



Minnesota Conference
United Church of Christ

2010 Annual Reports

2010 ANNUAL REPORT of the Conference Minister

The Conference Minister is charged to serve as the Conference's spiritual leader and chief executive officer, to help implement its mission priorities, and to give general oversight and direction to its programs and operations. During a time of unprecedented change in mainline U.S. churches, particularly in the United Church of Christ, this is a challenging assignment. It calls forth every one of my gifts and skills, and it requires that I continue to expand and improve them. At the same time, its faithful realization relies on an exceptionally talented and dedicated staff and on countless hours of service from hundreds of volunteers. I give thanks for all of you and for this opportunity.

In the most recent issue of the Chicago Theological Seminary magazine, the Rev. Cameron Trimble, Executive Director of the Center for Progressive Renewal and a keynoter at our forthcoming Fall Leadership Convocation, recounts her participation in a facilitated exercise in which she was asked to imagine that the year is 2050. Time magazine is publishing an article about the United Church of Christ's remarkable turnaround, moving from a denomination headed towards death to the fastest-growing, highest-impact denomination in the world. There was, she says, silence in the room and then laughter – at such an outrageous possibility, at our potential to make that happen, at the sheer audacity of that dream. In that moment, she proclaims, a revolution was born in her.

That Gospel-inspired dream – of our potential to touch and transform lives and to make a constructive difference on God's behalf, in God's world – is the engine that drives this Conference. We have committed ourselves to mission rather than maintenance and to equipping individuals and congregations to love and serve others in the name of Jesus Christ. Resolutely, we seek to build capacity for 21st century discipleship by:

- fostering Christian formation of children, youth and adults
- identifying and developing lay and clergy leadership
- planting and strengthening vital communities of faith
- advocating for justice and compassionate service.

The combined reports to the Annual Meeting account for the many ways in which we are doing this. I choose to highlight several major initiatives in which we are engaged and to name key changes that are underway. I will also report briefly on my work and plans.

Major Initiatives

Vitality Initiative Pilot (VIP) Project: During the last year and a half, eleven local churches of the Minnesota Conference have been engaged in a Vitality Initiative Pilot, partnering with Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Each pastor and team is supported by one of nine trained coaches. The influence of this effort is being experienced more broadly, as some churches work with the materials of last year's Annual Meeting keynote speaker, Paul Nixon ([I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church](#)), and others turn to the "unbinding" resources of Martha Grace Reese.ⁱ

The VIP churches have taken steps to "go deeper in faith" and were recently instructed on how to "reach out in new ways." Participants tell stories of the power of this process in transforming lives and relationships and in making these churches more open to the leading of the Spirit. Prayer is more fully engaged and integrated into life and ministry. Members know and appreciate each other better and have greater sensitivity about welcoming and including others. "Success" stories are beginning to be shared; hard data is more difficult to come by.

It is fortuitous that we had previously agreed that summer 2010 would include a full review of this work. With financial support from the national UCC, we have engaged a professional evaluator. As well, in the weeks ahead, the associate conference ministers will gather the VIP congregations (pastor, lay leader and coach) into three clusters where baselines will be established and tracking measures put into place. Our intent is to focus on developing an approach to congregational vitality and growth that is measurable, sustainable and replicable. Stay tuned!

Mission Insite: To assist each local community of mission and ministry in the Conference to "reach out in new ways," we have purchased a year's subscription to **Mission Insite**. This flexible, web-based information system assists local churches by providing high quality demographic research and real-time congregant analysis. Churches that have information about their context/mission field are assisted in making wise decisions. Our work in new

church development is also greatly aided. To learn more, go to www.missioninsite.com, participate in the Annual Meeting workshop, or contact your Associate Conference Minister.

Fall Leadership Events: A third component of our congregational vitality effort is the annual fall leadership event. Last year our theme was **Ministering across the Generations** and included Rev. J. Bennett Guess (“Communicating across the Generations”) and Rev. Carol Howard Merritt (“Ministering to the Missing Generation.”) This year we invite clergy and lay teams from local churches to **The Seven Secrets** (for renewed leaders, renewed churches, renewed hope), featuring Rev. Cameron Trimble and Rev. Mike Piazza from The Center for Progressive Renewal (www.growthucc.org). The event will take place September 30-October 1 at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo. We are pleased to be able to use remaining funds from the Brown Grant to cover some of the costs of this event. More information is available in the brochure in your packets and at www.uccmn.org.

Equipping Leaders for Generous Congregations: In partnership with Local Church Ministries of the national UCC and with the support of “Strengthen the Church” contributions, last October a team of two (usually pastor and lay leader) from our top-giving OCWM (Our Church’s Wider Mission) churches participated in a three-day training event on fundraising and financial transformation. During the 48th Annual Meeting – in plenary and workshop – they will testify to the power of that experience. We are thrilled that this year’s training will take place in Minneapolis. The Board of Directors has authorized expenditure of Strengthen the Church dollars to make possible the participation of more than a dozen Minnesota UCC churches in the next tier of OCWM giving.

Key Changes

Ashley Minister Position: In May 2007, Wade Zick was called to a new position of Ashley Minister of Faith Formation for Children and Youth, with an initial Conference commitment of three years. He was asked to help us to shape this ministry and to assist us in making the Minnesota Conference a premier site for Christian education, spiritual development, and youth ministry. Annual performance reviews and a recent formal assessment testify to the remarkable work he has done. As a result, the Board of Directors has authorized the Personnel Committee to reclassify the position from that of Program Minister to Associate Conference Minister. The revised position description will affirm that this ministry faithfully focuses on ministry to Christian educators and youth ministers/leaders and on significant adults in the lives of children. It will clarify the relationship with and integrate our camping ministries, particularly those focused on children and youth. And it will demonstrate our conviction that this ministry must be placed and supported at the highest levels of the organization.

Pilgrim Point Camp and camping/conferencing/retreat ministries: The need to identify a sustainable approach to our Conference ministry through camping, particularly at Pilgrim Point Camp, has been with us for years. It came to a head last year. Since that Annual Meeting, we have worked faithfully to make possible a 2010 season at PPC, to envision and develop alternative outdoor ministries, and to discern a faithful future. To this end, we engaged Kathleen Trotter, lead consultant for Kaleidoscope, Inc. You have been regularly updated about her work and will hear an interim report from her at this Annual Meeting.

This much is already clear:

- There is support across the Conference for camp and retreat ministries as an important way to impact children, youth and adults.
- The current model is not sustainable and has lost its focus.
- Creating a program that will meet the varied needs of our churches will be challenging.
- Our priority must be providing safe and vital summer offerings with programs that embrace and express United Church of Christ values and the Minnesota Conference mission priorities, not on finding uses for a site.
- A compelling vision, a strong, functioning governing structure, the right staffing, appropriate policies, and a viable financial model are required.

