

Annual Meeting 2015

Pacific Northwest Conference
of the United Church of Christ

Reports

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Resolutions | 1 |
| Churches of Our Conference | 2 |
| Changes Around Our Conference | |
| Memorials | 5 |
| Clergy New to Our Conference..... | 6 |
| Newly Licensed Ministers..... | 6 |
| Retiring Ministers | 6 |
| Specialized Ministers..... | 7 |
| Members in Discernment..... | 8 |
| Staff Reports | |
| Mike Denton, Conference Minister..... | 9 |
| Mark Boyd, Managing Director of N-Sid-Sen | 10 |
| Ginny Springer, Administrator, Pilgrim Firs..... | 11 |
| Board of Directors Reports | |
| Moderator | 12 |
| Treasurer..... | 12 |
| Committee Reports | |
| Committee on Ministry..... | 13 |
| Educational Ministries Committee..... | 13 |
| Adult Spiritual Formation Task Force..... | 14 |
| Outdoor Ministries Task Force..... | 14 |
| Youth and Young Adult Ministries Task Force | 15 |
| Global Ministry Committee | 16 |
| Justice & Witness Ministries Committee | 16 |
| Ministry Resource Committee..... | 17 |
| Personnel Committee..... | 17 |
| Other Ministries | |
| Annuitant Visitors..... | 18 |
| Disaster Ministries..... | 18 |
| Minutes of Annual Meeting 2014 | 19 |

Resolutions – A Special Note

Since we are moving toward having paperless Annual Meetings, each of the items requiring a vote by the Annual Meeting Delegates will be posted on the PNC website (pncucc.org). Hard copies are only available by request.

According to the procedure adopted by the Annual Meeting in 2008:

“Hearing time will be provided at the Annual or Other Meeting to provide information, allow question and answer time, have issues debated, give an opportunity for refinement or modification of the original proposed resolution or issue of concern statement and seek consensus of the hearing participants as to the substance of the resolution or issue of concern and whether or not it is recommended to the Delegates as an important issue upon which to act.”

To be able to handle resolutions efficiently, delegates will be randomly assigned to hearings. Each hearing group will have the ability to make refinements to the original resolution and make recommendations to the Annual Meeting assembled body. Delegate participation in the hearing process is vital, since the hearing can make changes before the resolution comes to the full plenary session.

As of publication of this booklet, we have the following items that will come before all Annual Meeting Delegates for a vote.

1. Proposed By-Law Change of PNC Moderator and Vice-Moderator Term Limit
2. Transition from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Energy
3. Central Atlantic Conference Resolution on Palestine
4. PNC Budget

Churches of Our Conference

Alaska

| | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Anchorage | New Testament Church (Feagaiga Fou) Victorious Cross Church (Satauro Ole Manumalo) | Rev. Niutunu Faiupu In Transition |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|

Idaho

| | | |
|----------|--|---|
| Lewiston | Congregational-Presbyterian Church | Rev. Steve Wilbraham Rev. Josh Bruns |
| Wallace | United Church of Christ-Congregational | Rev. Alice Ling |

Washington

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Anacortes | Pilgrim Congregational Church | In Transition |
| Bainbridge Isl. | Eagle Harbor Congregational | Rev. Dr. Dee Eisenhower |
| Bellevue | Eastgate Congregational UCC First Congregational Church | Rev. Dr. Renee McCoy, Bridge Pastor Rev. Kevin Brown Rev. Lisa Horst Clark Rev. Sharon Benton |
| Bellingham | First Congregational Church | Rev. Sandy Cheatham |
| Blaine | United Church of Christ (Cong.) | Rev. Stephen Haddan |
| Carnation | Tolt Congregational UCC | Rev. Dan Schnabel |
| Cathlamet | Cathlamet Congregational Church | Rev. David Krueger-Duncan |
| Cheney | Cheney United Church of Christ | Rev. Judith Holloway |
| Chewelah | Chewelah United Church of Christ | Mr. Ashley Watson, Licensed |
| Colfax | Affirmational UCC - Plymouth Cong. | Rev. Lynn Nelson |
| Colville | First Congregational Church | Rev. Jim CastroLang |
| Dayton | First Congregational Church | Rev. Marj Johnston |
| Deer Park | Open Door Congregational Church | Rev. Dan Berg |
| Eltopia | Eltopia United Church of Christ | Rev. Esther Pfeifer |
| Everett | Everett United Church of Christ | Rev. Cynthia Riggan, Bridge Pastor |
| Federal Way | Wayside United Church of Christ | Rev. Dennis Hollinger-Lant |
| Ferndale | The United Church | Rev. Bobbi Virta Mr. Kenn Robinson, Licensed Mr. Warren Johnson, Licensed |
| Forks | First Congregational Church | Rev. Janet Matthews |
| Fox Island | Fox Island United Church of Christ | Rev. Sally Balmer |
| Guemes Island | Guemes Isl. Community Church, UCC | Rev. Ryan Lambert |
| Kirkland | Kirkland Congregational Church, UCC | Rev. Aleni Tonuao |
| Lacey | Church of New Beginnings | Rev. Linda Larson, Interim |
| Lummi Island | Lummi Island Congregational | Rev. Bob Ingalls |
| Malden | Malden Community Congregational | Rev. Roberta Rominger |
| Mercer Island | Congregational Church on Mercer Island (UCC) | |
| Metaline Falls | Metaline Falls Congregational UCC | Rev. Tara Leininger |
| Monroe | First Congregational Church of Monroe | Rev. Jane Sorenson |
| Naselle | Naselle Community Congregational | Rev. Dan Schnabel |
| Newport | United Church of Christ | Rev. Russell Clark |
| Olympia | Community for Interfaith Celebration | Ms. Kathleen Peppard, Lay Minister |
| Olympia | The United Churches of Olympia | In Transition |
| Peshastin | Peshastin United Church of Christ | Rev. Ann Hinz |
| Pullman | Community Congregational UCC | Rev. Kristine Zakarison Rev. Chip Laird |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Renton Richland | United Christian Church | Rev. Ken Colman |
| | Shalom United Church of Christ | Rev. Stephen Eriksen |
| | Central United Protestant Church* | Rev. David Parker |
| | Northwest United Protestant Church* | Rev. Sharon Withers |
| | Westside United Protestant Church* | Rev. Ray Smith |
| Ritzville Sammamish Seattle | Zion Philadelphia Congregational UCC | Rev. Ralph Kienecker |
| | Spirit of Peace UCC | Rev. Faye Serene |
| | Admiral Congregational Church (UCC) | Rev. Dan Wodrich |
| | Ala I Le Ola Church #5 | Rev. Karel Coppock |
| | Alki Congregational UCC | Rev. Judith Rinehart-Nelson |
| | All Pilgrims Christian Church | Rev. David Shull |
| | Bethany UCC | Rev. Andrew Conley-Holcom |
| | Broadview Community UCC | Rev. Lotomama Kilion |
| | Columbia Lakewood Community | Rev. Diane Darling |
| | Fauntleroy Church UCC | Rev. Penny Matthews, Pastoral Counseling |
| | First Samoan Cong. UCC (#1) | Rev. Greg Turk |
| | German United Church of Christ | Rev. Angela Ying |
| | Japanese Congregational Church | Rev. Jan Van Pelt, Interim |
| | Keystone Congregational UCC | Rev. Jeffrey Lee Barker |
| | Liberation UCC | Rev. Eric Dale, Interim |
| | Magnolia United Church of Christ | Rev. Topelagi Siva |
| | Normandy Park Cong. Church | Rev. Thom Wert |
| | Plymouth Congregational Church | Rev. Stephen Luttio |
| | Prospect United Church of Christ (Cong.) | Rev. Richard Gamble |
| | St. Paul's United Church of Christ | Rev. Lauren Cannon |
| | Samoan Cong. Christian Church (#2) | Rev. Darrel Goodwin |
| | Samoan United Church of Christ (#4) | Rev. Joy Heartig |
| | Taiwanese Christian Church (UCC) | Rev. Dr. Lon Rycraft |
| University Congregational UCC | Rev. Brigitta Remole | |
| Shoreline | Richmond Beach Congregational UCC | Rev. Brandon Duran |
| | | Rev. Meighan Pritchard |
| Spokane | Shalom United Church of Christ | Rev. Tim Devine |
| | Westminster Congregational UCC | Mr. Fili Togi |
| Spokane Valley Suquamish Tacoma | Veradale United Church of Christ (Cong.) | Rev. Lefeagai Ta'amu |
| | Suquamish United Church of Christ | In transition |
| | Cong. Christian Church of Am. Samoa | Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz |
| | First Samoan Congregational Christian Church of Tacoma | Rev. Catherine Foote |
| | New Heart UCC | Rev. Amy Roon |
| | Rev. Paul Ashby | |
| | Ms. Marcia McLaughlin (Commissioned) | |
| | Lay Leadership | |
| | Rev. Andrea CastroLang | |
| | Ms. Jan Shannon, Licensed | |
| | Rev. Genavieve Heywood | |
| | In Transition | |
| | Rev. Tupulua Tagaloa | |
| | Rev. Ulisese Sala | |
| | Rev. Jan Skaggs | |
| | Rev. Roberta Booth, Associate Pastor | |

* Indicates an affiliated church that contributes to OCWM.

