

## Dear Pastors, Youth Leaders and Youth:

This is a special invitation to all youth, ages **6<sup>th</sup> grade** through **12<sup>th</sup> grade** in the Southern **and** the Southeast Conferences of the United Church of Christ to register for this amazing event. You are invited to attend the



## Annual Youth Winter Retreat

“Peace Makers: The Green Theme”

Last year at the Annual Winter Youth Retreat at the Blowing Rock Conference Center 150 youth and adults from the Southern and Southeast Conferences gathered together to take a close look at the meaning of violence in the form of poverty and hunger and to understand how we as individuals and communities participate in creating and healing poverty and hunger.

Violence still lurks...so the conversation continues. This year we continue our theme of violence and this year we are exploring violence as it demeans our world and uses up our natural resources.

Come join youth from the Southern and Southeast Conferences of the United Church of Christ as we continue to understand how to be peacemakers. *Peacemakers: The Green Theme* will focus on our daily consumption practices that consume, spend and care for our earth and our God given resources. Together as a community of Christ we will explore the ways in which we can be instruments of God's peace in our own communities.

This Winter Retreat is a perfect opportunity for youth groups to bond, to meet UCC youth from other churches and other states and to have a day of fun in the snow. This retreat is designed for youth to stretch their spiritual muscles and to have fun meeting new friends and learning from other youth. The weekend will provide opportunity for creating new friendships, enjoying the snow, getting some exercise, eating fabulous food, spiritual growth and life changing conversation. The Rev. Da Vita D. McCallister will be our session leader and will facilitate our time around being *Peacemakers: The Green Theme*. There is something here for everyone.

Included in this packet you will find one registration form for youth and adults. Please make copies of these forms for every participant to complete. In order to register your church group, please mail back a completed form for each youth and adult member of your group along with your payment in full. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [kristingvaughn@gmail.com](mailto:kristingvaughn@gmail.com) or call me at 336-402-2897.

There is an early bird registration!!

Peace,

Rev. Kristin Gerner Vaughn  
Blowing Rock Conference Center  
Annual Winter Youth Retreat  
Planning Committee Chair





### **The Reverend Da Vita D. McCallister**

Rev. Da Vita D. McCallister is the Associate Conference Minister for Youth and Young Adults in the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. Prior to her work as the Associate Conference Minister she founded Magnificent Consultants, a consulting firm that specializes in empowerment for youth and young adults. She is also the former Minister for Youth, Young Adults and Outdoors of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. McCallister's ministry began in the Baptist Church, when she accepted the call to ministry at the age of 13 and has included service in the United Methodist Church, where she served as a pastor. She was ordained in the Southeast Conference of the UCC and served that conference as the Vice Moderator and as a member of the Church and Ministry Committee. In addition to her work in the national setting and local churches she has also served the non-profit sector as the UCC coordinator for the Fund for Theological Education and in the academy as a lecturer and seminar leader.


Rev. McCallister earned bachelor's degrees in religion and psychology from Lincoln University and a Master of Divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary at the ITC in Hebrew Bible.

She has been recognized for her service to the Church through several awards and distinctions including; preaching the Opening Worship Service of the 26<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ (UCC), her selection as the UCC National Staff Scholar in Residence at Elmhurst College, the first female to preach at the Evening Worship Service of the NAACP's National Convention, the respondent to the Annual Copher Lectures at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) and her status as the first self-avowed same-gender-loving person to be certified, ordained and given an Episcopal appointment within the United Methodist Church.

Rev. McCallister is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and a supporter of the Human Rights Campaign and the ACLU. She is the daughter of David McCallister and Eladies Sampson and the sister of Roslyn McCallister Brock and Michael McCallister. She is a new member of the parenting circle and has accepted her role as "Mommy" for her 18 year old daughter, Omolara Williams. The youngest of three she is a proud aunt and avid Madden PS2 player.

She takes great pride in her Christian heritage as the great-grand daughter of the late Rev. Jesse B. Baldwin a Baptist minister and pastor of over 65 years in rural Florida.

