



## news release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Knute Larson to be featured guest on special edition of NewsNight Akron**

KENT, Ohio — April 3, 2009 — Knute Larson, who will step down in May from The Chapel in Akron after more than 25 years as senior pastor, makes an encore appearance on a special “NewsMaker Akron” edition of **NewsNight Akron**. The Western Reserve PBS program will air on Friday, April 10, at 9 p.m and repeat on Saturday, April 11, at 5 a.m.

Larson was the first featured “NewsMaker Akron” guest on **NewsNight Akron** more than nine years ago. Journalist and **NewsNight Akron** regular panelist Jody Miller talks with the pastor about his leaving The Chapel and what lies ahead for this church. Larson will also share his observations about the greater Akron community as a whole, especially the work he has done over the years in the areas of race and social relations.

Larson came to Akron in 1983 as the third pastor of the church founded by the Rev. Charles Burnham more than 75 years ago. The Chapel is Summit County’s largest church and one of the country’s five largest independent, nondenominational churches, with a membership of more than 8,000 worshipping in two locations, Akron and Green. Larson is a well-recognized figure in the Akron area, known for his pastoral work, community involvement and civic dedication. He was recently described in an Akron Beacon Journal editorial as “a pastor of integrity and community.”

Not only is Larson retiring from The Chapel, but he and his wife, Jeanine, are relocating to Michigan to be closer to the families of their two married daughters. Larson earned a doctorate of ministry from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and a master of divinity degree from Grace Theological Seminary. He plans to teach at seminaries in the Michigan area.

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### **About NewsNight Akron**

**NewsNight Akron**, which is recorded at Western Reserve PBS's Production Hub in downtown Akron, is in its 11th season on Western Reserve PBS. It airs on Fridays at 9 p.m. and repeats on Saturdays at 5 a.m. The program offers spontaneous, lively, in-depth discussions about issues that affect the lives of people in greater Akron. Hosted by Eric Mansfield, WKYC-TV3 evening news coanchor, **NewsNight Akron** features a roundtable discussion with a panel of local journalists that covers both breaking news stories on topics such as education, the community and local business, as well as ongoing subjects including elections and major news stories. Serving as regular panelists on the show are Steve Hoffman, political writer at the Akron Beacon Journal; Jody Miller, Western Reserve PBS reporter; and Ed Esposito, Joe Jastzremski and Larry States, all of whom are members of the Rubber City Radio Group news staff.

### **About Western Reserve Public Media**

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. Western Reserve PBS, a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.4 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit [www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org](http://www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org) or call 1-800-554-4549.

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