The consultant’s final report is due in July. Upon receiving that, the Pilgrim Point Camp Committee and Board of Directors will work hard to make faithful and responsible recommendations and take appropriate action. As you know, Dee Dressler will end her ministry with us in October. Meanwhile, let’s make 2010 a good season at Pilgrim Point Camp!

Conference Minister Activities

The “urgent” demands of this position are many, but I carry with me at all times a list of the “important” matters before usⁱ – that we be an emotionally and spiritually healthy, financially-viable, well-administered and well-governed conference marked by excellent communication and directed toward implementing our mission priorities. To this end, we have spent time on Board development. I have also engaged a consultant to coach me on financial transformation and fund development. We anticipate working this summer with a volunteer consultant who will assist us in developing a comprehensive communications strategy.

On your behalf I spend a considerable amount of time in service to the wider church, including participation in the Council of Conference Ministers, the West Central Region, and at General Synod. I serve on the OCWM National/Conference Partnership Team and the UCC Strategic Planning/Alternative Futures Task Force, a group working on the strategic and adaptive issues before our denomination. I chair the Board of Directors of CUE (Chicago-United-Eden) and serve on the Board of the Minnesota Council of Churches and United Theological Seminary.

To enhance my skills, I am participating in the Institute for Executive Director Leadership through the University of St. Thomas. This is a year-long program that continues through November 2011. I am also honored to be one of twelve persons offered a residency in “Writing and the Pastoral Life” to take place this August 1-7 at the Collegeville Institute. From November 15, 2010 through February 15, 2011 I will be on sabbatical leave. My plans for that time include participation in the “Search and Call” consultation, where we expect to be introduced to new models that will make the process more fitting for our diverse contexts. I will also participate in a mission immersion trip to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, under the auspices of Wider Church Ministries. Additionally, I will take part in a border immersion experience in Arizona and California with a select group of UCC leaders and under the auspices of Justice and Witness Ministries. Finally, I hope to read extensively in materials related to our core mission priorities – faith formation, church growth and vitality, leadership development, and justice advocacy. Rev. Clyde Steckel has agreed to serve as part-time Acting Conference Minister during my absence.

The Tower story with which I began this report ends with Cameron Trimble asking us to dream with her. “Can you imagine a growing network of churches and local faith communities filled with people who tell stories of how that community has changed their lives and helped them on their journey towards healing and wholeness? Can you see the impact that we will have as we unite to eradicate poverty, discrimination and environmental destruction? Can you feel your own transformation as you experience rich and life-changing worship services in churches, coffee houses, living rooms and seminary classrooms? Can you dream of a United Church of Christ that looks back at the year 2010 as the moment we chose life over death, vitality over decline, impact over annihilation, and faith over fear?” Relying on the text in the postscript to John’s gospel, Rev. Mary McNamara, President of United Theological Seminary, refers to this orientation and the associated activities as “casting our nets on the side of the future.” Thanks be to God for the One who, seeing our frustration and fatigue, invites us to try doing familiar things differently! May we respond and be faithful witnesses in places close to home and to the ends of the earth!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Karen Smith Sellers
Conference Minister

ⁱ Unbinding the Gospel, Unbinding the Church, Unbinding your Heart, Unbinding your Soul

ⁱⁱ See Steve Covey on the “urgent” and the “important.”

To: The Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ
From: The Rev. Elena Larssen, Associate Conference Minister
Regarding: Annual Report, June 2009-June 2010
Date: May 12, 2010

Introduction: I'm having a UCC Moment!

From Austin to Zumbrota, during ordinations, or Committee on Ministry meetings, I get to see "UCC moments" occur. A UCC Moment is when a church makes a great choice or solves a painful problem, or when someone steps into leadership and shines; they happen when the bonds of Christian friendship are evident, or when a congregation takes a risk with Christ-like courage...UCC Moments are the times when we act like our UCC selves: *welcoming, thoughtful, collaborative, compassionate*. And it always happens in communities! Community is the place where UCC Moments happen, because they are about what God does through our beloved church. Yes, I'm sure Lutherans have Lutheran moments and Catholics have Catholic moments – and acknowledging that kind of religious diversity **is** a UCC moment! UCC moments are glorious, when we live the Gospel in word and deed in our own, unique UCC way. The best part of my job, walking with congregations in crisis or resurrection, is having UCC moments with all of you.

Work with Congregations and Authorized Ministers (85%): My work is highly focused on local churches and our authorized ministers, including: *Search and Call* (training and coaching search committees, viewing and approving profiles and employment listings, representing the Conference to candidates, referring candidates and congregations to one another, witnessing letters of call; coaching pastors on their profiles and interview process, approving profiles as valid for circulation); Preaching and worship visits/church events/Council meeting visits; pastoral care and coaching for clergy, vitality and conflict resolution resourcing, *Committee on Ministry and the Subcommittee for Authorized Ministry*, installations, ordinations, Ecclesiastical Councils, and connectional activities for clergy; pastoral consultation and coaching with clergy, lay leaders, congregational leadership. **Church Growth and Renewal (10%):** I am working with seven churches as they participate in the Vitality Initiative Program. It is a primary task for me to resource all congregations in their goals for health and growth. **Prophetic Ministries:** I staff the Emmaus Team and Justice and Witness. **Faith and Spiritual Development Ministries:** I staff the Professional Development of Authorized Ministers Team, which is responsible for researching compensation guidelines, and addressing clergy wellness. **Regional, National, and Ecumenical Work:** I staff the Ending Sexual Misconduct in Religious Communities Committee of the Minnesota Council of Churches, and have begun work with the United Ministries in Higher Education. I also sit on the Board for Ministerial Assistance of the Pensions Boards, and keynoted the Florida Conference Annual Meeting this spring.