Tonasket
University Place
Walla Walla

Tonasket Community Church, UCC
United Church in University Place
First Congregational Church

Rev. Leon Alden
Rev. Cathlynn Law
Rev. Cecilia McKean
Mr. Adam Kirtley
Rev. Michael Titus
Rev. Ann Eidson, Interim
In Transition

Wenatchee
Woodinville
Yakima

Sunnyslope Church
Northshore United Church of Christ
United Christian Church of Yakima

Changes around Our Conference

Memorials

John Gibson June 11, 1926 - February 28, 2015



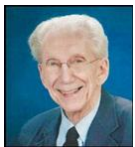
Rev. John Gibson was born to Matthew and Emma Gibson on June 11, 1926 in Pennsylvania. He graduated from Dickinson College in 1947 and from Boston University School of Theology, 1951. John married Margaret Botwright on August 4, 1949 and served as minister of Stoughton Congregational Church from 1949-51. In 1951 John was called to begin what became 40 years of service at Plymouth Congregational Church and the Washington North Idaho Conference. While on staff at the Conference (1955-59), he helped turn Pilgrim Firs, Eastgate Congregational Church and Horizon House into a reality. He was passionate for Seattle sports and had the same passion for helping others through supporting organizations that help people. John enjoyed traveling with Margie, playing bridge, and gardening. John's wife, Margie preceded him in death in February 2014. He is survived by five children: Kent (Kimberly) Kay Taylor (Mark) Scott, Sue Little (Rick), Alan (Kristin) and six granddaughters Kailani, Kristen, Kenna, Kellen, Lindy and Alexandra.

Hanna Parce November 10, 1927 - May 28, 2014



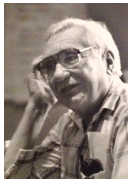
Hanna Irene Parce was the wife of the late Irvin Parce who served churches in North Dakota and Washington. She passed peacefully at Evergreen Hospice Care Center following a debilitating stroke. She was a loyal and giving friend who maintained close relationships with friends she met from childhood to college and during her married years from South Dakota to Washington. She is survived by Nanci Amaral, Erich, Marc, and Kirk Parce, 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Roland Schlueter November 12, 1919 - December 4, 2014



Rev. Dr. Roland F. Schlueter, 95, of Seattle, died peacefully on December 4, 2014. He was born in Iron River, Wisconsin. He married the late Frances Kaub Schlueter on September 5, 1943. She died in 1993. Reverend Schlueter received a Bachelors Degree from Yale University, an M.Div. Degree from Union Seminary, and a PhD. from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland). He served 7 churches in our conference between 1943-1984, including as founding pastor of Wayside UCC. He was a member at Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle and a skilled musician. Surviving are Rebecca Deryckx, Cynthia Dustrude (Steve), Jonathan Schlueter (Pam), and Christopher Schlueter (Laurie), 8 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandsons.

James Smucker April 6, 1922 - November 10, 2014



Reverend James Smucker served as conference minister of our conference from 1967 to 1971. He also served in Ohio, Illinois and New York. He is remembered as a champion of justice and peace. Rev. Smucker earned his divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary (1946), a Master of Sacred Theology degree from Yale Divinity School (1952) and a D.Div from Elmurst College (1963). He was married in 1945 to Onieta (Tiahart), who passed in 2006. Jim was ordained in Wooster, Ohio in 1946 and he and his wife were appointed as missionaries in India. Jim went on to serve in Illinois, then as Associate Conference Minister (ACM) in Illinois, Southern Area, followed by ACM in the Chicago Area. He also served as Conference Minister of the New York Conference (1970-1987). He is survived by four daughters, Mary Celeste, Joy, Rachel, Ellen, and their families.

Tex Williams October 17, 1944 - March 1, 2014



Walter Lynn (Tex) Williams passed away March 1, 2014. He was the husband of the Rev. Trish Knorpp-Williams. They were married on Oct 28, 2001 in Seattle, Washington. Tex was born in Kermit Texas He was raised and educated in Midland Texas. As an adult he served on the Midland and Big Spring police force, while also working with the family owned electrical company. He traveled extensively in the US and South Africa doing electrical installations. He had three children: Tony, Tim and Trini and four step-children Karen, Todd, Terry and Andrea. His greatest pleasure was his Basset Hounds, which he and Trish bred for 12 years.

Clergy New to Our Conference

Harold Bergmann, was ordained on December 14, 2014 at University Congregational UCC after receiving a call to The Chaplaincy, a hospice in Richland, Washington. His M.Div. is from Pacific School of Religion.

Sharon Benton was called to serve First Congregational Church in Bellingham as their lead pastor. She began her ministry there on January 1, 2015, following ministries in Colorado and Connecticut. Her partner is Jamie Kepros, also an ordained minister.

Lauren Cannon was ordained and installed on October 26, 2014 at Keystone UCC. She had been a member in discernment in Chicago Metropolitan Association of the Illinois Conference.

Sandy Cheatham began serving as pastor of Blaine UCC on September 1, 2014. She is transferring from Colorado. Her husband is Seth and they have three children.

Andrew Conley-Holcom, received a call as pastor to Admiral Congregational UCC in West Seattle. He was ordained at First Congregational Church in Bellingham. Andrew graduated from Pacific School of Religion.

Christopher Hayward was ordained at Veradale UCC and serves at Greenacres Christian Church (DOC) in Spokane Valley.

Lynn Nelson, was on an alternative path to ordination while serving as licensed minister of Affirmational UCC-Plymouth Congregational in Colfax UCC. She was ordained there on January 4, 2015.

Meighan Pritchard, a member in discernment in our conference, was ordained on October 5, 2014 at University Congregational UCC. She has a BA from Yale, a BA from the University of Washington, and an M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion. Meighan is serving as pastor at Prospect Congregational UCC in Seattle and is just finishing being the UCC minister for environmental justice.

Roberta Rominger was recently called as pastor to the Congregational Church on Mercer Island (UCC). Her ministry began in March 2015.

Wayne Wilson transferred from the New York Conference to serve at the Compass Housing Alliance, a Lutheran organization, as Program Manager. His membership is at University Congregational UCC.

Newly Licensed Ministers

Warren Johnson was licensed on August 5, 2014, to serve at First Congregational Church in Forks. He was installed as the pastor on September 20, 2014 after serving as the lay pastor for the six previous years.

Kenn Robinson was licensed on August 21, 2014 to serve at the United Church of Ferndale.

Newly Retired Clergy

Kizzie Jones retired after serving as chaplain of Horizon House for 18 years.

Specialized Ministers

Tara Barber is in transition.

Harold Bergmann is a chaplain with The Chaplaincy in Richalnd.

Ellen Blaise is a chaplain at Swedish Medical Center and a member at Plymouth Church, Seattle.

Mark Bonnema, a member of University Congregational UCC, is a minister of pastoral care.

Susan Cutshall, a member of Wayside UCC, is a hospice chaplain.

Michael Denton, our conference minister, is a member of Plymouth Church, UCC, Seattle.

Ben Files is in covenant with University Congregational UCC, where he is a member.

Marie Fortune, in covenant with Universtiy Congregational UCC, is the founder of FaithTrust.

Amy Furth is in covenant with University Congregational UCC, where she is a member.

Andy Gill, a member of University Congregatonal UCC, is a chaplain at Seattle Children's Hospital.

Amy Hitchens, a member of Alki UCC, is a chaplain.

Debra Jarvis is in covenant with University Congregational UCC.

Beverly Jenden-Riedlinger, a member of The United Churches of Olympia, is in transition.

Bill Kirlin-Hacket is in covenant with University Congregational UCC and The Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness.

Penny Matthews, a member of Alki UCC, is a hospice chaplain.

Beth Plumbo, a member of Westminster Congregational UCC, is a chaplain at Sacred Heart & Holy Family.

Linda Purdy, a member of All Pilgrims Christian Church, is the Director of Spiritual Care at Horizon House.

Rosemary Raynaud, a member of First Congregational Church in Everett, is a chaplain.

Anthony Robinson, a member of Spirit of Peace UCC, is president of Congregational Leadership Network.

Cheryl Smith, a member of First Congregational Church in Bellingham, is a chaplain.

