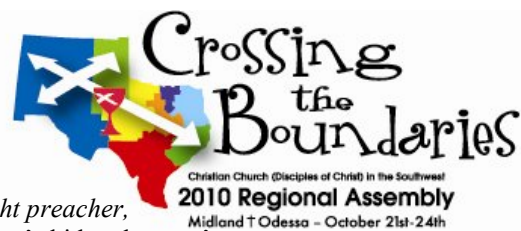


2010 Regional Assembly Speakers

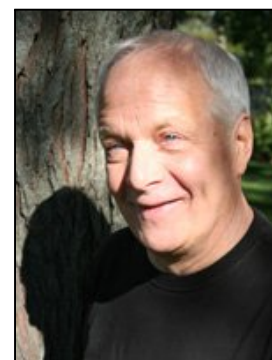


JOSÉ MORALES, JR., our *Thursday night preacher*, was born in Puerto Rico in 1978. As a missionary's kid and pastor's kid and a twin, he has lived in Venezuela, Ohio, and Chicago. His parents, until recently, served as pastors of a Hispanic Pentecostal congregation in Chicago's economically-deprived South Side. José now resides in Denver, CO, currently serving as the Transitional Regional Minister of the Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Prior to this, he served as the Associate Pastor at Iglesia del Pueblo-Hope Center (IDP) in Hammond, Indiana. There he helped found that congregation's social agency, Hope Center of Northwest Indiana, Inc., and served as its Executive Director for the first three years. During the last two years at IDP, he served as the Clergy Caucus Chair of the Northwest Indiana Federation, an interfaith community organizing network of churches and mosques that addresses issues of justice in the Northwest Indiana region in order to effect positive public policy and economic development. In 2005, he graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary (affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA)) in Chicago with a Master of Divinity. He still maintains strong ties with McCormick, where he currently is on the Board of Trustees and has served as adjunct professor.

José is a frequent keynote speaker and preacher and a freelance writer. Some of his writings have appeared in *Sojourners* and *DisciplesWorld* magazine. He plays in mean game of ping-pong, is a fan of the Chicago White Sox, and loves urban art, and techno and hip hop music. He is a club DJ part-time.

KEN MEDEMA, our *Assembly Liturgist from Friday through Sunday*, has been singing over 32 years in every venue imaginable for 50 - 50,000 people, from churches to conventions to colleges to corporations. In 1985, Ken Medema launched Brier Patch Music, a small independent recording, publishing, and performance-booking company named after Brer Rabbit's home in the legendary Uncle Remus stories. "Brer Rabbit lived in a place not comfortable for anyone else," Medema says, "and we have decided to follow him there." Ken continues to speak and sing a Gospel that is relevant, challenging and hopeful – and he leads us to some places that we've not yet been!

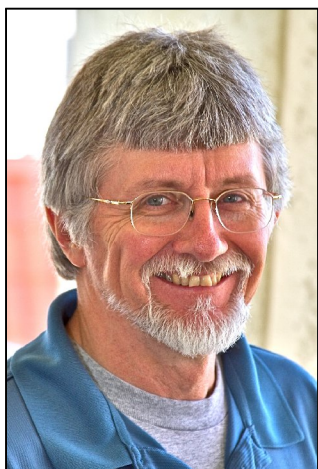


Though blind from birth, Ken has demonstrated his extraordinary musical vision to a growing number of loyal fans across the nation and around the world. Using his gift of improvisation, Ken hears with his heart, stories from people or themes from events or speeches and sings the stories back to audiences of all ages. Ken will share this gift with us during the Assembly! Invariably, his audiences reward Ken's final encore with enthusiastic applause and standing ovations. At home in San Francisco with his wife Jane (a clergywoman) they spend their time reading books, watching movies (yes, Ken is an avid movie-goer) and delighting in their grandchildren!