Congregations Receiving Consultation and Visitation: *My contact with congregations is often via the pastor(s)... Searches, vitality coaching, conflict management, preaching, Conference meetings, and cluster visits...*

Welcome, Sherburn, St. John's Fairmont,
Congregational Fairmont, Peace
Minnesota Lake, St. Paul's Minnesota
Lake, Freeborn, Waldorf, Mapleton,
Mankato, New Ulm, Medford, Austin,
Dodge Center, Congregational
Rochester, Peace Rochester, St. Charles,
Eitzen, Winona, Wabasha, Lake City,
Cannon Falls, Zumbrota, Millville, Eyota,

Northfield, Faribault Congregational,
Faribault St. John's, Le Sueur,
Henderson, Lester Prairie, Plato, St.
John's at Bongards, Zoar at Chaska,
Gaylord, Hutchinson, Cottage Grove,
Stillwater, St. Paul Park, Mendota
Heights, Clark Memorial, Emerson, St.
Mark's Bloomington, Colonial, Edina
Morningside, Chapel Hills, Excelsior,

Wayzata, St. Louis Park, St. Paul's on
Summit, All Nation's, Anoka, Elk River,
Glenwood, Peace Duluth, Maple Grove,
Maple Lake, First MN, Linden Hills,
Lyndale, Lynnhurst, Mayflower,
Minnehaha, Plymouth, Spirit of the
Lakes, Moorhead, MacPlymouth, Olivet,
New Spirit Savage, Zumbrota...68!

Emerging Trends: Blergers, yokes, and shared ministry: congregations working together by sharing pastors/buildings/ministries...this is financially sensible, theologically excellent as congregations live into the *United Church of Christ* identity; mixed blessing for the 'work force' because it creates one decent full-time job instead of two poorly compensated-too-many-hours jobs, spiritually healthy because congregations live in the present and make choices they can live up to and make them proud. Our elevated profile: The Minnesota Conference is starting to get a name around the country as a top Conference of the UCC; recent search committees report that candidates want to come to this Conference and be part of our continuing progress toward faithful vitality.

Respectfully submitted, The Rev. Elena Larssen

Annual Report of Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Rick Wagner
June 2010

I staff the search and call process for approximately half the congregations in the Conference, most of which are north or west of the Twin Cities. During the past 12 months, I have worked with the search committees or congregational leadership of 24 different UCC congregations in various stages of transition. Some churches seeking new pastors attract lots of applicants. Others do not, usually because of geography or budget. I actively recruit for these churches, and find it very satisfying when they call a pastor who would not have applied had I not initiated the contact.

Besides search and call, a substantial amount of my time is devoted to addressing the concerns of churches and authorized ministers on a wide variety of issues, including but not limited to personnel, stewardship, planning, conflict, professional boundaries, and congregational vitality. I try to distinguish between adaptive challenges and technical changes, between transformational leadership and management of the status quo, and to encourage actions that build capacity rather than minimize loss. Our most vital and successful congregations are ones that have a clear mission, take risks, and are not afraid to fail because they are acting in faith.

I am pleased to be a part of Kudzu, an unofficial group of UCC clergy and laity with energy and enthusiasm for new church development in Minnesota. I think the next year will see us make significant progress toward new communities of ministry and mission. Isaiah 43:19 comes to mind - *Behold, I am doing a new thing, even now it is springing to light.* Meanwhile, I am gathering resources related to the assessment, training, and coaching of church 'planters.'

As one of the Associate Conference Ministers, I staff that part of the Committee on Ministry that handles Discernment and Preparation for Authorized Ministry (DPAM). In this role, I talk with a significant number of people about vocational discernment and professional formation. It makes sense, then, that I serve as the Conference representative on the Board of North Central Ministry Development Center, and on advisory committees for The Academy for Vital Christianity (in partnership with United Theological Seminary and the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church) and Leadership Development for Ministry (a lay ministry training program in partnership with the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys). I also staff the ONA/LGBT Team, the Evangelism Team, the Response Team (which investigates allegations of ministerial misconduct when the Committee on Ministry convenes a Fitness Review), and have provided staff support to Fitness Review panels.

Among the highlights of the past year have been the ecclesiastical councils, ordinations, installations, and services of farewell I have been privileged to attend, as well as the many opportunities to preach or bring greetings to local churches on Sunday mornings. I was also energized by what I learned at the North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy in April and have tried to share some of this with pastors at the 7 cluster meetings I periodically attend. And please, ask me about Mission Insite. I would be happy to help pastors and churches learn how to use this information system to strengthen their ministry and plan for the future.

I have said this before, but it bears repeating: it is great to be part of an excellent Conference staff that is "ahead of the curve" in addressing the challenges confronting middle judicatories. Of course, I also find myself continually humbled in this work. That is probably what God intends.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Wagner

Report to the Minnesota Conference
Anita L. Bradshaw
Conference Representative to the Office of General Ministries Board
April 28, 2010

The Office of General Ministries (OGM) Board has continued in its oversight responsibility for the common ministries of the United Church of Christ national setting like personnel, finance, and meeting services. In addition, the Board oversees the UCC's efforts in ecumenical and interfaith relationships, as well as the StillSpeaking Initiative and Proclamation, Identity and Communications which produces UCNews, press releases, website, the annual report and a myriad of other creative and identity-strengthening communications.

This has been a difficult year as we continue to struggle with tightening resources, particularly monetary and therefore personnel-wise, but we continue to see good things happening. We are midst of an experiment that has merged Proclamation, Identity and Communications in OGM with Publications in Local Church Ministries. The new team is known as Publications, Identity and Communications. The intention is to combine efforts, avoid duplication, and to ensure a single message being projected through all the marketing and public images of the UCC. It is a cross-Covenanted Ministry effort and we look forward to learning from this in order to affect more of these sorts of efforts in the national setting.

The OGM Board decided to sever our staffing ties with OC, Inc. OC, Inc. is an independently incorporated media advocacy group, which is rooted and tied to the UCC. When it was established, OC, Inc. was set up as a separately incorporated entity to shield the UCC and other denominational partners from lawsuits as a potential result of its advocacy work. The head of the Office of Communications was regarded as the Executive Director of OC, Inc. and for most of its existence that was a "name-only" position with very little responsibility. In restructure in 2000, the Team Leader for Proclamation, Identity and Communication (PIC) assumed the OC, Inc. Executive Director role. In recent years, the OC, Inc. job has become more involved and had reached the point where the PIC Team Leader was essentially expected to do two full-time jobs. While the OGM Board values the work of OC, Inc., we could not either practically or from a justice standpoint expect the PIC Team Leader to do two full-time jobs. We therefore decided to no longer allow the PIC Team Leader to carry the OC, Inc. position. OC, Inc. is currently evaluating their mission and structure.

Two new things we are particularly proud of is the viral launch on the Internet of the Still Speaking Campaign and the new UCC journal, *still speaking magazine*. The launch of the Internet campaign on April 16 began with a new ad, which was distributed throughout the Internet by individuals through their contacts, Facebook, MySpace, and other social network sites. In addition, individuals were invited to sign up as a Still Speaking Voice to spread the word about the UCC. To see the ad (and older ads) go to: <http://www.ucc.org/god-is-still-speaking/ads/television-ads.html>. To become a Still Speaking Voice, go to: <http://www.ucc.org/god-is-still-speaking/voices-registration.html>.