Gary Southerton, a member of Plymouth Church, Seattle, is executive director of Plymouth Healing Communities.

Terry Teigen, a member of Plymouth Church, is the Associate Director of Spiritual Care at Horizon House.

Jan Van Pelt is the interim pastor at Broadview Community Church.

Wayne Wilson is the program manager at the Compass Housing Alliance in Seattle. He is a member of University Congregational UCC.

Members In Discernment

Christina Airaghi is a member of First Congregational Church in Bellingham. Her M.Div. is from Santa Clara University.

Kevin Bechtold is a graduate of Seattle University and member of Plymouth Church, Seattle.

Brian Christensen is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School and member of University Congregational UCC in Seattle.

Lara Crutsinger-Perry is a member at The United Churches of Olympia. She graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Susan Fairo is a member of University Congregational UCC. She received her M.Div. from Seattle University.

Leslie Leasure graduated from Pacific School of Religion. She is a member of All Pilgrim Christian Church, Seattle.

Maureen McLain earned her M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion. She has been approved for ordination pending call. Her membership is at Magnolia UCC.

Sophie Morse is a member of Suquamish Congregational Community UCC and a graduate from Seattle U.

Muriel Otto is a member of First Congregational Church in Bellingham. She attends the Vancouver School of Theology.

Sam Rennebohm's membership is at Prospect UCC. He has been approved for ordination pending call.

Tamara Roberts, a member of University Congregational UCC, has been approved for ordination pending call. She attended Seattle University.

Marci Weis, a member of Monroe UCC, is attending Seattle University.

Irene Willis is a member of Shalom UCC in Richland and graduated from Boston University School of Theology.

Bruce Wilson is a member of University Congregational UCC in Seattle. His M.Div. is from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Illinois.

Staff Reports

Mike Denton, Conference Minister

The Farewell liturgy in the UCC Book of Worship begins with these words:

“Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences and new opportunities.”

The Book of Worship has lots of pieces of wisdom in it but this short paragraph is one that, every time I read it, always strikes me as deeply true.

Although most of our church buildings, church governance structures, worship services, and position descriptions seem to be set up with assumptions of stability and permanence, this short paragraph names the truth we all know. Stability is found only by focusing on the smaller moments within a larger reality of ongoing transition and change. A commitment to unchanging permanence is not a promise any of us can or should keep.

Insistence on stability and permanence when faced with the reality of instability and impermanence is not a display of strength but a path towards entropy. Although, at first, the refusal to adapt and change can feel like the conservation of energy and resources, in the long run this decision ends up being costly and wasteful on every level. The expenditure of time, energy and resources needed for strategically adapting to change versus resisting change tends to be very similar. However, over time, the expenditure put towards resisting change ultimately depletes resources more than it renews them.

Within our conference’s life, this last year has been filled with transitions and, in some cases, some of these transitions in local congregations have been very difficult and included significant conflict. In the year between our last Annual Meeting and this one, about 30 (approx. 36%) of our congregations have gone through or are going through some sort of significant pastoral change. Although this is a number that always goes up and down, around 10% per year is average for pastoral transitions.

Since we met last as a conference, Deeg Nelson stepped down from his role as Managing Director of Pilgrim Firs after being in that position more twelve years. Bob Anderson, CEO of Horizon House, has announced his retirement this year and Rev. Kizzie Jones, the Director of Spiritual Care, also stepped down from her position. Although not within the conference, the retirements of the Rev. Geoffrey Black (General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ) and the Rev. Linda Jaramillo (Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries) are also part of this particular season of transition. I’ve been in this position for 7 years and, by the end of this summer’s Synod in Cleveland, 34 of the 38 Conference Minister positions will have turned over.

The Council and Board of our own conference also ended the search to fill the position we’d created called the Coordinator of Program Implementation. Although we’d received some great applicants, it became clear that - although this was an important position to support at the time it was created - it was not the most important place to add staffing right now. We needed to go a different direction.

This is a relatively recent decision so, as of this writing, we don’t yet have a title for the new position. However, it will be a position that focuses on church vitality. This is a separate idea from simply church growth. This position will focus on helping churches discern what full and vital life they are called to and help congregations figure out how to live in to that call. This position will also help us define what vitality might mean in our context more widely. In a covenantal church, the question can’t just be “What is church vitality for our local congregation?” but it’s also, “What does it mean to be a vital UCC congregation in the Pacific Northwest?” and “In what ways do we need to be in relationship with other congregations in order to be more vital?” I’m sure there are more questions we have yet to discern.

Part of the need for this position is a reflection of the reality that, as the scope of my work has continued to widen, it has been difficult to enter in to many parts of this work with significant depth. As the board and I continue to discuss this new position, we also recognize the opportunity to look at the position of Conference

Minister and shape it in a way that works for what the conference is and what has the conference has the opportunity to become.

If we do it right, we won't stop there, either. If vitality becomes not just the focus of this position but an increased focus of the conference as a whole, we'll have the opportunity to remake the conference, too. The limits of our effectiveness will only be limited by our willingness to be faithful to our collective call.

I think we have some hints of some directions we might be heading, too. The simple act of prayer requests being sent out on our listserv has had a significant impact on how many of us feel connected to each other. The cooperation between our Youth and Young Adult Taskforce and our Outdoor Ministries Taskforce to establish a consistent safe conference policy for camp and conference events that include youth and children is a responsible, common sense approach to helping make these gatherings safe times of faith enrichment and exploration. The emerging commitment to figuring out what racial justice means in an area that has one of whitest populations of anywhere in the country speaks to our embodiment of a call that we've heard across the country. The increasing willingness of local congregations to consider more and more ways to cooperate together to build our Justice Leadership Program; youth and confirmation retreats; and congregational spiritual development opportunities speak to the hopes church members have of being in relationship and partnership with each other.

Over the next year, you're going to be hearing a lot more about Communities of Practice for clergy. These are small groups of support and mutual accountability - with trained facilitators - that help address the isolation that almost all pastors feel in their positions. In the Massachusetts Conference, these groups have increased the retention rate for pastors at local churches; increased the number of first time pastors remaining in ministry past their first call from the dismal national average of 50% to more than 70%; and reduced fitness reviews by 93%. I'm certain that the number of more difficult pastoral transitions in the last year would have been reduced if we'd had such groups in place.

These efforts, when combined with our considerations of staffing adjustments, begin to paint a very hopeful picture. Any of these things, individually, would have been significant but when considered together, a clearer wholeness of vision and mission is emerging; a clearer sense of vitality is emerging. I think we've been working up to this moment for several years. Some things had to be cleared away and other things needed to be strengthened but I really do think that we're moving into a time when, as more and more is on the table, we're having a clearer idea what we might be called to build.

By the time we get together next month, I'll have more to share but, in the meantime, I'd simply ask you to be prayerful about these things. Something, many things really, seem as though it's about to spring forth...

Mark Boyd, Managing Director of N-Sid-Sen

Come Home to Camp

One of the things I realized this year at camp is how much this piece of ground is home for so many folks. While it is certainly home for all the deer, turkeys, eagles, ground squirrels, moose, elk and the occasional bear, it is more than that. And of course it is home to Julie and I, and Buzz. And yet it is more than that.

It is home in the sense of coming home at the end of a long day, putting your feet up, breathing out a smile and feeling content. It is home in the sense that this is a place to be truly who we are meant to be. And yet it is more than that.



As I talked with folks who come to N-Sid-Sen and really listened to them, I began to pick up on something. This is home in that each and every person who comes here learns, discovers and claims this piece of ground as their own home. Certainly not in the ownership as if it is all mine, rather in that I am home. N-Sid-Sen is a place I can come to and just know that I am home. This is where I can set the worries and concerns aside and relax with friends around the fire.

This is your home on the lake. It was built for and by you. It is your home on the lake. And let me tell you what we have been doing here at home this last year.

We put new tile showers in Spirit Lodge, built a lifeguard chair, launched a floating dock in the swim cove, converted an old rowboat into a sandbox, cleared trails, put lattice on a few cabins, replaced an oven in the kitchen and even repaired the front steps of Stillwater Lodge.

This year we will finally update the boy's side of the bath house, replace one of the ski boats, install better well marked recycling stations at each lodge, create a more permanent bar-b-q area in the cove, replace an old outdated culvert in the meadow and more surprises for all to enjoy. And the best part is that you get to help. Yes indeed, you can come to camp for FREE. Give us a little sweat and we will feed and entertain you.

You can also come to any of the other camps we have to offer, Kids, Intermediate, Jr. High, Sr. high and 2 family camps. Or talk to your church and join them for a weekend of fun. Or ask your church, why aren't we going to camp? We have room!

