



*Connecticut Conference, UCC
2009 Authorized Ministers Event
Friday, October 23, 2009
Noon-3:30 p.m.
First Church of Christ, Congregational
of Middletown*

*Those ordained 50 and 25 years
will be honored during lunch.*

Sacred Conversations on Race

Keynote Speaker—Sanford Cloud

Sandy Cloud grew up in the United Church of Christ in Hartford and has been a lifelong member. Over the years, he has held numerous influential positions, including that of President and CEO of The National Conference for Community and Justice. An attorney, he has been a partner at the law firm of Robinson and Cole and served for two terms as a state senator of Connecticut. Early in his career, he served as Vice President of Corporate Public Involvement of Aetna and used that position to engage Aetna deeply in the city and its neighborhoods.

Mr. Cloud received a B.A. from Howard University, a J.D. *cum laude* from the Howard University Law School, and an M.A. in Religious Studies from the Hartford Seminary, where he later served as Chair of the Board of Trustees. He is a member of Faith Congregational Church, UCC, in Hartford.

Training

Following Mr. Cloud's keynote address, **Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson**, Minister for Racial Justice at the National setting of the United Church of Christ, will offer practical training for clergy on effective ways to lead sacred conversations on race with their congregations. Karen served for several years on the Florida Conference staff and is commended to us by the Rev. Kent Siladi, who told us, "*Karen Thompson was a valued member of the Florida Conference staff. While in Florida she was well known for her work in the field of Disaster Ministries and Recovery work. She authored a comprehensive Conference-wide plan for "Sacred Conversations on Race" that has had lasting impact among the churches of the Conference. Karen has a keen mind, a quick wit and a solid grasp of the issues we face in our church regarding racism.*"