The new still speaking magazine is a high quality glossy magazine, which features stories about individuals and ministries in the UCC. Information on the magazine and a link to subscribe can be found at: <http://www.ucc.org/news/debut-of-stillspeaking.html>.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent the Conference at the national setting of the church. I now serve as Chair of the OGM Board. In that capacity, I also serve on the Executive Council and the Council for Ecumenism as an Executive Council representative. In addition, I am on the Unified Governance Working Group preparing a resolution to come to General Synod in 2011 to unify the governance structure of the denomination. I am happy to answer any questions or provide additional information as needed.

United Church of Christ Executive Council 2009-2010

A lot happened at the last United Church of Christ joint board meeting. We celebrated the installation of the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and of the new campaigns. This was all done along with our regular board meetings.

An extravagant welcome was given for Rev. Geoffrey A. Black at his installation as the new General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. It included thanking Geoffrey for his willingness to take the position, knowing all the time and work needed to sacrifice from his family and friends. A message that came out of the installation was “shift happens.” Everyday things change, great or small, and we can complain about the change, or move with it to make a better world.

There was exciting news of two new campaigns starting. The first is Stillspeaking Voice. It is a way for members to share their story of the UCC with others. All one has to do is go online to <http://www.ucc.org/god-is-still-speaking> and click on “get started” at the bottom of the screen and complete the questionnaire. After a few weeks a package will arrive in the mail with more information on the campaign. It gives ideas on ways to guide and challenge those who sign up to be a Stillspeaking Voice. Also, the packet includes three comma pins to share with others. The second is Still Speaking Magazine, which can be subscribed to online at <http://ucc.org/magazine>. It is a semi-annual magazine with stories and photos about people within the UCC.

I continue to grow in my faith as I serve as the Minnesota Representative on the Executive Council.
James Maki, Zion UCC, Le Sueur

Wider Church Ministries 2009-2010

I am honored to be the new Minnesota Conference representative to the Wider Church Ministries Board. Wider Church Ministries is one of four Covenanted Ministries in the United Church of Christ. WCM supports congregations and the other settings of the church in developing relationships with a wider church that is global, multiracial and multicultural, open and affirming, and accessible to all. Wider Church Ministries is in partnership with the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Common Global Ministries. The worldwide mission program of both denominations. Some Wider Church Ministry programs are unique to the United Church of Christ, others are shared with the Disciples of Christ.

I am thrilled that four members of the Wider Church Ministries staff will be present at the 2010 Annual Meeting. They are:

- Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, Executive Minister. If you see Cally, you might want to thank her for her inspired leadership of WCM that will end in 2011.
- Susan Sanders, Minister and Team Leader Global Sharing of Resources. If you see Susan, you might want to ask her about One Great Hour of Sharing and what’s happening in Haiti on your behalf.
- Rev. Mike Schuenemeyer, Executive for Health and Wholeness Advocacy. If you see Mike, you might want to ask him about what he is doing on your behalf in response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic.
- Rev. Xiaoling Zhu, Area Executive for East Asia and the Pacific who will be happy to answer questions about the Philippines and other countries in his area.

WCM is involved in a dizzying array of work all around the world on behalf of all of us in the various expressions of the United Church of Christ. I couldn’t be more impressed with our ability to meet needs quickly and maintain longstanding global relationships. The work of WCM is accomplished mainly through three channels:

1. Placement of personnel to facilitate global partnerships (including in the United States).
2. Distributing funds as one way to provide a “Critical Presence” (see below for description of “Critical Presence”).
3. Provide credible, trustworthy information about what is happening around the world.

Disaster relief in the United States and around the world is ongoing. For example, as of this writing, WCM is preparing to assist with the Gulf oil spill. Aid has recently been provided for those affected by the earthquakes in China and Chile, those affected by ice storms in Native American communities in South Dakota, and continuing assistance to those affected by the 2008 flooding in Iowa and Hurricane Katrina. Because of

longstanding partnerships, we can rely on those with deep roots in affected communities to target funds in helpful ways.

Our response to the earthquake in Haiti is a good example of our collective work through WCM. The earthquake's devastation is the result of a recent natural disaster combined with decades of injustice. We have had relationships in Haiti for years; we are working in response to the earthquake; we are committed to being there for years to come.

Since the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti, contributions to the UCC Haiti Earthquake Fund have totaled \$2.1 million through March 31, 2010. \$320,000 has been distributed to Haiti through numerous partner organizations in Haiti. Now the long work of rebuilding begins. WCM will maintain a presence in Haiti for years after the media have moved on to other headlines. Trusted partners ensure that funds are expended where they are needed according to those most familiar with the country, those who live there. This is typical of all of the work of WCM. While many organizations presume to know what is best for those in other countries, WCM responds to needs as defined by our partners on the ground.

WCM seeks to serve God's mission by providing a Critical Presence with international partners. Critical Presence means that WCM meets God's people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and/or economically. Through WCM we commit ourselves to a shared life in Christ and to an ecumenical global sharing of resources and prophetic vision of a just and peaceful world order, joining with God's concern for the poor and oppressed. This commitment will be reflected in common decision-making for mission program which will visibly witness to the oneness of mission in and through the Church of Jesus Christ. We work together to solve problems that affect us all.

While WCM has "missionaries" in countries around the world, their function is very different than what many imagine when they contemplate that word. The missionaries seek to provide a Critical Presence as described above. They are also key players in the ongoing mission of the church to speak the truth with love. Those with wealth and power often assume that they know the truth; this is certainly true of many in the United States who assume their very abnormal lives (compared with many in the rest of the world) are normal. The missionaries and our partners around the world are eyes and ears for those of us in the United States. When they visit the U.S, we listen with open ears while these trusted allies teach us about reality. It has been my observation that, when I hear the truth the missionaries speak, I am often converted as I see the world and myself in a new way as I am led more deeply into relationship with God and my sisters and brothers whose stories I am told.

The work of WCM is funded primarily through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and through Our Church's Wider Mission. I am pleased to announce that One Great Hour of Sharing has recognized Macalester Plymouth UCC for high per capita giving to OGHS.

Respectfully submitted,
Thom Haines

Justice and Witness Ministries Report to the Minnesota Conference UCC

May 4, 2010

In responding faithfully to God's call for abundant life for all, Justice and Witness Ministries collaborates with local churches and with many ecumenical and interfaith partners to work toward social, racial and economic justice, and human rights. If your congregation is working on one of the issues, the staff of Justice and Witness Ministries is eager to learn about your work and to provide information and resources.