While Julie and I have visited many churches we still have more to go. It would be easier if you all didn't meet on the same day at the same time. But nonetheless we will get there. We have traveled the Palouse hills, climbed 4th of July pass, and headed north (almost) to Canada. We would love to and will get by to say hello, talk a little camp and worship together.

Please be sure to grab a brochure, check the website and get your calendar cleared. Because many exciting things are coming to your home on the lake in 2015.

I am looking forward to visiting with you at Annual Meeting in April.

Come Home to Camp, Mark Boyd

Ginny Springer, Administrator at Pilgrim Firs

"CHANGES"

My name is Ginny Springer and I have loved and worked at Pilgrim Firs for the past 11 years. I was honored when I was asked to step in as Interim Director for Pilgrim Firs, until a new Director is hired. I have worked mostly in the legal field in the past & needed a change and Deeg gave me one. Since that first day my love and commitment to Pilgrim Firs has grown.

As most know, David "Deeg" Nelson has moved on to pursue his passion for Environmental Justice Issues and in his words "Save the Planet"

The staff and I have been working on cleaning up Pilgrim Firs from the winter winds and heavy rain. We are slowly clearing trails, picking up downed branches and cutting up fallen trees. We have also been updating comforters, curtains and deep cleaning cabins getting ready for the busy summer season.

We had an early spring this year, the cherry blossoms are blooming, random daffodils have sprung, and the vibrant green is returning. The staff keeps a watchful eye out for returning bee's nests under the cabins eaves. We will be having a Spring Cleaning/Work Camp May 1-3, 2015. The weekend is free with meals & housing and of course a little fun included; we could use some more hands in our effort to make Pilgrim Firs shine. We all look forward to seeing you at camp.

Again thank you for the opportunity to keep Pilgrim Firs moving forward and we look forward to meeting our new Director.

Board of Directors

Moderator's Report, Andy CastroLang

Our themes for our yearly get together, our Pacific Northwest Conference Annual Meeting, converge in my thoughts when I consider my time serving as your Moderator this past year and a half.

We came together last Spring at Univ. Cong. UCC in Seattle and gathered around the message, "**Welcome Home**". The saying, over many a doorway, "Home is where the Heart is" rang true for me at that meeting. We came together to work, to sing, to pray, to listen to great teaching and preaching, to eat cookies and to laugh and talk together. We came together with gusto, with laughter, with tears. And looking out at you, with that Moderator's gavel newly placed in my hands, I saw you, the people who are the home of my heart.

The Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ has been my home since 1990. We who gather as "church" claim all sorts of dates when this place became our "home" but it is precious to us, and filled with memory. There are the saints whom we have known, who have gone before us and to whom we have had to say good-bye. There are the friends, colleagues, mentors, camps, churches and communities that have made the PNC-UCC feel like home to us. We owe them a great debt of loving thanks for being in our lives.

It would be nice perhaps to stop there!

But the theme of this year's Annual Meeting takes what we know and love of the PNC-UCC and challenges us to look with fresh eyes. "**Spring Forth**" the theme calls to us as we prepare to come together in Spokane! This theme is taken from the Isaiah text, "**Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**" (Isaiah 43:19).

New things...hmmm? New things come into our lives with astonishing frequency, and often whether we feel ready or not! This happens in the lives of our churches, camps, communities and their members. New things can frighten us, disrupt us, overturn us. New things can also challenge us to look at the handiwork of God with fresh eyes, to behold new days of promise and growth and hope. And because we are Easter people, this is the challenge; to let this vision of new hope and possibility be the way we embrace the world!

These are difficult times. The disruptions of vast and frequent cultural shifts bring fear into many lives, violence swells in such times, many institutions of society are stressed or broken apart. We have seen many changes and accepted many challenges in the past year of our life together as the Pacific Northwest Conference. But again, I say to you, even as I remind myself; we are Easter people and God calls us to see, "Behold, I am doing a new thing"!

I believe the good people who are working to strengthen and encourage the life of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC do so with eyes open to see the new things that spring forth from God's hand. We will continue to look, to serve, to face the challenges of these days.

I ask you to continue to pray for us, as we remember you also in our prayer. I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting in Spokane!

In thanks giving for the ministry of Christ which we share,
Andy CastroLang, Moderator for the Board of Directors, PNC-UCC

Treasurer's Report, Wendy Blight, Treasurer

At last year's Annual Meeting it was decided to change our fiscal yearend from December 31 to May 31 to better align with our budgeting process and the April Annual Meeting. The changeover has been smooth thanks to excellent work by Michelle Dougherty, our Accounting Manager. Because of the transition, our financial report for this Annual Meeting is for a 5-month period, January 2014 to May 2014.

The General Operating Fund ended the period at a \$15,000 loss, but that was \$32,000 better than the expected budget. Income was slightly over budget at \$211,000. Total expenses came in under budget before transfers at \$214,000. A substantial savings in expense was realized because the new Conference staff position remained open during this period.

The Conference ended the 5-month period with Net Assets of \$5.2 million. Approximately \$1.7 million of those assets are restricted as to purpose and another \$2.0 million are in fixed assets. That leaves \$1.5 million as unrestricted assets.

As approved at last year's Annual Meeting, a financial Management Review was successfully completed by Watson & McDonell at a cost just slightly more than expected due to the complexity of the work.

Committee Reports

Committee on Ministry

As I reviewed the past year on the Westside of the Committee on Ministry, I was struck by the number of transitions we witnessed. We began our year with four back-to-back Ordination Interviews, and have then seen these talented folks seek calls. We walked with clergy and congregations as ministries ended; and new leaders were welcomed into our conference.

We continued this year to address the ways that we do our work. The two halves of our Committee on Ministry worked to re-write the process for Commissioned Ministry, and we hope to have a few begin that process in the coming year. We also reviewed and revised our transfer policies, both to better align with the wider church processes, and to formally adopt a process for transferring in situations where neither a new call nor retirement is evident. We had good conversations ranging from how we define Licensed Ministry, to how can we better equip and support our clergy for the changing church.

We also embarked on new ways of being supportive to congregations. We co-hosted a Moderators' training along with the Stewardship and Church Development Committees where over forty folks participated, and came away with a clearer understanding of the tasks and call of church lay leadership. Workshops on creating healthier congregations were held, and supported by a grant from the Church Development Committee.

One area where we have seen much pain and confusion in our churches as well as with our clergy is around transitions. Though we have had guidelines in place for many years that describe appropriate ways to navigate the conclusion of pastorates, we learned that there was no shared understanding of those guidelines by congregations and many of our clergy had varying degrees of awareness and compliance with them. After lengthy discernment, we revised the document for concluding pastorates, and it was made a conference policy by the Board of Directors. It is our hope that this will help us better navigate the difficult and necessary partings between pastors and congregations.

It was a full year, and not without some difficult discussions and actions. Formally, we report that Rev Jen Walters went through a Fitness Review conducted by the Central Pacific Conference (due to the fact she was a recent member of our COM), resulting in a Censure and a Program of Growth. Rev John Hughes went through a Fitness Review resulting in the Termination of Standing. Through these tender and necessary conversations, we remain faithful to the call and role that you have entrusted us with - to strengthen the church so that we can better be the body of Christ. We ask for your continued prayers and express our gratitude for the hours of time and reflection given by the 20+ members of the East and West halves of the Committee on Ministry.

On a personal note, I am so grateful for the ways that you have facilitated and encouraged my work as chair on the West side COM. It has been a privilege to serve in this role for the past four years, and as my term concludes, I look forward to shifting my focus to more fully nurture and equip ministers and congregations for the coming days and seasons. Godspeed -Tara Barber, Westside Chair

With deep appreciation for Tara's summary of the Committee on Ministry's work, from the Eastside contingent we add that we've celebrated the installation of Gen Heywood at Veradale, and the ordinations of Chris Hayward (serving at Greenacres Christian Church), Lynn Nelson (Colfax), and Harold "Hal" Bergmann (TriCities Chaplaincy). We've appreciated the difficult work furthered by our westside colleagues around policies and practices related to transitions and transfers, especially as we honor our varied settings from rural to urban. I'm deeply grateful for the shared work of our conference-wide committee, and we look forward to further efforts to embrace and support all the riches of the Pacific Northwest Conference.

- Marj Johnston, Eastside Chair

Educational Ministries Committee, Kathie Forman, Facilitator

The Education Ministries "umbrella" includes three task forces: Adult Spiritual Formation (ASF), Outdoor Ministries (OM), and Youth & Young Adult Ministries (YYA).

As you will see in the three reports below, ASF, OM and YYA have been busy: launching informational opportunities around small group ministry; actively supporting, improving and enriching our camping programs; and providing needed resources and opportunities in the area of Youth & Young Adult Ministries.

