

The Student

The Reverend Dr. Paul Koch is a native of Missouri. He was raised in the German Evangelical UCC tradition and graduated as the valedictorian of Lafayette High School, St. Joseph, MO, in 1982. Paul continued his education at Drury University in Springfield, MO, where he double-majored in Business Administration and Communications and minored in Economics. He graduated with honors in 1986. Paul's first career took him to Washington, DC, where he became the Administrative Coordinator for a daily two-hour program for National Public Radio. At this time he could no longer deny the call to ministry that he felt at an earlier age. He returned to Missouri and received his Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminar, St. Louis in 1993. He completed his Doctor of Ministry at Eden Theological Seminary in May 2007.

The Pastor

While a student at Eden, Reverend Koch served as the sole minister to two UCC churches in Berger, MO, and did pastoring at Emmaus Home in Marthasville, MO. Since his ordination, Rev. Koch has served as the Associate Minister of First Christian Church in Columbia, MO, and as Senior Pastor of both Park Avenue Christian Church in Des Moines, IA, and First Christian Church in Huntsville, AL. Currently, he is the Ministry Specialist for Interfaith Mission Service where he works extensively to fulfill its objectives of meeting human need and promoting racial harmony in

the Huntsville, AL, area. The Reverend Dr. Paul Koch has been a minister for a little over fifteen years. In that time, he has helped launch successful capital campaigns and helped two churches retire their long-standing debt. He has organized a network of churches for large cooperative youth events, began "Faith and Family First" (an outreach and spiritual growth opportunity), worked for racial harmony and used his leadership and ministry gifts to provide media and community awareness of the church's ministry and message. He was recognized for his "Outstanding Contribution in the Faith and Religious Community" in 2006 by Interfaith Mission Service.

The Person

Reverend Koch feels his greatest and most gratifying reward of ministry is being with people in their journeys of faith. He claims Acts 2:42 as the 'cornerstone' verse of his ministry. "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and their prayers." (NRSV) His personal church life interests focus heavily on mission and justice, homeless outreach, small group studies, spiritual growth experiences, family fellowship, men's ministries, film discussions and sports teams. In addition to the church, Paul has served on the Board of the Huntsville YMCA, chairing its Board of Management and co-chairing the 2005 annual giving campaign. The following are excerpts from the many glowing references we received regarding Rev. Koch. "Paul is humble and leads by example." "Paul

walks the talk." "His messages are biblically based and relevant for the times." "He has an easy-going personality with a lively sense of humor. He enjoys laughing, mostly at himself." "He loves the church and everything about it and finds strength in pastoral care. He has a tremendous bedside manner and is an active listener."