- Environmental Ministries/Eco-Justice
- Economic and Worker Justice
- Racial Justice
- Justice for Women
- Public Education Advocacy
- Sexuality Education

- Health Care Justice
- Immigration Justice
- Criminal Justice
- Human Trafficking

For more information, please visit www.ucc.org/justice.

Justice and Witness Ministries' three Immersion Centers where you are welcome:

Centro Romero [located on the U.S.-Mexico border (San Diego and Tijuana)] facilitates educational-transformational immersion seminars focusing on issues of globalization, economic policies, immigration, and community empowerment. Participants (youth and adults) have the opportunity to meet with people with different perspectives on a variety of social, political, economical, faith, and environmental issues. You can organize a trip for your group through Centro Romero or join an existing group. For more information: www.ucc.org/justice/centro-romero.

Franklinton Center at Bricks is a former plantation, that traces its beginnings to the founding of the Franklinton Christian College in 1871, and the Congregationalist Bricks School in 1895. It is a conference, retreat, and education facility in eastern North Carolina with a focus on advocacy and leadership development. Because of its transformative legacy and healing power, the FCAB is an excellent conference facility for local, regional and national events, especially gatherings of youth and young adults. Learn more at www.ucc.org/franklinton-center.

Washington D.C. The goal of the UCC JWM Washington office is to make a better world possible by addressing the systemic problems that we face as a country and as part of the world. Hunger, poverty, peace and security, racism, care for the earth are among the justice issues that we work to improve through federal policies. You can participate by traveling to Washington, D.C and advocating in person or by writing and calling elected officials. Sign up for the Justice and Peace Action Network to receive emails about current justice issues: www.ucc.org/justice/jpanet.html

Two New Resources for use in your local setting:

Sacred Conversation on Race The UCC has called on all settings of the church to become immersed in a Sacred Conversation on Race. The conversations take many forms and there are many points of entry. The hope is that your initial round of conversation will lead to deeper and more meaningful dialogue in the months and years to come. The entire 64-page resource guide is available at no cost on the UCC website: www.ucc.org/sacred-conversation.

Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing (Justice LED) is a training program designed to equip local church leaders with the skills and tools needed to develop, strengthen and sustain justice advocacy ministries in our UCC congregations. Teams of Certified Trainers are available to our Conferences, Regions and Local Churches to train congregational leaders in Justice LED (including John Guttermann from the MN Conference). Trainers equip local church leaders with skills in discernment, facilitation, dialogue, biblical and theological grounding for doing justice ministry, and sociological and cultural grounding as well as group process. An extensive Tool Kit will provide resources on specific issues and for deeper study but local churches will determine what particular issues are important to them. www.ucc.org/justice/training

Respectfully submitted by Kiely Todd Roska,
Minnesota Conference Representative to the Justice and Witness Ministries Board



Thank you, churches of the Minnesota

Conference, for your support in 2009 for Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries: \$51,256 from 64 churches. Total 2009 support received from churches throughout the CUE region was \$755,033.

Thanks to your support, our United Church of Christ seminaries continue to offer **vital gifts** to the Church:

- ▶ Preparing ministers for leadership in churches and beyond
- ▶ Continuing education and renewal for the current leadership of our churches

- ▶ Resources and support for congregational growth and worship vitality
- ▶ Support of local lay theological education programs throughout the region

Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries are grateful for your continued, faithful support!

Special thanks to the following churches who gave \$1,000+ or whose support was 1% or more of the church's expense budget in 2009:

Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Benson	Zion UCC, Le Sueur
First Congregational UCC, Cannon Falls	Congregational UCC, Madison
Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Duluth	Lynnhurst Congregational UCC, Minneapolis
Congregational UCC, Detroit Lakes	Oak Mound UCC, Moorhead
Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Duluth	United Church of Christ, New Brighton
First Congregational UCC, Fairmont	First UCC, Northfield
First Congregational UCC, Grand Marais	Congregational UCC, Rochester
Faith UCC, International Falls	Hazel Park Congregational UCC, Saint Paul

Special recognition also goes to the following churches who have provided new or increased support in 2009:

Peace UCC, Duluth	First United Church, Little Falls
Edina Morningside UCC	Mayflower Community Congregational UCC, Minneapolis
First Congregational UCC, Fairmont	Parkway UCC, Minneapolis
United, Church of Christ, Falcon Heights	Saint Paul's UCC, Saint Paul
Saint John's UCC, Faribault	First UCC, Sauk Centre
Congregational UCC, Freeborn	First Congregational UCC, Wadena
Church of Peace, Glencoe	Community Church, Walker
First Congregational UCC, Glencoe	Circles of Faith UCC, Waubun
United Church of Christ, Granite Falls	Parkview UCC, White Bear Lake
Faith UCC, International Falls	First Congregational UCC, Winona
Zion UCC, Le Sueur	First Congregational UCC, Zumbrota
Prairie Community Church, Lester Prairie	

Minnesota United Ministries in Higher Education (MUMHE)

May, 2010

This report is submitted by Rev. Al Thompson (First Congregational United Church of Christ, Mankato) in his capacity as representative of the Minnesota Conference, United Church of Christ to MUMHE. While he chairs MUMHE, this is not an official report from MUMHE.

The Minnesota Conference, United Church of Christ provides funding for ministries on five state higher education campuses through the ecumenical efforts of Minnesota United Ministries in Higher Education. The current source of the Conference funding is the Ashley Endowment.

- United Campus Ministry, Fargo-Moorhead (NDSU and MSU)
- United Campus Ministry, University of Minnesota, Duluth
- United Campus Ministry, Winona State University, Winona
- United Campus Ministry, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Cooperative Campus Ministry, University of Minnesota, Crookston

I. WHAT IS MUMHE AND HOW DOES IT SUPPORT CAMPUS MINISTRIES?

On April 17, 1970, Minnesota United Ministries in Higher Education was created to provide "a more fully united and coordinated campus ministry at the colleges and universities of Minnesota."¹ The founding communions were and

¹Preamble of Constitution and By Laws, United Ministries in Higher Education of Minnesota Churches, April 17, 1970.

remain: the Upper Midwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; The Minnesota Conference, United Church of Christ; and The Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Presbyterian Church USA.

In forty years, the configuration of ministries, locations, and the levels of support have changed. In early years when funding was abundant, MUMHE was active in staff hiring, placement, evaluation and support as well as providing funding of the mission of MUMHE. Over time funding changes reflecting denominational ministry priorities necessitated the compressing of the work of MUMHE. Decisions were made to assure that a maximum level of funding contributed by the supporting communions went to support the individual campus ministries. These changes placed a stronger emphasis upon the responsibility of the local boards of each of the ministries for the ministry of the particular campuses.