An important area of collaboration between OM and YYA has been the PNC-UCC Safe Youth Policy Committee. Under Mike Denton's leadership, this group has continued working throughout the past year to craft clear policies and implementation processes for all Conference-sponsored youth camps and events. Members of this collaborative working committee include: Kristin Almgren, Katy Lloyd and Gale Peterson from OM; Margaret Irribarra and Tara Barber from YYA; Kathie Forman, EMC Facilitator; and staff members Mark Boyd, Deeg Nelson and Mike Denton.

Things are definitely happening! And I extend many heartfelt thanks to all the folks who contribute their leadership, energy, time, and commitment to the EMC Task Forces.

Respectfully submitted, Kathie Forman, Facilitator, EMC

Adult Spiritual Formation Task Force

The role of ASF is to find ways to nurture the spiritual health of the Conference. With that goal in mind, the task force is sponsoring a workshop at this Annual Meeting that shares the story of covenant groups at First Congregational Church of Walla Walla. Covenant groups are an example of small group ministry, a model that strengthens interpersonal trust and support within a congregation and promotes spiritual and personal growth. ASF is also offering a "free sample" covenant group gathering on Saturday evening. All are invited to observe or participate in this experience.

It's the intention of the ASF task force to continue offering opportunities throughout the coming year for clergy and laity to not only gain more information about small group ministry but also gain deeper insight into the potential this model holds for fostering meaningful, healthy community within a congregation.

Members: Tammy Bell, Cassie Emanuel, Cecilia McKean, Carol Scott-Kassner

Outdoor Ministries Task Force, Katy Loyd, Co-Chair

Without a doubt the biggest event to happen in Outdoor Ministries in 2014 was Deeg Nelson's decision in December to step down as Managing Director of Pilgrim Firs. I know many of you agree when I say we have been truly blessed by Deeg's gracious hospitality and careful stewardship of this piece of heaven on earth. If you look at camps across the UCC and really across all mainline denominations over the past 12 years, you'll find that many camps are struggling, and many have closed altogether. But in those same 12 years Pilgrim Firs has thrived, thanks in large part to Deeg's leadership.

Being a Managing Director is not an easy role to fulfill: you have to be a people person who can handle stretches of isolation; know how to plumb a toilet, patch a canoe, troubleshoot a wireless connection, and fix a copier; hire and manage staff while offering support to campers, counselors and directors; go over the rules of camp information and safety with groups a gazillion times a year, and make it sound as fresh as the first time. Most of all, you have to carry the mission of Outdoor Ministries in your heart and on your sleeve. Deeg did all of this. But then he envisioned even more: installing an outdoor labyrinth, building a peace garden, and implementing the Environmental Justice Center.

Deeg—who is returning to his given name of David—will now carry his passion for environmental justice in a new direction in Olympia. We are grateful to him for all he's given us these 12 years, and we pray Godspeed in his new endeavors.

Meanwhile, Mike Denton and Kristen Almgren (my co-chair on Outdoor Ministries) have formed a search committee for a new Managing Director at Pilgrim Firs. They hope to have someone hired in time to introduce them at Annual Meeting, and be ready to go as we move into camp season.

Safe Conference Policy work continued this year with Kathie Forman, Educational Ministries Convener, Mike, and members of the Youth and Young Adult Task Force. We have updated old policies and guidelines, written new ones, and did ongoing assessment of implementation. An important part of this has been camp director and counselor feedback and input.

Another task of Outdoor Ministries has been stepping up our training of directors, counselors, and CITs. This is no small thing. Last year we had 150 volunteer staff for camps and Midwinter! In addition to the online Safe Camp training required of all staff by our insurance company, we had our 2nd All Camp Staff Retreat at Pilgrim Firs in June, with good attendance. The theme was "Making Camp Safe: Emotionally, Physically, Spiritually." There were so many benefits of this weekend, not the least was sharing fellowship and building stronger ties between Pilgrim Firs and N-Sid-Sen staff. This year's retreat will be held at N-Sid-Sen in May, and we will be providing van rides from Seattle so that fellowship can begin as soon as we're on our way!

Finally, I want to say a huge THANK YOU to all who have directed, counseled, camped or stayed at, supported, and promoted our camps. N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs are the gifts that keep on giving. Come and breathe deeply, walk more slowly, and spend some Sabbath time among friends. Give thanks to God and our ancestors in faith who helped set these places aside for us to enjoy!

Youth & Young Adult Ministries Task Force, Margaret Irrabarra, Convener

Youth and YA guiding Mission and Vision:

The mission and vision for the youth and young adult task force is to:

- Be a resource to local churches
- Advocate at conference level for youth ministry – safety, policy, boundaries, etc...
- Advocate for and support Young Adult ministry – YASC, Annual Meeting programming & YA Retreat.

Youth and Young Adult Task Force:

Susan Andresen, Tara Barber, Kyna Shilling, Emily Marsh (stepped off fall 2014), Kathryn Murdock (joined in fall 2013), Leslie Moughty (stepped off December 2014), Staci Schulmerich (stepped on as co-chair in August/September 2014), and Margaret Irrabarra – co-chair.

Goals and Objectives for were 2014-2015

- Continue living into our new vision of being a resource to local churches.
- Continue to work on relationship with OM and together work on the Safe Youth Policy for the Pacific Northwest Conference

Report & Reflections:

The Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Task Force has had a good year. Our goals as a task force remains the same as listed above. We felt like the highest priority was to work on the conference wide policies for children and youth. Youth and YA have spent the last year and a half working primarily in conjunction with Outdoor Ministries on the Pacific Northwest Conference Safe Youth Policy subcommittee. In the past we've focused on webinars and in-person events. We still want to do those events, but this year we felt it best to focus on the behind the scenes work around the policy committee and the committee for the new position.

We did work with Outdoor Ministries to offer mandatory safer youth trainings for the folks who counseled at Mid-Winter Camps (at both Pilgrim Firs & N-Sid-Sen). This was a wonderful thing for us to really step up our expectations and to have our volunteer leaders have shared experience and learning together around the new policies and guidelines. Overall the boards work has been a mix of offering resources to the local churches and working on larger systemic topics with the sub committees.

We sent Susan Andresen as our PNC representative to the Network Of Wider Church Youth Ministries (NOWCYM) gathering in December 2014. She brought back a lot of fruitful information from the Insurance Board for best practices for churches and conferences. We hope to offer a way to share this information with PNC churches soon. This NOWCYM gathering continues to be an important gathering for us to send a rep to and we plan to send someone again in 2015.

We have continued to partner with Justice Leadership Program/Young Adult Service Community to see how we can support the existing program, and to promote the program to young adults to invite them to apply to participate. Youth and YA representatives attended two of the welcome events to the new JLP young adults for 2014-15 and we are happy to continue supporting them.

Our task force has been in a bit of flux this year as we've had a few folks step down due to other commitments and getting ordained and called to their ministry! We did welcome Staci Schulmerich to the board in the late summer/early fall of 2014. We hope to add a few more folks on the board soon.

Goals for 2015-2016

In the coming year we hope to continue our good work on the policy and with our relationship with Outdoor Ministry. We have worked hard on that policy work and I think we can begin to look again at doing in person events and webinars again. We would like to continue our support of and connection with the JLP/YASC. We will send representatives again to the NOWCYM event. We would like to look at what youth leader gatherings/trainings we might offer in the coming year. We'd also like to either create or partner with an

organization to have an event for youth around the Sacred Conversations on Race. The Task Force's guiding question for our goals is always, *"how can we be of support and help to folks doing youth ministry & young adult ministry at the local church level?"*.

Global Ministries Committee, Lon Rycraft, Co-Chair, PNC-UCC; and Lillian Moir, Co-Chair, Christian Church (DOC)

This last year has been a time of transition for the Global Ministries Committee. Global Ministries is the only committee of the PNW Conference that is a partnership ministry with the Disciples of Christ and UCC. This year our Co-chairs for the Disciples of Christ, Marvin Eckfeldt, and for the United Church of Christ, Ed Evans, have stepped down from our committee. Lillian Moir of DOC and Lon Rycraft of the UCC are the new Co-chairs for this committee.

We have been able to host guests like Tom Morse from Global Ministries in Indianapolis, who has done an excellent job on the recent development of the Global Ministries' web site. Alison Stendahl attended our September 2014 meeting, offering us an informative Power Point presentation about her ministry in Turkey with time for questions and answers. We continue to maintain our partnership with sister churches in the PROK in Korea, and our long-standing partnership with churches in Germany. Because our committee has a limited budget (\$1000), we are exploring new strategies to connect with our partnership churches. Currently we are considering new partnership relationships with the Frees ministry in Mozambique.

Most recently, when The Mintongsun Peace Church in Seoul faced an incursion by the Seoul Metropolitan Police and the officials who issued the warrants, our committee responded by sending a supportive letter to the East Seoul Presbytery of the PROK and The Mintongsun Peace Church in Seoul.

