

WELCOME GEOFFREY A. BLACK!

The United Church of Christ is welcoming a new General Minister and President on October 1. His name is the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black.

Having served as the UCC's New York Conference Minister since 2000, Rev. Black was elected this summer at General Synod 27 in Grand Rapids to succeed the Rev. John H. Thomas, who is completing 10 years of service in the office.

A 15-year local church pastor, a college chaplain and a former national staff member, Rev. Black offers an infectious sense of humor, a gentle spirit, keen pastoral sensibilities, an ecumenical outlook, a commitment to church growth and evangelism, and a deep concern for justice and peace. He is also passionate about many eclectic interests, from cycling to jazz music, skiing to model railroading.



This is why our voice is needed: so that all people will know that they are God's people.

— *The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black*

Rev. Black says he loves the United Church of Christ because it is a church that respects and affirms your intellect, while affirming the presence of Jesus Christ in the midst of all that we do.

"The teachings of Christ – that's who we are," he said to one newspaper upon his election.

Rev. Black earned degrees from Lincoln University in 1969 and Yale Divinity School in 1972. Ordained in the American Baptist Church in 1976, he joined the UCC the following year.

He is the spouse of Patricia Williams-Black and the father of one adult daughter, Makeda Black.



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What Geoffrey means to others ...



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— 2 COR 4:1-2

“The phrase ‘servant leadership’ encapsulates Geoffrey’s understanding and practice of leadership.

— *The Rev. Jim Moos, Bismarck, N.D.*

“I will not forget the words Geoffrey said to me: ‘We need you in the United Church of Christ.’ Those nine words clicked somewhere deep, the kind of words a shepherd would say.

— *The Rev. Dearthrice “Dea” DeWitt, Albany, N.Y.*

“When I first heard the incoming General Minister and President of the UCC Geoffrey Black speak, I realized that the UCC has a prophetic voice on issues of justice and peace.

— *The Rev. Robb Kojima, Maui, Hawaii*

“He has created community in our Conference in the midst of addressing important and challenging issues in the church.

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