The commitment to the basic understanding that ecumenical ministry provides a significant, uniquely faithful witness to students, faculty and staff of Minnesota's colleges and universities remains. What they all share is that each one is the only ecumenical Christian ministry on their campus. The ecumenical nature of the ministries provides unique opportunities for progressive Christian witnesses.

MUMHE supports the existing ministries by providing a unified cooperative funding mechanism and providing a single source of communications for the participating communions through their respective representatives and staff.

MUMHE is made up of a representative from each of the local campus ministry boards, a representative from each of the participating communions, staff representatives from the participating communions and the campus chaplains (voice without vote). MUMHE meets semiannually in the fall and spring. Because of the lack of funding, staffing is done by volunteers including the chair and secretary. The finances of the board are audited annually by an outside source.

Officers of MUMHE:

Rev. Al Thompson representing the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ, Chair;
Mr. Russ Griffin representing the Upper Midwest Region of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Secretary;
Rev. Kevin Dunn, Pastor, First United Methodist Church of New Ulm, Treasurer.

Judicatory Staff:

Rev. Elena Larssen, Associate Conference Minister, Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ;
Ms. Elona Street-Stewart, Ecclesiastical Relations Committee, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Presbyterian Church in the USA;
(Vacant) Higher Education Action Team, Minnesota Annual Conference United Methodist Church;
(Vacant) Upper Midwest Region of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Funds from the supporting communions are dispersed to the five campus ministries based upon an algorithm of full time equivalence (FTE's) over three years in student population. Individual adjustments are then made to reflect funding from other communions. (See detail for each ministry below.)

The income and expenses for 2009 were as follows:

MUMHE Meeting Treasurer's Report 4-24-2010 Kevin R. Dunn, Year End 2009*

Sources of Funds for 2009

Synod of Lakes, PC USA	\$35,000.04
United Church of Christ	\$21,000.00
United Methodist Church	\$ 6,000.00
Total Sources of Funds	\$62,500.04

Uses of Funds for 2009

Internal Budget	\$ 8,306.99
New and Renewing Ministries	\$ 1,000.00

Campus Ministry Monthly Grants		
Winona (WSU)	\$11,760.00	
Moorhead (NDSU/MSU)	\$10,641.04	
Mankato (MSU,M)	\$16,800.00	
Duluth (UMD)	\$14,559.96	
Crookston (UMC)	\$ 3,360.00	
Total Uses of Funds	\$66,427.99	
Other Expenses	\$ 84.00	
	\$66,511.99	
Deficit***		(\$ 4,011.95)

Current MUMHE Account Balances as of 4-22-2010

MUMHE Checking	\$15,625.72 **
MUMHE Savings	\$ 6,040.47
MUMHE Time Accounts	\$51,579.68

* These figures have not been audited.

** Some April checks have not cleared the bank

*** Board decision made in 2008 to use reserves to cover the anticipated deficit.

II. OBJECTIVES AND MODELS OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

The stated objectives for the campus ministries of MUMHE are as follows:

Concern for the healing and personal growth of persons

Concern for social justice

Concern for worship and celebration

Concern for institutional policies which contribute to a more humane environment for learning and discourse.

Concern for contributing to knowledge

They are accomplished differently and in differing degrees determined by the local boards, available resources and needs of the campus.

Broadly speaking, there are two models of campus ministry present and funded through MUMHE. The first model is “**Church Model**”. The ministry creates a student group. It is building centered located near campus. The focus of activities is upon engaging students. The second is “**Institutional Chaplaincy**”. The ministry is a recognized student organization, centered in the presence of the chaplain in the full life of the university campus. It is ministry with a focus upon university - students, faculty, administration and staff. While differing in focus and emphasis, each model provides faithful ministry in the campus setting. Further, each model has been selected by the local board and staff as appropriate for that setting.

As the accompanying budgetary information will show, the funding from the supporting communions through MUMHE provides a significant, and often major, portion of their funding. Each of the five campus ministries is governed by a local board made up of representatives from local congregations within the campus area. While the forms and staffing configurations have changed over time, each of the five have a long history of ministry on the campuses.

Three of the five ministries are established and strong: Fargo Moorhead (church model); Crookston (hybrid); and Mankato (institutional chaplaincy model.) Duluth is rebuilding with the institutional chaplaincy model and Winona has just restarted (2009) aiming toward a church model.

The decline of mainline churches has impacted campus ministry because by nature it is an outreach, missional ministry. In response to decline and in the face of the ever increasing needs of the students, faculty, and staff of the universities, each ministry has responded in creative ways based upon their specific needs, and resources. To the extent possible, staff time outreach is made to supporting congregations.

III. SUMMARY OF EACH OF THE FIVE CAMPUS MINISTRIES:

United Campus Ministry, Fargo Moorhead (NDSU/MSU)

Basic Model - "Church"(see "Two Models of Campus Ministry" above)

Activities:

Weekly fellowship, worship, and Bible study utilizing student leadership and community service projects as well as offering an alternative space for students to gather and for pastoral care.

Board representation:

Clergy and Laity from local UCC congregation, Laity from a local Presbyterian church, Clergy from a local Episcopal church, Clergy from a local Moravian church, Clergy and Laity from four local United Methodist churches, Lay person from local Baptist congregation, Two students

Staffing - Rev. Theta Wagner Miller, United Methodist - full time, student intern, support staff.

Total local budget 2009 \$82,815.00

(Includes additional non - MUMHE judicatory funding from the Dakotas Annual Conference United Methodist Church and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.)

Amount and percentage of funding by communions through MUMHE. \$10,641.00 13%

United Campus Ministry, University of Minnesota, Duluth (UMD)

Basic Model - "Institutional Chaplaincy" (see "Two Models of Campus Ministry" above)

Activities:

The ministry of this redeveloping part time chaplaincy focuses upon the regular presence of the chaplain in the student union and the development and joint sponsorship of an annual university wide mission trip with other recognized students organizations

Board representation:

One clergy and three laity from local PCUSA churches, Four laity from local UCC congregations, One Clergy and one lay from local UMC churches

Staffing: Dr. Terese Tomanek, Campus Chaplain, UCC lay minister 10% time

Total local budget 2009 \$18,938.00

Amount and percentage of funding by communions through MUMHE. \$14,559.96 76%

United Campus Ministry, Winona State University (WSU)

Basic Model - probably "Church"

Activities:

First year restart, the focus is upon building a weekly community around a common meal, fellowship, study.