Registration Form  
Annual Youth Winter Retreat  
"Peace Makers: The Green Theme"  
January 15-18, 2010

 (Please make copies and use one form for each **adult** AND one for each **youth** participant.)

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**Section 1:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Leader:  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail  
address: \_\_\_\_\_

Female: \_\_\_ Male: \_\_\_

T-Shirt Size:    S\_\_\_\_\_    M\_\_\_\_\_    L\_\_\_\_\_    XL\_\_\_\_\_    XXL\_\_\_\_\_

**Students Only:**    Age\_\_\_\_\_    Grade\_\_\_\_\_

## Section 2: Registration for Snow Activities (Sunday)

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Choose **ONE** of the 5 following snow activity options and one related lesson if desired:

- |   |      |                  |
|---|------|------------------|
| 1) _____ I will <b>not</b> be participating in snow activities.   | \$0  | \$ <u>  -0  </u> |
| 2) _____ I will be <b>tubing</b> at Jonas Ridge.  | \$25 | \$ _____         |
| 3) _____ I will be <b>skiing</b> at Sugar Mountain.   | \$61 | \$ _____         |
| _____ I need a beginner <b>ski lesson</b>   | \$14 | \$ _____         |
| 4) _____ I will be <b>snowboarding</b> at Sugar Mountain  | \$70 | \$ _____         |
| _____ I need a beginner <b>board lesson</b>   | \$14 | \$ _____         |
| 5) _____ I will only need a lift ticket because <u>I will bring my own gear</u> for skiing or boarding. | \$44 | \$ _____         |

If you are skiing or boarding, please fill out the following section.

Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Skiing/Boarding **Level**    **1**    **2**    **3**  
 (1=beginner; 2=intermediate; 3=advanced)

Shoe Size \_\_\_\_\_

**Subtotal for Section 2:**                    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Lodging, Meals, and Transportation:**  
 The registration fee covers lodging for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights and meals during the retreat (Saturday—Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner; Sunday—Breakfast and Dinner; Monday, Breakfast.  
**Please note that participants will be responsible for their own lunches on the *ski slopes* this year.** Each group will need to **provide their *own transportation* to and from the retreat and *to and from Sugar Ski Resort and Jona’s Ridge.***

**Section 3:**

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Subtotal from Section 2: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Room and Board (see below): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Group Registrations:

- 1) Postmarked by **11/27/09**      **\$135.00**
- 2) \*Postmarked **11/28/09-12/24/09**      **\$155.00**
- 3) \*\*Postmarked **12/26/09-1/5/10**      **\$175.00**



Churches' names will not be included in the t-shirt design if registrations are received after 12/08/08.



T-shirts cannot be ordered for your group after 1/1/10.

**Total Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- 1) Please mail one form per youth and one form per adult
- 2) Each group should send one check made payable to: Blowing Rock Conference Center covering the total group registration fees to this address:
- 3) Send Registration Forms and Checks to:

Blowing Rock Conference Center  
C/o Rev. Kristin Gerner Vaughn  
1929 Rock Creek Dairy Rd.  
Whitsett, NC 27377

If you have questions please email [kristingvaughn@gmail.net](mailto:kristingvaughn@gmail.net)

or

call 336-402-2897.

**4) NOTE: Group registrations will not be received until all information is filled out and full payment is received.**

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**Section 4: Medical Emergency Information**



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Policy Holder's Name

-----  
Insurance Company

-----  
Policy Number

Participant's Name: -----

Address:  
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Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Medications:  
-----

Drug Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental Allergies:  
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Health Concerns:  
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**Emergency Contact:**

Daytime: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship:  
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Evening: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship:  
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**Note: Group Leaders, please make a copy of this form to keep with you at all times before mailing the original form to the Conference**

# Annual Youth Winter Retreat

## “Peace Makers: The Green Theme”

### Weekend Itinerary

#### Friday (1-15-10)

8:00-10:00 PM Group check-in  
11:00 PM R & R (lights out)

#### Saturday (1-16-10)

7:45 AM Breakfast  
9:00 AM Morning Devotions  
9:30 AM Morning Session with Rev. Da  
12:00 PM Lunch  
2:00 PM Afternoon session with Rev. Day and Break-out groups  
4-6 PM Free Time (Gym will be open)  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Evening Session and vespers with Da  
11:00 PM R & R (lights out)

#### Sunday (1-17-10)

6:50 AM Morning Devotion (by the fireplace in lodge)  
7:00-7:45 AM Breakfast  
7:30 AM Depart for Sugar Mountain Ski Slopes and Lodge  
4:00 PM Ski sessions end; return to Blowing Rock Conference Center  
4-6 PM Free time (gym will be open)  
6 PM Dinner  
7-9 PM Evening Worship  
11:00 PM Lights Out - R & R (take a rest)

#### Monday (1-18-09)

7:45 AM Breakfast  
9:00 AM Morning Session and Closing Worship Rev. Da  
11:00 AM Group Picture  
Depart for home

### **NOTE:**

Please note that participants will be responsible for their own lunches on the ski slopes this year. Each group will need to provide their own transportation to and from Sugar Ski Resort and Jona's Ridge.

# Community Guidelines

- 1) **Treat yourself and others with respect**
- 2) **Do no harm to the property of Blowing Rock Conference Center or to the property of others**
- 3) **Turn your cell phones off during our group time on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday**
- 4) **Participate fully in the weekend activities**
- 5) **The presence of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs, or the consumption of either, will not be allowed by adults or youth**
- 6) **Be on time**
- 7) **Honor the other guests staying at Blowing Rock Conference Center**
- 8) **Be in your rooms at “Lights Out”**
- 9) **Males are to be in male’s rooms and females in female’s rooms**
- 10) **Bring your enthusiasm, energy, and thoughts of peace with you to this retreat**

**Please take the time to share these  
Community Guidelines with your group before you  
arrive at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual SEC/SOC Winter Youth Retreat.**

# What to bring

- Musical instruments to assist in worship (optional)
- Clothes and shoes for playing basketball/volleyball in the gym (optional)
- Spending money for snacks/drinks. The BRCC serves 3 very large meals a day. We will have evening snacks in our gathering space. There is a drink and snack machine on site.
- Warm clothes and shoes. Dressing in layers is helpful for the weather in the mountains of North Carolina. A weatherproof jacket is also helpful.
- Toiletries
- Hair dryer (there are no hair dryers in the rooms)
- Bible
- **Linens are provided (pillows, pillowcases, bed sheets, towels, bath cloths, blankets. Some youth staying in the dorm like to bring sleeping bags.**
- Board games and card games. ***Please do not bring video games.***

Blowing Rock Conference Center is a retreat center and intentional things have been done to help the Conference Center remain a place of quiet, rest, reflection and reunion. Gathering in the lodge around the fireplace and in the youth center/rec center is encouraged. There are no phones or televisions in the rooms; however, there is a payphone in North Corriher Lodge for anyone who needs to call home and does not get good cell phone reception.

## CHECK IN

Check-in is Friday night from 8-10 PM. If you are going to be checking in outside these hours, please let me know so that we can make sure someone is at the desk to greet you and assign you to your rooms.

Check-in at the Conference Room in South Corriher Lodge. Once you arrive at BRCC, travel up the drive to the covered porch. Enter through the double doors to the left of the porch and the conference room is just inside the door directly in front of you.

The planning committee will be there to greet you, give you your room keys and escort you to your rooms.

In order to make the check-in process flawless and quick, please let us know of any changes with your group registration after you mail in your registration.

**\*\*\*\*\*The youth are encouraged to participate in the programming this year. If you have youth who play musical instruments and/or want to help in any way with worship during the weekend, please indicate that on the top of the registration form**

**\*\*\*\*\*If you have photographers in your group that would like to take pictures please ask them to bring their USB cord to download the pictures to a laptop so we can make a DVD of the weekend for each church.**

# Directions to the Blowing Rock Conference Center

PLEASE DO NOT USE MAPQUEST

1818 Goforth Road, Blowing Rock NC 28605  
(828) 295-7813

## LOCAL DIRECTIONS (Once you have reached Blowing Rock)

Blowing Rock Conference Center is located in the town of Blowing Rock. At the stoplight at the corner of NC Highway 321 Bypass and Possum Hollow Road, turn on to Possum Hollow Road. When you have turned onto Possum Hollow Road:

- Follow Possum Hollow .7 miles to a stop sign
- Turn LEFT onto Sunset Drive. Continue .2 miles to the stop sign.
- Turn LEFT onto Goforth Road and continue on Goforth Road until you come to the 15 mph speed limit sign; you will see the entrance to BRCC on your right.
- Turn RIGHT and follow the road to the main parking lot.

## TRAVELING FROM CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

From Interstate 85 South, take Exit #17 at Gastonia onto Route 321 North. Continue approximately 70 miles on Rt. 321 to Blowing Rock. **Please note: Highway 321 is closed between Lenoir and Blowing Rock on Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon until 2:00 p.m.** When you enter Blowing Rock, continue on US Highway 321 **by-pass**. You will pass Woodlands Barbecue and the Outback Steakhouse on your left. Continue through the first traffic light at the Scotchman (right)/BP Station (left) and through the next traffic light. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light, turn right onto Possum Hollow Road (The Shoppes on the Parkway will be on your left.)

## TRAVELING FROM RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Take I-40 West to Winston-Salem, and then NC Highway 421 North to Boone, NC. As you enter Boone on 421, stay in the left lane. At the intersection of 421 and the Hwy 105 Extension, turn left onto 105. At the second traffic light on 105 (BBT/Wendy's/Exxon Station) turn left (south) onto US Highway 321 (Blowing Rock Road). Continue south on Hwy 321 through Boone and for approximately 8 miles to Blowing Rock. After passing Tweetsie Railroad and going under the Blue Ridge Parkway Bridge, you will come to a traffic light. Tanger Shoppes on the Parkway will be on your right. Turn left onto Possum Hollow Road.

## FROM JOHNSON CITY, TN (GENERALLY THE BEST WAY TO REACH US FROM ALL POINTS IN TENNESSEE)

From Johnson City, take Highway 321 to Elizabethton. Continue on Highway 321 through Elizabethton and on to Boone, North Carolina. As you near Boone, Hwy. 321 joins Hwy. 421. Continue toward Boone, and when you enter Boone, stay on 321/421 until you reach the intersection of 321/421 and Highway 105. At that traffic light there will be a two-story Wendy's on your right. Turn right (south) onto US Highway 321 (Blowing Rock Road). Continue south on Hwy 321 through Boone and for approximately 8 miles to Blowing Rock. After passing Tweetsie Railroad and going under the Blue Ridge Parkway Bridge, you will come to a traffic light. Tanger Shoppes on the Parkway will be on your right. Turn left onto Possum Hollow Road.

## TRAVELING FROM ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Take I-85 North to Gastonia, NC. Take Exit #17 at Gastonia onto Route 321 North. Continue approximately 70 miles on Rt. 321 to Blowing Rock. **Please note: Highway 321 is closed between Lenoir and Blowing Rock on Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon until 2:00 p.m.** When you enter Blowing Rock, continue on US Highway 321 **by-pass**. You will pass Woodlands Barbecue and the Outback Steakhouse on your left. Continue through the first traffic light at the Scotchman (right)/BP Station (left) and through the next traffic light. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light, turn right onto Possum Hollow Road (The Shoppes on the Parkway will be on your left.)

**BUSES AND OTHER LARGE VEHICLES, OR VEHICLES TOWING TRAILERS: DO NOT TAKE GOFORTH ROAD DIRECTLY FROM THE HWY 321 BYPASS AT THE GREEN PARK INN. THE DIRECTIONS OUTLINED ABOVE ARE THE BEST AND SAFEST ROUTES TO THE BLOWING ROCK CONFERENCE CENTER.**