

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Church Music Workshop to Offer Skills and Resources for Creative Worship Services

Atlanta, GA --- On **Saturday, August 25, 2018**, the **Virginia-Highland Church of Atlanta, Georgia** will host a full day of educational and skill-building sessions for clergy and lay people looking to expand their music-making expertise and enliven their worship services. This late-summer event is the perfect time for church members to add to their repertoire of knowledge as planning ramps up for the upcoming worship season. Co-sponsored by the **United Church of Christ Musicians Association** and **Piedmont College**, the workshop is open to all denominations. Music directors, choir members, instrumentalists, ministers, worship committee members, seminary and college students are all invited to engage in lively sessions, meaningful worship and enjoyable fellowship.

Four workshop sessions will be led by stellar faculty from up and down the East Coast.

Jodi Hitzhusen of Boston, MA will demonstrate World Music and creative instrumental accompaniments. Jodi is a classically-trained soprano and pianist, commissioned composer, worship leader and inspiring teacher whose music has taken her around the world. She currently serves as the music director for First Worship, an inter-generational, participatory service at the Wellesley Village Congregational Church in Wellesley, MA. Jodi specializes in implementing songs and responses from a variety of musical styles and re-energizing traditional music.

Elizabeth Kluegel-Niblock of Arlington, VA will review vocal techniques for choir singers that will help preserve vocal health and enhance singing. As a soprano, she performs frequently in opera, concert and recital settings around the U.S. Elizabeth's passion and focus on the developing adolescent/teen singer and the aging voice is central to both her choral conducting and her teaching. She enjoys working with singers ranging in age from 12 to 70+. She is the director of music at Rock Spring Congregational UCC church in Arlington.

Dr. Norma Raybon of Atlanta, GA will address rehearsal skills for choir directors. She has a D.M.A. in choral conducting from the University of Iowa and has served on the faculties of Spelman College, University of South Florida and State University of New York. She is the choir director of the historic First Congregational Church of Atlanta, a pivotal locus of the civil rights movement in Atlanta and the church where Ambassador Andrew Young once served as pastor.

Randy Elkins, Director of Music at Virginia-Highland Church, will share creative worship planning concepts. He holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in organ performance and church music from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. In addition to his position at Virginia-Highland Church, Randy is chapel organist for the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He performs extensively as an organist and teaches piano, guitar, organ, woodwinds and voice.

Rev. Matt Laney, Senior Pastor of Virginia-Highland Church, will preach at the closing worship service. He previously served churches in Vermont, Michigan and Connecticut. Matt is a regular contributor to the UCC's Daily Devotional and sits on their editorial board. He is also the author of the new faith-based fantasy series, *Pride Wars: The Spinner Prince*, the first in a trilogy.

Date: Saturday, August 25, 2018

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Virginia-Highland Church UCC, 743 Virginia Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. www.vhchurch.org

Cost: \$75 early registration (now to Aug. 1), \$90 general registration (Aug. 2 to 25). The registration fee includes all sessions and lunch.

For more information and to register, go to: www.uccma.org/events

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