Currently, we are working together to inform our local churches about the work and vision of Global Ministries worldwide. We are working on plans to develop a regional DOC/UCC Facebook page, more frequent newsletter updates and hope to develop plans to provide local churches with presentations about our ministry and mission. We will continue to host Global Ministry missionaries during their itineration.

I thank all our members for their passion and commitment to our committee. I offer a big thank you to Ed Evans and Marvin Eckfeldt for their guidance and support, and a special thank you to Mary Margret Pruitt for her continued dedication and support of the work of our Global Ministries Committee.

Respectfully Submitted, Lon A Rycraft, Co-chair

Justice & Witness Ministries, Rich Gamble and Linda Hagedorn, Co-Chairs

The Justice and Witness Ministry Committee (JWM) is a relatively new committee in the life of the PNC. It is continuing to define and live into its role. The primary role of JWM is to aid members of the PNC to do the work of social justice and peace. Members of the committee also work on particular justice issues that they feel personally called to and their efforts enrich the work of the committee.

- The Justice Leadership Program has been a major effort of churches and individuals of the PNC and JWM continues to endorse and support that program. The program currently has four young adults working in agencies focused on issues of justice. The interns also work in 3 congregations. Prospect UCC will join Keystone, Plymouth and All Pilgrims as a primary partner in September 2015.
- This year members of the JWM from the PNC along with others from the conference (including the Conference Minister) went to Vancouver WA to meet with members of the UCC's national JWM staff and with members of the JWM committee in the Central Pacific Conference. This was the first regional gathering of JWM staff with local JWM committees.
 - A blog has been created and tested to support communication and may soon be released for wider distribution.
- This year a group within the conference has come forward to help provide education to those

congregations interested in the issue of a living wage and economic justice.

- Lastly, there have been ongoing efforts to find increased staff support to carry on the work of justice and peace within the conference. We believe that these issues help our congregations illuminate a vibrant and hopeful vision for our lives, communities and the world; and that commitment to these issues will vitalize and direct the life of the churches of the PNC.

Ministry Resources Committee, Deborah Baden

This has been an unusual year for the MRC. Our Committee is drastically smaller from previous years due to a variety of circumstances. Our primary work is as a nominating committee for the Conference.

In the past year, I have been solely moving the Committee's usual work (of keeping the various Boards & Committees staffed) forward with the assistance of the Conference leadership & the Board/Committee chairpeople. The hope is to have each entity as well staffed as possible by 2015 Annual Meeting. MRC is also responsible for nominating UCC Annual Synod delegates with the assistance of Conference leadership.

We are blessed in this Conference with many dedicated, faithful volunteers (clergy & laypeople) who serve on our Committees with passion, knowledge and care for each other and the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC. On behalf of the MRC, I want to say thank you!

Debbie Baden - Ministry Resources Committee

Personnel Committee, Terry Teigen

This committee of four continues to seek the participation of others who might have the skill and interest to serve our conference community in this capacity. This year we continued to do significant work as we:

- **Met regularly as a committee, either face to face or via teleconference**
- **Represented the Committee at meetings of the Conference Council and Board of Directors**
- **Helped provide and worked collaboratively with the Board in the process of evaluating the job performance of the Conference Minister**
- **Made recommendations to the B.O.D. in regard to Conference Minister compensation and worked with the Conference Minister in conducting and completing Conference Staff performance evaluations**

This year, in addition to the above, our committee has been involved with the following tasks and projects:

- **Representation on the Search Committee for the new staff position, Coordinator for Planning and Implementation**
- **Offering consultative input, primarily in dialogue with the Conference Minister, as the new "Safe Conference" guidelines were created, adopted and continue to be implemented**
- **Development of the revised *Employee Handbook for Conference Staff***
- **Staying apprised of the transition in leadership taking place at Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center – exit interview with Deeg Nelson, outgoing Director – representation on the Search Committee for the new Director**
- **Continuing to provide a sounding board for our conference minister, the Rev. Mike Denton, as he offers ministry among us, and as the demands and circumstances of Conference life continue to evolve and unfold**

The Committee is comprised of **the Rev. Ann Eidson** (St. Paul's), **Laura Giddings** (University Place), **Len Andersen** (Plymouth, Seattle) and **the Rev. Terry Teigen** (Plymouth, Seattle). We have appreciated the opportunity to work with colleagues on the Board and Council. We value our open and collaborative relationship with, as well as the expertise and pastoral support of Michael Denton and the Conference Staff.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Teigen, Committee Secretary

Other Ministries

Annuitant Visitors

Gail Crouch, Ed Evans, Bob Jackson, Mimi Lane, Jim Spraker

In a program unique among denominations, our United Church of Christ Pension Boards focuses on thanking and caring for retired clergy and their surviving spouses. Along with their regular pension support, an Annuitant is also personally visited by someone in their own geographic area.

The purpose of the visit includes the following:

- To thank the clergyperson for their years of service to the UCC
- To ensure they are getting their benefits and know of new programs being offered.
- To answer any questions about medical benefits or pensions.
- To see if the person's financial situation might make them eligible for a special grant or assistance.

We Visitors are aware of how important the annual church offering called *The Christmas Fund* is to our annuitants who have unique financial needs which are paid for from this special offering. We hear the personal stories and know that for some retired clergy, their financial security is thin.

After each visit a brief report is filed online with the Pension Board. These are confidential report available only to a few persons. As federal laws require, medical or health concerns are kept confidential.

In our Pacific Northwest Conference, 5 Visitors call on approximately 170 Annuitants each year. Visiting our clergy is a gift for them and us as we hear stories of ministry in a variety of setting over many years.

Our current Annuitant Visitors are: Gail Crouch, Ruth Anne Hill, Bob Jackson, David Kratz, and Jim Spraker.

Disaster Ministries, Coordinator, Ken Colman pastorken@uccrenton.org

I am your Disaster Ministry coordinator for the Conference since 2002. Every year I go to a nationally sponsored educational workshop somewhere in the United States. Usually we go to where the wider church has been involved in some long-term recovery work. This year I was unable to go as it coincided with my sabbatical. We have a new Executive for UCC Disaster Ministries, Zachary Wolgemuth. A reminder to all that the funding for disaster ministries comes from donations to One Great Hour of Sharing and direct donations to the Emergency USA Fund and International Emergency Relief Fund. I also serve on to statewide organizations as a represented from the United Church of Christ. I go to meetings every other month for Washington Volunteer Organization Assisting in Disasters (WAVOAD). Whenever there is a disaster in the state of Washington, WAVOAD is contacted to be ready. We have responded to fires, floods, earthquakes, snow storms, chemical spills and any other declared disaster by the Governor. I will begin to receive emails with the information from the State's Emergency Managers office. My role has been to forward information on to the Conference office. If we have a church in an area I will call and let them know to keep me in the loop. The good news is that there have been no disasters that have affected our churches. WAVOAD has been activated through the fires and floods and mud slides over the last year. We are now working in many areas in helping communities begin to rebuild. This is our major work and is called long term recovery work. I am available for information workshops for preparedness and general information at what the wider churches role does in disasters. We as Churches need to be prepared for it is not when a disaster occurs but when the disaster strikes. Just yesterday a 6.9 earthquake struck off the Northern California Coast and the state of Washington is and has a history of being a part of that fault line. Be prepared. The state has developed a disaster preparedness web page, www.safeinthesound.org . Please advertise this page to all. Thanks you for allowing me to serve the church in this way.

Minutes of Annual Meeting 2014

Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference
United Church of Christ
University Congregation, UCC
April 24-26, 2014

Friday, April 24

Session #1

Acting-Moderator, Andy CastroLang, welcomed the delegates and visitors and Rev. Catherine Foote welcomed the conference to University Congregational Church, UCC.

Andy CastroLang introduced and thanked conference staff and volunteers, and the audio/visual team. Guests were introduced: speakers, Rev. Lillian Daniel and Christina Cleveland, Paul Benz - Faith Action Network, John Palmeroy - Cornerstone Fund
Video presentation of the PNC-UCC doors
Delegates released to first workshop sessions.

Session #2

First keynote speaker: Christina Cleveland - Disunity in Christ

Following speaker, Acting-Moderator, Andy CastroLang called the meeting to order. Quorum was established.

We have 48 churches represented, 93 delegates and 83 clergy.

Move/Second: to approve agenda

Move/Passed: to modify agenda. Add discussion and vote to endorse state initiative I-594

Move/Second/Pass: Agenda approved as amended

Move/Second/Pass: to grant voice without vote to guests and visitors

Rev. Mike Denton presented his annual report. The full report can be found in 2014 Annual Meeting Booklet

Delegates released to dinner break and returned at 7:30 for evening worship, Rev. Mike Denton preaching.

