martin by phone: (212) 664-1966, or by email: martinow@aol.com

UCAN's Testimony at National AIDS Strategy Town Hall Meeting

Through the fall the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) held community discussions across the United States and the Virgin Islands for input in the development of a

U.S. national AIDS strategy. In December, at the [National HIV and AIDS Strategy Town Hall Meeting](#) in Cleveland, Ohio, Rev. Lori Tisher, Vice-Chair of the UCAN Leadership Team, shared, "UCAN believes that a national network of faith-based organizations needs to be established which would not only serve as a place to share effective models and best practices, but also to enable faith communities to more fully access and build the vast capacity for HIV prevention, care and support." To read the full testimony, click [here](#).

UCAN's Role with the President's Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS

On February 1, Bishop John Selders represented UCAN at the President's Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS (PACHA) meeting in Washington D.C. The [President's Advisory Council on HIV and AIDS](#) was established to provide policy recommendations on the U.S. Government's response to the AIDS epidemic.

He presented UCAN's challenge to PACHA in calling for them to "work strategically in this current political environment to advance policies and programs that prevent new cases of HIV infection, provide universal access to treatment and offer compassionate care to people who are living with and affected by HIV/AIDS". To read UCAN's full statement, click [here](#).

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