

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, MN CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING 2009 GLOSSARY
An Introductory & Abbreviated Listing Offered Solely as a Guide to Annual Meeting as provided by the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group (For an official definition, see the UCC Constitution and Bylaws)

STRUCTURAL TERMS (See Minnesota Conference Governing Structure Chart and the Bylaws for more info.)

Annual Meeting of the Conference - The Minnesota Conference meets each year as the Annual Meeting of the Conference. Most delegates are lay representatives of local churches and authorized ministers with standing in the Conference. (See the Conference Bylaws for more details.)

Annual Meeting Planning Work Group– AMPWG – An elected group of lay members and authorized ministers who work together to plan the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting.

Association – In Minnesota the Conference acts as an Association. The Conference acting as an Association determines, confers and certifies to the standing of Local Churches within its area and grants, certifies, transfers and terminates ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ. A more complete definition is found in the UCC Constitution and Bylaws.

Board of Directors - This is the governing body of the Conference between Annual Meetings. The responsibilities of the Board of Directors are specified in the Bylaws of the Minnesota Conference. The members are elected by the Annual Meeting.

Bylaws – Legal statements that administer and regulate the affairs of an organization. Bylaws discussed at this Annual meeting relate directly to the Minnesota Conference.

Committee on Ministry provides oversight (episcopate) of churches and authorized ministers.

Conference - The UCC local churches and membership within a specific geographical area. A Conference may consist of one or more states. Ours is the Minnesota Conference. The Conference Minister, staff and volunteers work in partnership with churches and clergy in witness, education, mission, stewardship, peace, and justice. The Conference acts as an Association on matters relating to churches and clergy. The Conference is governed by the Bylaws.

Finance Committee - This Committee relates to the Board of Directors and its members are elected by the annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference. It is responsible for preserving the financial integrity of the Conference, preparing and monitoring the Conference budget, making and monitoring investments, monitoring risk and obtaining insurance, managing funds and property, and being consulted on fundraising.

General Synod Delegates - Delegates from the Minnesota Conference are elected and commissioned by the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota conference. The delegates attend the General Synod, which is the national representative body of the United Church of Christ, meeting every two years. The General Synod will meet in Hartford, CT, June 22-26, 2007.

National United Church of Christ Representatives - The Minnesota Conference is represented on national United Church of Christ Ministries by members of the Conference that are elected by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. These representatives serve on their respective covenanted ministry board, represent the Conference and bring information back to the Conference from the national bodies on which they serve.

Personnel Committee - The Personnel Committee relates to the Board of Directors and is elected by the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference. It has responsibility for the human resources matters of the Conference. (See the Conference Bylaws for more details.)

Pilgrim Point – The MN Conference UCC camp located at Alexandria, on Lake Ida. It offers family camping, children's sessions, retreat options, and volunteer opportunities (work weeks).

Planning and Evaluation (P & E) Committee - The Planning and Evaluation (P & E) Committee is a committee of the Board of Directors. This committee assists in evaluating past programs and in planning for the future of the Conference. (See the Conference Bylaws for more details.)

Ministry Teams - There are four Ministry clusters of the Conference that have responsibilities for programs, projects and mission of the Minnesota Conference. They are Faith and Spiritual Development Ministries, Prophetic Ministries, Church Growth and Renewal Ministries, and Stewardship and Financial Development Ministries. Each of the Ministries is a cluster of smaller teams (See the Conference Bylaws for more details.)

Task Forces - From time to time a task force is organized in the Conference to address a need, lead a project, or gather information and make recommendations.

Work Groups of the Minnesota Conference - This new terminology applies to two groups that are elected by the Annual Meeting - The Nominating Work Group and the Annual Meeting Planning Work Group. (See the Conference Bylaws for more details.)

STAFF OF THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

Conference Minister – The Conference Minister of the Minnesota Conference is the spiritual leader and chief executive officer of the Conference. The Conference Minister implements the mission of the Conference, gives general oversight and direction to the program and operation of the Conference, and relates to the wider denomination and the ecumenical bodies of the state. (See Bylaws for more details.) The Rev. Dr. Karen Smith Sellers is the Conference Minister.

Associate Conference Ministers - Two Associate Conference Ministers of the Minnesota Conference work with the Conference Minister to implement the Conference mission and to serve as staff resource and support to authorized ministers, laity and Local Churches.

Other Professional and Support Staff - The Conference is served in a variety of ways by staff persons who relate to specific programs, and support the Conference in administrative, technical and support positions. (Please see annual reports and the Conference directory for specific information.)

FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY

Our Church's Wider Mission (O.C.W.M.) - Our Church's Wider Mission, usually referred to as O.C.W.M., is funding, designated by local churches, which is forwarded to the Conference as general support. The Conference designates a portion of this money to be forwarded to the United Church of Christ national offices.

Annual Budget - The Finance Committee and Treasurer of the Conference present both a report on the previous year's budget and a recommendation for the next year's budget during the plenary sessions of the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting delegates approve the budget for the following year.

Dues - Each year the Finance Committee requests that local churches of the Conference pay a per capita amount to support the operations of the Conference. This year's per capita dues are \$10.00 per member.

Chicago, United and Eden Theological Seminaries (C.U.E.) - The Minnesota Conference and its local churches support the work of three theological seminaries of the United Church of Christ - Chicago Theological Seminary, United Theological Seminary and Eden Theological Seminary. Financial gifts are solicited for the support of these UCC institutions.

STRUCTURE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Hearing – A time during which the resolutions, bylaws or other business of the Annual Meeting are heard, reviewed, and discussed by delegates in preparation for final action by the Annual Meeting. These take place on Friday from 3-4pm. Additional time to refine resolutions will be offered during the workshop sessions on Saturday afternoon. Please see the meeting packet for more details.

Plenary – A business meeting session, which is held during an Annual Meeting of the Conference. See schedule in meeting packet for information about time and place of plenary sessions.

Resolution – A statement, often related to justice and peace issues, and formatted according to specific requirements, which is drawn up by a local church, delegates, or other Minnesota Conference UCC group. Resolutions are received in advance of the meeting and are mailed to all the churches. The Annual Meeting of the Conference may vote to send resolutions to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Resolutions may be shared with the public and with government leaders. The resolutions will be discussed and may be amended and voted up or down by the delegates of the Minnesota Conference. (See the Resolution Process or Annual Meeting Procedures and Rules for more details.)

Workshops – Opportunities for study and learning as a small group during a Conference annual meeting or other times. The workshops are held on Saturday. See the meeting packet for specific details.

OTHER TERMS

Open and Affirming – Local Churches may vote to include and welcome all people, regardless of sexual orientation. These churches are designated as Open and Affirming, sometimes referred to as O & A.

COMMAntary – a weekly e-newsletter of the Minnesota Conference. This is compiled in the Conference Office and comes out every Wednesday at around 4:00pm. If you would like to sign up to receive the COMMAntary, visit the registration table, email alisonb@uccmn.org or visit www.uccmn.org – Stay in the loop!