Saturday, April 25

Session 3

Following morning worship, the annual meeting reconvened at 9:30.

Thanks to: Don & Jan Jenkins for the music; Adrienne Banks for the theme art; Arlene Hobson, Executive Administrator; Michelle Doherty, Accounting Manager; Mike Denton, Conference Minister; Deeg Nelson, Managing Director Pilgrim Firs; Mark Boyd, Managing Director N-Sid-Sen.

Church Development Committee (Susan Andresen & Dave Parker)

Move/Second/Pass: to affirm New Beginnings Samoa of Lacey as affiliated with the Pacific Northwest Conference, United Church of Christ.

The slate of nominations for conference Board of Directors, Committees and Task Forces was presented. Copy attached.

Hearing 1 - Resolution on Living Wage was presented.

Wendy Blight, Conference Treasurer, reported on Budget Review for full year June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2015.

The Management Review as voted by 2014 Annual Meeting Delegates was clean. Church Development Committee loans to churches were reviewed and recorded. Fixed Assets were research and recorded.

Hearing 3 - Resolution on By-law changes was presented.

Resolution to Endorse I-594 was presented.

Approved by consensus: to add discussion of Initiative 594 (gun background checks) to hearing 3

Speaker: Paul Benz, Faith Action Network

Recognition: Mary Stamp as editor of the Fig Tree for 30 years and Conference News for 26 years.

First Congregational of Walla Walla on 150th Anniversary and Guemes Island Community Church, UCC on 100th Anniversary.

Delegates were released to Hearing and then to lunch. Following lunch Keynote speaker was Lillian Daniel.

Session 5

John Pomeroy spoke on Cornerstone Fund. Cornerstone Fund has 67 investment accounts in PNC and 8 loans for \$2m.

Tom Miller presented the 2014-2015 Budget (Hearing 2).

Move/Second/Pass: to approve 2014-2015 Budget as presented.

Dennis Hollinger-Lant reported that the delegates in Hearing 3 discussed Initiative 594, the resolution on gun background check and recommended a Yes Vote.

Hearing 3 delegates recommended a No Vote on the By-Laws changes and that it be sent back to BOD for revision.

Move/Second/Fail: to approve recommended By-Laws Changes

Move/Second: to approve Resolution to Endorse I-594 as amended.

Move/Fail: Call for the Question

Pass: to approve Resolution to Endorse I-594 as amended. *Amended copy attached

Resolution of Living Wage was presented.

Move/Second/Pass: to approve Resolution on Living Wage as amended. *Amended copy attached

Thanks extended to outgoing BOD and Committee/Task Force members.

Move/Second/Pass: to accept slate of nominations as presented.

* Hearing moderators made copies of amended resolutions available to the media task force for projection. I was not given a copies day of meeting. Attached copies were provided later.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Colt - Scribe

Nominations 2014-2015

From Ministry Resources Committee and the Board of Directors Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ

Board of Directors

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Moderator | The Rev. Andy CastroLang, Westminster Cong'l UCC, Spokane |
| Vice Moderator | Mr. Scott Ward, Magnolia UCC, Seattle |
| Past Moderator | vacant |
| Personnel Chair | ----- '16-1 |
| Treasurer | Ms. Wendy Blight, Alki UCC, Seattle '16-1 |
| Scribe | Ms. Carol Colt, Richmond Beach Congregational, UCC, Shoreline '16-2 |
| Central West Area | Ms. Maureen McLain, Magnolia UCC, Seattle, '16-1 |
| Heartland | ----- |
| Northeast | The Rev. Judith Rinehart-Nelson, Zion-Philadelphia UCC, Ritzville '16-2 |
| Northwest | ----- |
| Southeast | The Rev. Stephen Eriksen, Shalom UCC, Richland '16-1 |
| Southwest | The Rev. Janet Matthews, Fox Island UCC '16-1 |
| Young Adult Rep | Ms. Leda Zakarison, First Cong'l Church, Walla Walla 2015 |
| Youth Rep | Mr. Tyler Coleman, University Congregational UCC, Seattle 2015 |

Church Development Committee

| | |
|---|-------|
| Ms. Susan Andresen, Co-Chair, Normandy Park UCC, Seattle | '16-2 |
| Mr. Nick CastroLang, Westminster UCC, Spokane | '16-2 |
| The Rev. Joan Henjum, Broadview Community UCC, Seattle | '15-1 |
| The Rev. Marion (Mimi) Lane, Everett UCC | '15-1 |
| Ms. Sally Montgomery, Eastgate Congregational UCC, Bellevue | '15-3 |
| Mr. Dave Parker, Co-Chair, Northshore UCC, Woodinville | '15-2 |
| Ms. Tamara Roberts, University Congregational UCC, Seattle | '15-2 |
| Ms. Julianna Parra West, Liberation UCC, Seattle | '15-1 |
| The Rev. Rebecca Withington, Everett UCC | '16-3 |
| Ms. Hillary Sage, Liberation UCC, Seattle | '16-1 |
| The Rev. David Krieger-Duncan, Cheney UCC | '16-1 |
| The Rev. Judith Holloway, Chewelah UCC, Chewelah, | '15-1 |
| Heather Highmiller, United Churches of Olympia, Olympia, | '16-1 |

Committee on Ministry-Eastside

| | |
|--|-------|
| The Rev. Marj Johnston, Chair, Dayton UCC | '16-1 |
| The Rev. Dr. Daniel Berg, Open Door UCC, Deer Park | '16-2 |
| The Rev. Russell Clark, Newport UCC | '15-1 |
| Ms. Lois Farnsworth-Whysong, Metaline Falls UCC | '15-3 |
| Ms. JoAnn Shockley, Zion-Philadelphia UCC, Ritzville | '16-2 |

----- '16-1

Committee on Ministry- Westside

| | |
|--|-------|
| The Rev. Tara Barber, Chair, Alki UCC, Seattle | '15-3 |
| Ms. Cheryll Blair, First Congregational Church, Bellingham | '16-2 |
| The Rev. Jack Coates, Alki UCC, Seattle | '16-3 |
| The Rev. Judi Edwards, St Paul's UCC, Seattle | '15-1 |
| Ms. Nancy Hannah, University Congregational UCC, Seattle | '15-1 |
| Ms. Ruth Ann Hill, Richmond Beach Congregational Church, Shoreline | '16-2 |
| Mr. Alan Klockers, University Congregational UCC, Seattle | '15-3 |
| The Rev. Ryan Lambert, Northshore UCC, Woodinville | '16-2 |
| Ms. Medora Moberg, Plymouth Church, UCC, Seattle | '15-2 |
| The Rev. Jen Walters, United Church in University Place | '15-1 |

Ms. MaryLou Wetzel, St. Paul's UCC, Seattle '15-1
The Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams, Eastgate Congregational UCC, Bellevue '16-2
The Rev. Dr. Gerald Montgomery, University Congregational UCC, Seattle '16-1
The Rev. Lisa Horst-Clark, Bellevue First Congregational Church '16-1
The Rev. Kevin Brown, Bellevue First Congregational Church '16-1
The Rev. Peggy Derick, Congregational Church on Mercer Island, UCC '16-1
Mr. Dan Kennedy, Alki UCC, Seattle '16-1
Mr. Paul Gibbs, Magnolia UCC, Seattle '16-1

Global Ministries Committee

Ms. Nathalie Fuentes, Bethany UCC, Seattle '15-3
Ms. Karen Haworth, Cheney United Church of Christ '15-2
Mr. Peter Lin, First Congregational Church, Bellevue '15-3
The Rev. Sandy Neal, United Churches of Olympia '15-2
The Rev. Dr. Lon Rycraft, Normandy Park UCC, Seattle '15-3
The Rev. James Spraker, Plymouth Church, UCC, Seattle '15-3
The Rev. Ruth Brandon, Everett UCC, Everett, '16-`
----- '16-1

Justice & Witness Ministries

The Rev. Rich Gamble, Keystone Congregational UCC, Seattle '15-3
Ms. Lin Hagedorn, Northshore UCC, Woodinville '15-3
Ms. Jeaneane Hill, University Congregational UCC '16-3
Ms. Becky Hoepcke, Everett UCC '16-1
The Rev. Kathleen Morgan, University Congregational UCC '15-3
The Rev. Elsa Peters, The United Churches of Olympia '15-1
Ms. Meighan Pritchard, University Congregational UCC '15-2
Ms. Mary Stamp, Cheney UCC '15-2
Ms. Marci Weis, St. Paul's UCC, Seattle '16-1
The Rev. Bill Kirlin-Hackett, Bellevue UCC, Bellevue, '16-1
Ms. Nena Barber, United Church University Place, '16-1