SUZANNE STABILE, our *Friday afternoon and Saturday morning teacher*, is the co-founder and animator of Life in the Trinity Ministry (LTM) with her husband, Joe, a clergyman. LTM is a non-profit, Christian ministry based in the Dallas area. Founded in 1985, LTM is an inclusive ministry which uses Christian principles to encourage respect, foster personal growth and work toward the creation of community among all people. LTM provides more than 40 seminars and workshops per year to local, national and international audiences. Suzanne is a highly sought-after speaker and teacher, known for her engaging and creative approach to the practice of spiritual formation. She is an internationally-recognized Enneagram Master who has conducted over 500 Enneagram workshops around the world and led with Father Richard Rohr, Founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation.

Suzanne received her B.S. in Social Sciences from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where she also completed additional graduate work in the Schools of Sociology and Theology. She has served as a high school professor, a women's basketball coach, and as the founding Director of Shared Housing, a social services agency in Dallas. She is a Methodist laywoman and brings a dynamic understanding of who the Church is called to be!



RANDY KUSS, our *Youth Ministers' Retreat leader*, has led over 40 **God@Center Retreats** – “A Re-New Way To Do Youth Ministry”-- and discernment events for youth workers, pastors, elders, boards, licensed ministers, and other church leaders. Randy is an ordained Disciples of Christ minister with 39 years of experience in local, regional, denominational and ecumenical youth and outdoor ministries. He currently serves as Director of Christian Education and Youth for Speedway Christian Church, Speedway, Indiana, and a co-founder of DYMN, the Disciples Youth Ministry Network.

Prior to this, he served as denominational Director of Youth Ministries for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada from 1995 to 2003. Randy was a participant in the Youth Ministry & Spirituality Project, 2001-04, and his articles have appeared in *Youthworker Journal*, *The Journal of Student Ministries*, *DisciplesWorld* and *The Disciple*. He wrote the senior high materials for the 2007 New Earth camp curriculum.

Randy is married to Deb Strock-Kuss, associate minister for Allisonville Christian Church. They have two children, Georgia, a recent graduate of Kenyon College, and Blaine, a student at DePauw University. He is a graduate of Phillips University (BA, 1975) and Phillips Theological Seminary (M.Div., 1980). He is a storyteller, song-leader, extremely occasional songwriter, and enjoys time with his wife and kids, their monthly "Gathering" of friends, as well as music, fishing, photography, walks, and his Mac and iPod.

PAUL NIXON, our *Sunday morning preacher*, believes we need healthy progressive Christian faith communities now more than ever before - to offer people a third way between tired tradition, on one hand, and life outside organized spirituality on the other. Dr. Nixon has more than twenty years of experience on the front lines of local church ministry, including nine years at Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church in Florida during a remarkable season when the church doubled from 2000 to 4000 in membership, expanded to three locations and received 1300 adults by profession of faith in Christ.



Paul is an ordained United Methodist minister who, until 2007, was director of congregational development in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. He coaches pastors and churches of many denominations across North America, with special interest in new church development and multi-site congregations in the urban areas. In 2007, he began a new challenge as the pastor of **Epicerter**, a new congregation serving the greater Washington, D.C. area. In addition to a ministry of coaching church leaders, Paul is project manager for a new faith community in Washington DC, Sunday Nights @ Foundry. Paul also works as part of the Path One Team of The United Methodist Church as a researcher and consultant around best practices in new church development.

EPICENTER GROUP, an organization founded by Dr. Nixon, coaches leaders, churches and groups of churches across North America, assisting them in their discovery of God's excellent future and in strategies for bringing that future to life. Paul Nixon's 2007 book, *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church* was Pilgrim Press' best selling title that year. *I Refuse* has provoked a turning point in scores of mainline Christian congregations, and sent Paul all over the US teaching pastor's conferences and consulting with church leaders. Paul's new book, *Finding Jesus on the Metro: and Other Surprises Doing Church in a New Day* serves as a sequel to *I Refuse*, focusing on how congregations can respond faithfully to changing communities and new populations, with very different cultural instincts than most churches.
