450 at Super Saturday urged to let God use them to do greater things

The Rev. Ruben Duran told more than 450 people at Super Saturday in March to trust in the spirit of God during their workshops and community time together. “This is the day for you to say: God, grab me gently and melt me and mold me and fill me and use me – I want to be part of your team to accomplish greater things for you, on behalf of the gospel, for the sake of the world, for the glory of God,” said Duran, Program Director for New Congregations for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Attendees - who came from 140 different churches in the Massachusetts and Connecticut Conferences - could choose two of 50 workshops, attend a lunchtime discussion or forum, and shop a marketplace. Find Super Saturday videos, and details for upcoming events, at: macucc.org/SuperSaturday.

Northeast Association formed

After years of off and on conversation, a couple of years of intentional planning and a vote last June to merge, the Andover and Essex Associations on March 19 together adopted a new constitution and bylaws, thus legally creating the Northeast Association of the Massachusetts Conference. Read more at: macucc.org/NortheastAssociation

216th Annual Meeting promises to wow

With a nationally-renowned speaker, Gospel band, testimonies from local church leaders and some important dialogue on tap, the 216th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Conference promises to be an event not to be missed.

Being held June 12 - 13 at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the event will feature the Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber (right), a leading voice in the emergent church movement and founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints. In addition to clergy and church delegates, anyone from the Mass. Conference is invited to register for the Annual Meeting. Those who do will hear from Bolz-Weber twice - both as keynote speaker and worship leader. Or, the general public is invited to buy tickets to attend only the keynote address on Saturday afternoon at 1 PM for $10 per ticket or $20 for three (free for anyone under 25).

The meeting will also include the music of Rashad McPherson and DivinePURPOSE, and will highlight “testimonies to knock your socks off” from local church leaders about their own inspirational ministries. Also new this year is a children’s program for those who have young children and wish to attend. Find our more at: macucc.org/2015AM

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

– 2 Corinthians 4:7

Find a complete list of Conference events at: macucc.org/events

Rooted in the grace of God, the mission of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ is to nurture local church vitality and the covenant among our churches to make God’s love and justice real.