

***Mission Bite: from Wade Zick,
Ashley Minister of Faith Formation for Children and Youth***

The Resource Center for Churches (RCC), founded in 1978 with United Methodists and Presbyterians, assists the MN Conference in our strategic priority of "focusing on Christian formation and discipleship of children, youth and adults." The Minnesota Conference is the second highest resource-using judicatory. We support the ministry of the RCC by an annual grant of \$6,200 - representing a static giving pattern for the past several years despite increased frequency of use by congregations of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ.

During the past three years, the RCC has also received Ashley Endowment grants totaling \$12,000 to assist in obtaining new resources that relate to ministry with children and youth. The grants have allowed for the purchases of hundreds of new resources, both print and digital.

The RCC was formed with a 3-fold purpose: 1) printed and audio/visual resources; 2) guidance and counseling in the use of resources; 3) access to a network of resource persons for congregational programs and leadership development. The purpose and vision for the RCC is still relevant for our congregations and the MN Conference continued financial support is vital for the ecumenical ministry of the RCC to continue.

The RCC board of directors met on May 6, 2010 and affirmed two major steps forward in the RCC ministry. The first step is to develop a better website that will be easier to use in ordering and reviewing resources. This decision impacts the RCC's ability to have a better presence throughout the MN Conference. The second step was to hire the Rev. Garth Schumacher as Acting Director effective May 17, 2010. Rev. Schumacher, an authorized minister of the MN Conference UCC, brings skills in communication, a passion for improving the technology side of the RCC, and a long-standing affinity with the mission and ministry of the RCC. As one board member stated, "We are delighted to have Garth's leadership for the RCC in helping us to refine and strengthen our ministries to become a leading Resource Center for Churches in the 21st Century."

The RCC by-laws stipulate that each judicatory partner has three board members. We give thanks for the current work and participation of the three MN Conference UCC board members: Rev. Glen Herrington-Hall (member, Cherokee Park United Church, St. Paul), Rev. Brandon Perrine (Associate Pastor, Falcon Heights UCC) and Wade Zick (Minnesota Conference Ashley Minister).

You can visit the Resource Center for Churches in person Tuesday-Friday on the downstairs level of the Minnesota Church Center (122 West Franklin Ave, Minneapolis) or on-line at www.resourcesforthejourney.org.

Past Mission Bites can be found at www.uccmn.org