



Wider Church + Community Organizing Annual Report for the RMC UCC

In the face of rising fascism, christian nationalism, and white supremacy, Juniper Formation UCC is organizing with the wider Church and community to: 1) cocreate an ecumenical and interfaith Mutual Aid Sanctuary network, and 2) host the inaugural Prophetically Reimagining Church Conference September 19-20, 2025, in Denver. Please join us with the Spirit of God who continues to call us together in holy resistance and creative love. Now is the time for people of faith to link arms — not in fear, but in faithful solidarity, embodying love, justice, empathy, and truth.

Mutual Aid Sanctuary: We've launched and helped lead the Mutual Aid Sanctuary (MAS)—a growing, ecumenical and interfaith network of faith communities and nonprofits collaborating to support immigrants, LGBTQ+, those seeking reproductive health care, and others at risk.

On April 28, 2025, MAS hosted our first public community training, a *Congregational Legal Talk: Sheltering Vulnerable People* with CU Boulder Associate Dean and Clinical Law Professor Violeta Chapin. Over 100 leaders attended, representing: 13 faith traditions and denominations, 13 nonprofit, community, and parachurch organizations, 3 regional judicatories, and 1 national judicatory.

This training was organized by leaders of Juniper Formation United Church of Christ, Montview Presbyterian Church, Mountain View United Church, St Stephen's Episcopal Church in Aurora, Highlands United Methodist Church, the American Friends Service Committee, and the Interfaith Immigration Network. Training sponsors included the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC, Creede Community Church UCC, Denver Presbytery, The Episcopal Church in Colorado, Montview Presbyterian Church, Colorado Council of Churches, and the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The turnout and the deep listening shared in this space affirmed a real and urgent need: many faith communities are already offering mutual aid or want to start, yet often feel like isolated islands surrounded by an ocean of need in a climate of fear. MAS seeks to connect these islands and build a relational archipelago of solidarity across geographic, denominational, and organizational lines.

Our goal is to offer: coordinated, relational responses to mutual aid needs; training and support for local faith-based crisis responders; and shared courage, strength, and power rooted in collaboration and co-creation.

Invitation to the Wider Church: If your congregation is already doing mutual aid or desires to begin, we'd love to connect. Visit MutualAidSanctuary.org to learn more, or reach out directly to us to join the conversation and the movement at mutualaidsanctuary@juniperformation.org.



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The Prophetically Reimagining the Church Conference: As part of our deep commitment to renewing and reshaping the Church for this present moment, we are organizing the inaugural Prophetically Reimagining the Church Conference, taking place September 19-20, 2025 in Denver, Colorado.

This regional and national gathering is grounded in the belief that the Church is being called into something bold and beautiful — to confront systems of oppression, to heal from theological harm, and to reclaim its liberative, justice-oriented roots. The conference is co-led by an interdenominational group of clergy, organizers, theologians, and lay leaders who share a vision of church that is antiracist, queer-affirming, decolonial, and life-giving.

The Conference Will Offer:

- Pre- and post-Conference relationship building, training, and organizing;
- Commitments to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility through the Conference structure, rhythm, and content;
- Training and structured time to build meaningful relationships;
- Keynotes by Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, Ph.D., biblical scholar whose work focuses on translation of the scriptures for congregations and lay readers, womanist and feminist biblical interpretation, and women who prophesied in ancient Israel and the ancient Afro-Asiatic world;
- Workshops on relational discernment and organizing, gender + sexuality liberation, mental health, antiracism, environment/ecology, church building transitions, and more.

This conference is for those ready to “leave the church” and for those who *long to stay but can’t stay the same*. Our aim is to gather people of faith who are seeking spiritual depth, collective liberation, and a reclaimed vision of the church that embodies the radical love of Jesus. We envision a future where more churches embody liberation in their theology, hospitality, governance, and public witness. This conference is a step in that direction as an experiment in holy reimagining.

How to Get Involved:

- Visit ReimagineTheChurch.org to register or volunteer
- Consider sending a delegation from your church
- Reach out if you'd like to help sponsor or amplify the work, info@juniperformation.org

Our current sponsors include: the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC, RMC UCC Racial Justice Team, Metro Denver Association UCC, Sixth Avenue United Church UCC, Washington Park UCC, the Colorado Council of Churches, and Highlands Presbyterian Camp & Retreat Center