Educational Ministries Committee

Ms. Kathie Forman, Facilitator, University Congregational UCC, Seattle '16-2

Adult Spiritual Formation Task Force

Ms. Carol Scott-Kassner, Church '15-1
The Rev. Cecilia McKean, First Congregational Church, Walla Walla '15-1
The Rev. Cassie Emmanuel, University Congregational UCC, Seattle '16-1
The Rev. Tammy Bell, Colville UCC '16-1

Christian Education Task Force

Temporarily disbanded

Outdoor Ministries Task Force

Ms. Kristen Almgren, Co-Chair, Everett UCC '15-2
The Rev. Katy Lloyd, Co-Chair, Welcome Table Christian Community (DOC) '15-1
The Rev. Andrew Gill, University Congregational UCC, Seattle '16-3
Mr. Todd Kamp, '15-1
Ms. Gale Peterson, Kirkland Congregational UCC '15-2
Mr. Rich Porter, United Christian Church, Yakima '15-1
Ms. Dana Sprenkle, Shalom UCC, Richland '15-1

Youth and Young Adult Task Force

- Ms. Margaret Irribarra, Chair, University Congregational UCC, Seattle '16-3
- Ms. Susan Andresen, Normandy Park UCC, Seattle '16-2
- The Rev. Tara Barber, Alki UCC, Seattle '15-3
- Ms. Emily Marsh, First Congregational Church, Bellingham '15-1
- Ms. Kyna Shilling, Plymouth Church, Seattle '16-2
- Ms. Leslie Moughty, Northshore UCC, Woodinville '15-1
- Ms. Kathryn Murdock, University Congregational UCC '16-1

Personnel Committee

- Mr. Len Anderson, Plymouth Congregational UCC, Seattle '16-2
- Ms. Laura Giddings, United Church-University Place '15-1
- The Rev. Terry Teigen, Plymouth Congregational UCC '15-2
- The Rev. Ann Edison, Kirkland UCC, Kirkland, '16-1

----- '16-1

----- '16-1

Ministry Resources Committee

- Ms. Debbie Baden, Plymouth Congregational UCC, Seattle '16-3
- Ms. Jenni Craswell, Bellevue First Congregational Church '16-3

----- '15-1U

----- '15-2U

----- '15-2U

----- '15-2U

----- '16-2U

----- '16-2U

----- '16-2U

----- '16-1

----- '16-1

----- '16-1

Stewardship Committee

- Ms. Tracy Bowens, Liberation UCC, Seattle '16-2
- Ms. Ann Lev, University Congregational UCC, Seattle '16-1
- Mr. Don Mallett, University Congregational UCC, Seattle '16-1
- Mr. Joe Purdue, Fox Island UCC '15-3

The Rev. Rick Russell, Prospect Congregational UCC, Seattle '15-3
Ms. Wendy Blight, Alki UCC, Seattle *ex officio*
Mr. Tom Miller, Pilgrim UCC, Anacortes, '15-1

2015 Annual Meeting Planning Committee

The Rev. Andy CastroLang, *ex officio*, Westminster UCC, Spokane
The Rev. Kathleen Morgan, University Congregational UCC, Seattle
The Rev. Deborah (Debe) Tyler, United Churches of Olympia
The Rev. Jan Shannon, Westminster UCC, Spokane
Ms. Janel Rieve, Zion Philadelphia UCC, Ritzville, .
The Rev. Tara Leininger, Metaline Fall UCC, Metaline Falls

| |
|--|
| <p><u>KEY</u></p> <p>* Elected at 2014 Annual Meeting to new term of office</p> <p>'15-1: First two-year term of office ends 2015 '16-2: Second two-year term of office ends 2016 '16-3: Third and final two-year term of office ends 2016 '15U: Fulfilling an unexpired term that ends in 2015</p> |
|--|

**Resolution to Endorse Initiative 594
(Universal Background Check for Firearm Sales and Transfers)**

Initiative Measure 594 would require that private sales and transfers of firearms, including gun show and online sales, be subject to the same criminal and public safety background check process that is currently required of a licensed gun dealer. It will ensure that anyone buying a gun in Washington State passes the same background check, no matter where they buy the gun or from whom they buy it.

This universal background check resolution is based on the belief that we all should be free from gun violence in our communities and that all of us have a responsibility to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of dangerous people.

Biblical and Theological Rationale

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. John 15:12

When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. Luke 22:49-51

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all ... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17- 18, 21

Jesus, in whom we have come to know the gentle love of God, was himself the victim of a violent death and so turned us forever against the forces of violence that tempt us to seek the annihilation of others. In proclaiming his resurrection, we confess that God's saving love alone has the power to undo the forces of violence and death in our world.

As followers of this "Prince of Peace," we are called by Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves; just as we would strive to reduce gun violence in our own lives and the lives of the people we care for, we must strive to end it in the lives of all people.

Resolution WHEREAS gun injuries and deaths in Washington State are a significant public health problem with approximately 600 people killed by guns each year over the past decade, and in 2010 more people in Washington State died by guns (609) than in traffic accidents (554);

WHEREAS criminal and public safety background checks dramatically reduce access to guns for criminals, domestic abusers and other dangerous users, but federal law only requires background checks for gun sales at licensed dealers, and up to 40% of firearm purchases are between private parties and not subject to criminal background checks;

WHEREAS fifteen states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws requiring background checks for all firearm purchases or handgun purchases, and Washington State has not;

WHEREAS the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ in 1995 passed a resolution entitled, "Guns and Violence," inviting UCC members and congregations to advocate for legislation to strengthen the licensing and registration of gun sales and support legislative provisions that will restrict firearm possession by persons convicted of violent crimes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ endorses Initiative 594 and calls upon its churches and members to:

1. Learn about gun violence, current gun control laws and loopholes, and preventative measures like universal background checks;
2. Endorse Initiative 594;
3. Encourage its members to actively support the passage of Initiative 594.

Submitted by: The Rev. Diane Darling, Alki UCC Dan Kennedy, Alki UCC

Co-Sponsors: The Rev. Bob and Boots Anderson, Guemes Island UCC Sonia E. Baker, Admiral UCC The Rev. Sally Balmer, Guemes Island UCC The Rev. Tara Barber and Wendy Blight, Alki UCC The Rev. Cindy Bauleke, Lummi Island Congregational Church Cheryl M. Blair, First Congregational Church of Bellingham UCC The Rev. Kevin Brown, First Congregational Church UCC, Bellevue Robert M. Brown, United Church in University Place Ruth Cannon, United Church in University Place The Rev. Russell D. Clark, Newport UCC The Rev. Jack Coates, Alki UCC The Rev. Gail Crouch, University Congregational UCC The Rev. Judi Edwards, St. Paul's UCC The Rev. Steve Erickson, Shalom UCC Lois Farnsworth-Whysong, Metaline Falls UCC The Rev. Catherine Foote, University Congregational UCC The Rev. Paul Forman, University Congregational UCC The Rev. Marie Fortune, University Congregational UCC The Rev. Rich Gamble, Keystone UCC Laura Giddings, United Church in University Place The Rev. Joy Haertig, Magnolia UCC Nancy Hannah and Mary Ellen Smith, University Congregational UCC The Rev. Ruth Ann Hill, Richmond Beach Congregational UCC The Rev. Marj Johnston, Dayton First Congregational Church UCC Alan Klockars, University Congregational UCC The Rev. Ryan Lambert, Northshore UCC The Rev. Katy Lloyd, Alki UCC Medora Moburg, Plymouth Congregational UCC Howard Osborn, First Congregational Church UCC, Bellevue Meighan Pritchard, Prospect UCC The Rev. Paul and Mary Margaret Pruitt,

Fauntleroy Church UCC Neil and Norma Rader, United Church in University Place Bob and Pat Rudolph, United Church in University Place Cinda Stenger, Alki UCC The Rev. Terry Teigen, Plymouth Congregational UCC The Rev. Jan Van Pelt, Plymouth Congregational UCC The Rev. Jen and Chris Walters, United Church in University Place Mary Lou Weitzel, St. Paul's UCC The Rev. Marsha Williams, Eastgate UCC The Rev. Kristine Zakarison, Community Congregational UCC

Leda Zakarison, Community Congregational UCC

Living Wage Resolution as friendly amended

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ,

1. Educate ourselves about issues of living wages and income inequality in the local church setting
2. Engage in the issues by listening to workers and employers walking with them towards a living wage future in our communities
3. Advocate for the creation of living wage opportunities with elected representatives and business leaders
4. Call on each of the local churches to consider supporting the Church Council of Greater Seattle Living Wage Principles
5. Report back to Annual Meeting 2015 as to progress of this resolution throughout the year.

- End of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes -