



Rev. Geoffrey A. Black

General Minister and President

The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black was elected General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ in June 2009. Prior to this election, Rev. Black served as Conference Minister of the UCC's New York Conference for nine years. During his years in ministry, Black also has served as Pastor of Congregational UCC in South Hempstead, N.Y., assistant chaplain at Brown University, associate minister at St. Albans Congregational UCC in Queens, Lecturer in the Field Education Department at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and Protestant chaplain at Adelphi University. Ecumenical commitment, concern for equal justice, African-American empowerment, and community improvement have shaped Black's ministry in the church and in the communities in which he has lived.



Rev. Dr. J. Bennett Guess

National Officer, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Dr. J. Bennett Guess serves as a National Officer of the United Church of Christ and was elected to this position in July 2011. He is the first openly gay person to serve as a national officer of the church. Rev. Guess has worked for the UCC's national setting since 2000 in a variety of communications positions, including four years as communications director of the denomination. Prior to joining the national setting of the church, Rev. Guess was a local church pastor, including eight years as pastor of Zion UCC in Henderson, Ky., a congregation that grew from 12 elderly members to a vital, justice-focused, multiracial, open and affirming congregation of more than 300 people. Guess has written more than 500 articles on all aspects of the church, earning him more than 60 awards. Guess earned a B.A. degree in journalism from the University of Kentucky. He received his D.Min. from Chicago Theological Seminary.



Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo

National Officer, United Church of Christ

Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo serves as a national officer of the United Church of Christ. Prior to her election in 2009, Jaramillo served a variety of social justice organizations in leadership positions. Rev. Jaramillo has over 30 years of management experience working with state, county, and federally funded programs in Oregon, including Head Start, migrant services, child welfare, violence prevention, HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention, and adult community-based education. She received a B.S. in Business Administration from Portland (Ore.) State University and a Master of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Calif. Fluent in both English and Spanish, she is the first Hispanic to serve as a member of the Collegium.

Biographies of Key Leaders of the United Church of Christ *(continued)*



Rev. Dr. James Moos

National Officer, United Church of Christ

The Rev. James Moos has served as a National Officer of the United Church of Christ since 2011. Moos also serves as co-executive of Global Ministries, a partnership between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the UCC. Following his ordination in 1986, Moos was called to Adams County Parish, UCC, where he served until 1991. Moos then became senior pastor at Bismarck (N.D.) UCC, serving 15 years before accepting the call as a National Officer of the church. Moos enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1976 and was on active duty until 1980. Five years later, he became a reserve chaplain for the Air Force and served for 18 years. Growing up on a farm near Streeter, North Dakota, Moos went on to earn his bachelor of arts degree at Seattle Pacific University in 1983 before obtaining both his M.Div. (1986) and Ph.D. (1996) from Princeton Theological Seminary.



Rev. Dr. Bernard Wilson

Chairman of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Bernard Wilson is Chairman of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors and serves as the Senior Pastor of Norfield Congregational UCC in Weston, Connecticut and holds Ministerial Authorization with a D.Min. Prior to his call at Norfield, he served as Executive Minister, the Riverside Church in New York. Mr. Wilson is a retired Captain-US Navy; concluding his chaplaincy as the Navy Director of Religious Ministries. He has served as an Adjunct Professor at both Howard University and at New Brunswick Theological Seminary.



Rev. Dr. Edward Smith Davis

Conference Minister, Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ

Rev. Edward Smith Davis serves as Conference Minister of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, including North Carolina, Virginia, and portions of South Carolina. Prior to his appointment in 2012, Rev. Davis served as Protestant chaplain of the Chicago Fire Department and local church pastor of St. Mark's United Church of Christ in Chicago Heights, IL. Prior to his call to ministry, Rev. Davis served in a variety of senior leadership positions in both the for-profit and not-for-profit industries. Rev. Davis holds an M.B.A. from Roosevelt University and a Doctorate of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary.

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Biographies of Key Leaders of the United Church of Christ *(continued)*



Mr. Donald C. Clark, Jr.

General Counsel, United Church of Christ

Mr. Clark serves as General Counsel of the United Church of Christ. After serving as a litigation partner in two of Chicago's largest law firms, Clark managed his own litigation boutique for nearly a decade. Since 2003, Clark has served as the Counsel for the United Church of Christ. Mr. Clark has also held a variety of civic and religious leadership positions, including serving on the boards of Church World Service, Chicago Theological Seminary, and Adler Planetarium. Clark received his Juris Doctor from Rutgers University, Camden School of Law.



Ms. Heather Kimmel

Associate General Counsel, United Church of Christ

Ms. Kimmel serves as Associate General Counsel of the United Church of Christ. Prior to joining the UCC, she practiced in the areas of white-collar defense and complex civil litigation at Jones Day and Baker & Hostetler, as well as serving as a federal judicial clerk to the Honorable Patricia A. Gaughan in the Northern District of Ohio. She also served as an adjunct professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Kimmel earned her Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.