



December 16, 2009

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Dear Friends,

A few years back, the United Church of Christ had a bumper sticker that read: *To believe is to care, To care is to do.* There are no more important values in response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

33 million people are living with HIV worldwide and 1.1 million of them live in the United States. There are more than 56,000 new infections every year. HIV is affecting us all and is having a devastating impact on numerous communities in this nation and around the world. People of faith have such a significant role to play in HIV and AIDS prevention, education, service and advocacy. The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS, March 7-13, 2010, is an important opportunity to put our faith into action.

UCAN, the United Church of Christ's HIV & AIDS Network, has joined with the Balm in Gilead and many other faith-based organizations and houses of worship for The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. We hope you will join us in bringing national attention to the AIDS epidemic in the United States and throughout the world, lifting-up the extraordinary role faith communities can play in AIDS prevention, education, service and advocacy.

We are eager for your partnership in this effort to engage your local church and community in a week devoted to increased awareness, providing opportunities for people to learn their HIV status, joining with people of faith in prayer and action. This is a week in which to live the promise to stop AIDS in significant ways.

Resources are being developed to assist you and are available at www.NationalWeekofPrayerfortheHealingofAIDS.org or www.ucc.org/ucan/week-of-prayer.html.

For more information and assistance, please contact us:

Email: ucan@ucc.org

Phone: 216-736-2284

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Michael Schuenemeyer

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
HIV and AIDS
NETWORK