

**The  
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TO: Congregations and Ministers of the New York Conference

FROM: Rev. Martha Koenig Stone, Executive Council Chair

DATE: September 21, 2009

RE: Interim Regional Conference Minister, Southeast Region

On behalf of the Executive Council, I am pleased to announce that we have called the Rev. Freeman Palmer to serve as Interim Regional Conference Minister for the Southeast Region, effective October 16, 2009.

Rev. Palmer holds ministerial standing in the New York Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ and is a member of the Riverside Church. He currently serves as Director of Finance and Administration of the North Jersey Community Research Initiative in Newark, New Jersey. Prior to that, he served as Minister for Congregational Life and Development at the Middle Collegiate Church in Manhattan. His tenure at Middle Collegiate also included serving there as Minister for Social Action and Outreach.

Rev. Palmer's educational background includes a BA from Swarthmore College, an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and an M. Div. from New York Theological Seminary. He comes to us with a broad range of pastoral, organizational and artistic gifts and skills that will surely be of great value to the churches and leaders of in the Southeast Region, to the ministry of the New York Conference as a whole and to the wider church. He has a warm and engaging personality that is complemented by an ability to address difficult issues with careful candor and compassion. He is also an accomplished vocalist and choral director and has been an active presence in the life of the Metro Association.

I hope that you will join me in welcoming Freeman to our conference ministry team, and that you will offer your prayers for his ministry among us!