Board representation:

Clergy and lay from the local UCC congregation, Clergy and laity from two United Methodist churches

Staffing: Justin Halbersma - Campus Chaplain, United Methodist probationer 20% time

Total local budget 2009 \$ 18,500.00

Amount and percentage of funding by communions through MUMHE. \$11,760.00 64%

United Campus Ministry, Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU,M)

Basic Model - "Institutional Chaplaincy"

Activities:

Adjunct Faculty - College of Education, "First Year Experience", Honors Program adviser, adviser to campus Habitat for Humanity, chaplain to the university ROTC command, University President's chaplain, ethics and morality adviser to the residence hall counselors, weekly pulpit supply preacher.

Board representation:

One lay person (retired faculty) and one clergy from the local UCC congregation, Three clergy and four laity from five United Methodist congregations, One clergy from the local PCUSA church, Representative from the local Christian church DOC (vacant midyear due to pastoral transition).

Staffing: Rev. Timothy Berg, Campus Chaplain United Church of Christ - full time

Total local budget 2009 \$42,768.00

Amount and percentage of funding by communions through MUMHE. \$16,800.00 39%

Cooperative Campus Ministry, University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC)

Basic Model - "Hybrid"

Activities:

Adviser of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Chaplain of only recognized religious student organization, weekly studies in student union, local mission trips, co-sponsorships of speakers events addressing campus, social justice issues.

Board representation:

One lay and one clergy from local Presbyterian USA church, One lay and one clergy from the Pine to Valley Conference of the ELCA, Two administrative staff from the University, one of whom is also from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Crookston

Staffing: Ms. Christine Boike, Ministry Coordinator, Roman Catholic lay woman

Total local budget \$32,050.00 (Includes additional non - MUMHE judicatory funding from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Crookston and the Pine to Valley of the ELCA)

Amount and percentage of funding by communions through MUMHE. \$ 3,360.00 10.4%

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

It is a difficult task to quantify the lives touched by the ministries.

- Five students actively committed to a weekly study group.
- "Hey, (chaplain's name) have you got a minute..." requests from faculty, or administration for advice in the face of difficult personal or institutional decisions. (Sometimes asked because the individual knows the chaplain represents a number of different churches on campus.)
- 100 students on a mission trip learn the importance of giving to the community. Others serve at the local food shelf, call bingo at a nursing home or help with a local Habitat for Humanity chapter.
- Support and counsel for students who seek out, or are referred, to the chaplain because the chaplain is a trusted presence.
- Opportunities for reflection upon the deeper values of life in the midst of the heady and difficult times on our university campuses.

The Minnesota Conference, United Church of Christ has a long history of mission work to and with the campuses of our state colleges and universities. It has been, and is, an ecumenical commitment in partnership with local ministry boards. The campus ministries funded through MUMHE by the Minnesota Conference, United Church of Christ support chaplains living at the intersections of experience, formal and informal learning, and life decisions.

Thank you for your support.

Disaster Coordinator's Annual Report

As your Volunteer Conference Disaster Coordinator I seek to be a conduit between local churches caught in a time of disaster and the MN Conference and the national UCC office of Disaster Ministries. With that in mind these are some of the avenues of service this past year:

1. Sought to make our Conference Minister aware of my work and up to date on the needs of our churches as it relates to our disaster ministries. Communications of awareness of disasters and the opportunities for helping from our national office were forwarded to the Conference Office.
2. Assisted churches involved in disaster times in getting needed help for recovery.
3. Visited churches that were involved in times of disasters in order to facilitate quick communications and assistance if such disaster situation would come to be.
4. Represented our MN Conference with the Minnesota Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (MNVOAD) at meetings, their Annual Meeting, and training events. This is the organization along with Homeland Securities that we work with on a daily basis when there is a disaster such as flooding, tornadoes, etc. This is also the group that we coordinate our efforts of assistance from the National UCC Disaster office.

5. Attended, on behalf of Conference and the Minnesota Council of Churches, a MN Dept. of Health Conference on the H1N1 preparedness. Then issued a report to churches and the MN Council of Churches on actions suggested for churches to follow in case an epidemic did occur, also met with several churches related to their preparedness.
6. Encouraged through the weekly conference newsletter COMMAntary programs of preparedness on a local congregational basis such as a congregation's own disaster plan or a fire escape procedure.
7. Through our weekly newsletter made churches aware of opportunities of service in other parts of the country where disasters had occurred and chances to be of assistance.
8. Began the implementation of gathering an email list held at the Conference Office of persons on short notice that wished to assist with disaster relief such as sandbagging and clean up.

The Rev. Robert F. Broeder
Minnesota Conference UCC Disaster Coordinator

Report of the Moderator/Chair of the Board of Directors

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to you, the members of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, for the opportunity to serve in this way the past two years. It's been a wild and wonderful ride. Thank you! Your dedication to our life together as a Conference is an ongoing source of inspiration. Thank you for sharing your time and talents in so many ways. I offer my special thanks to our very capable staff. We are blessed to have you serving with and among us. Last but not least, I extend my very sincere gratitude to the members of the Board of Directors. You are a faithful, dedicated group of people who give selflessly in service to Christ's Church. You make my job so much easier through your preparation for our meetings, your wisdom and your vision for who God is calling us to be in this time and place, and as we move together into the future God holds for us. Thank you!

I'm going to share with all the members of the Minnesota Conference what we have before us every time we meet as the Board of Directors. At the top of the agenda we have, among other things, the following:

The Mission of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ is to increase the love of God and neighbor by strengthening covenantal relations among all settings of the United Church of Christ and by working with our ecumenical and interfaith partners.

The Conference has committed itself to become a transformational regional body:

- driven by mission rather than maintenance;
- committed to spiritually enlivened strategic initiatives rather than to survival;
- focused on Christian formation and discipleship of children, youth and adults;
- directed toward identifying and nurturing the gifts and leadership abilities of clergy and laity;
- devoted to strengthening, building, and inviting congregations; and
dedicated to prophetic witness.

We are reminded, every time we meet, of these vital aspects of our ongoing life together. And as we make our way through the day, we regularly return to these important understandings. They guide our conversations and enable us to move forward with a sense of unity, even if all the votes aren't unanimous. Our mission as a Conference, and the commitments we've made, must always remain central. I give thanks I'm able to report to you they do.

More important, I believe, is to keep such things in the forefront of our thinking whenever we gather as a Conference. In addition to the significant relationships that are established and nurtured, our time together at St. Ben's is filled with wonderful worship, marvelous music, amazing addresses, and, of course, some key decision making. What's important is for us, as a Conference, to keep the central understandings of who we are before us, and to move forward with a sense of unity, even if all the votes aren't unanimous. My hope and prayer for us as a Conference is that we'll deeply sense the leading of God's Spirit as we move forward together into the future God holds for us. Again, thank you for your

commitment to the ongoing ministry and mission of the Minnesota Conference, and for allowing me to serve as your Moderator.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Mark Kuether
Moderator / Chair of the Board of Directors

Report of the Committee on Ministry to the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting June, 2010

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is authorized by the Conference Bylaws (Section VI.D.) to exercise nurture and oversight for the authorized ministers of the Conference. Its work is guided by the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry, the Conference By-laws, and policies developed by the COM and approved by the Conference Board of Directors.

The COM meets quarterly to review the work of subcommittees, adopt policies and procedures, and consider various matters pertaining to authorized ministers. The full committee assigns some tasks – notably Ordination Examinations, Privilege of Call Examinations, and formal Fitness Reviews – to panels of 7-10 COM members. Representatives of the COM and Conference staff participate in Ecclesiastical Councils, ordinations, installations, and services of farewell throughout the year.

The Executive Committee of the COM, consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Subcommittee Chairs, and Board of Directors Liaison, along with our Conference Ministers, meets monthly when the full COM does not meet. The Executive Committee plans COM meetings, reviews Subcommittee work, and considers policy matters to propose to the full COM. An ongoing review of the structure of the COM and how to enhance the covenantal partnership between and among our Minnesota ministry settings was the focus of this program year. After much time and consideration the COM decided to maintain its current structure because it is working well and because the work on authorized ministry at the national setting is in a state of flux. The work of the Subcommittees and the full COM is, we pray, contributing to a stronger, mutually supportive relationship among all those ministering in and through the UCC in Minnesota.

Marita Karlisch from the Conference support staff manages the administrative work of the COM, which is substantial. Her organizational skills and follow through greatly enhance the COM's effectiveness.

A substantial amount of work of the COM is accomplished through three regularly meeting subcommittees: Covenant, Discernment and Preparation of Authorized Ministers, and Authorized Ministry. The Covenant Subcommittee (Brigit Stevens, Chair) conducts Periodic Support Consultations with authorized ministers, engaging with each authorized minister, either individually or in a small group, once every three years. The purpose of these consultations is to provide direct contact between the COM and the authorized ministers of the conference in order to strengthen and support their ministries.

The Covenant Subcommittee also administers a biannual Information Review to gather information from authorized ministers about their current ministry settings and activities. In addition members of this Subcommittee also participate in exit interviews with authorized ministers and church representatives when a ministry is ending. These discussions illuminate the accomplishments and challenges of the congregation's ministry during the time with the now departing authorized minister.

The Discernment and Preparation of Authorized Ministers Subcommittee (DPAM) (Clyde Steckel, Chair) interviewed 7 persons applying for in-care status this year, and approved them all for ordained ministry. Currently there are 25 persons in-care of the Minnesota Conference, acting as an Association.

The Subcommittee conducted 5 pre-ordination interviews this year, recommending that each go forward to the full ordination interview. In addition, DPAM continues its annual review of reports made by in-care persons, their advisors, and their local church pastors

The Subcommittee for Authorized Ministry (SAM) (Jeff Palmer, Chair) continues its practice of receiving transfers of standing into the Conference for UCC clergy who have been called to ministries in Minnesota or have chosen to retire here, as well as applications by ministers from other denominations seeking Dual Standing, Ministerial Partner Standing (Christian Church, Disciples of Christ), or Privilege of Call in the Conference. This Subcommittee also has responsibility for licensing and re-licensing the lay ministers who serve a number of our local churches.

The Subcommittee is responsible for working with clergy seeking endorsement as hospital, nursing home, or military chaplains including periodic reviews for accrediting agencies that require updates for these endorsements.

The Subcommittee continues to review the authorization of all authorized ministers in the Conference, with particular attention to individuals who are no longer engaged in ministry requiring ordained ministerial standing, or whose whereabouts are not known to the Conference. The Subcommittee is contacting these individuals, and in some cases, taking further steps.

Finally, on behalf of the entire Minnesota Conference, I want to thank the members of the Committee on Ministry. This is a demanding committee, with regular day-long meetings, a yearly retreat, and a significant amount of reading and preparation for each meeting. The responsibility is considerable: we act on behalf of the whole United Church of Christ in many of our decisions, and the future of the UCC will be shaped by the people we authorize for ministry in and for our church. We ask your continued prayers and blessings for all their efforts.

Submitted by Bridget Haefner, Chair, Minnesota Conference Committee on Ministry

Pilgrim Point Camp Committee Annual Report 2010

This is the first year for the newly formed Pilgrim Point Camp Committee. Our main agenda was to develop a long-range, sustainable business plan for the Camp. To help us with this task, the committee contracted with Kathy Trotter of Kaleidoscope Consulting.

Kaleidoscope Consulting developed an electronic survey that was widely distributed throughout the conference. Information from the survey has been very helpful as we envision a viable future for Pilgrim Point Camp. Kaleidoscope staff analyzed our usage and income history and affirmed that our current approach is not sustainable; our challenge is to develop a sustainable model that we can test over the next few years.

The Camp Committee is also working on set standards for operations and for staff, program directors and counselors to ensure consistency and safety. We hope to find new ways to emphasize that camp is a great place to have fun. These elements are imperative in order to appeal to today's families and young people. Once at camp, quality programming and relational opportunities are the camp's objectives.

The Camp Committee thanks all those who made a financial contribution to help us get through this summer. We are also grateful to the conference staff, Camp Director, Program Directors and summer volunteers for all the hard work, energy and care given to this important ministry of the conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Paula Northwood, Chair, Pilgrim Point Camp Committee

Conference Personnel Committee

The members of the Conference Personnel Committee were: Joann Arny, Dawn Baker, Conee Biggs, Reverend Hank Campbell, Joseph Crowe, Martin Erickson, Reverend Lanny Kuester, and Dawn Schilling. We were staffed by Conference Minister, Karen Smith Sellers.

The committee met quarterly at Mayflower UCC in Minneapolis and we thank them for their willingness to provide meeting space for us.

Key accomplishments include:

- Updated Conference Personnel Policy Manual
- Reviewed salaries and recommended a budget for FY11 increases
- Reviewed Conference staffing needs
- In partnership with the Moderator, conducted performance review for Conference Minister
- Provided oversight of reviews for Conference personnel
- Provided advice and counsel on various personnel matters

We said good bye and gave our heartfelt thanks to Martin Erickson who completed his term of service. We wish him many blessings in his future endeavors.

Respectfully submitted for the Personnel Committee
Conee Biggs

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee started the year in June awaiting the approval of a budget for fiscal 2010. That took place at a Special Meeting of the Conference in September.

The Committee meets monthly to review the Conference's financial performance and make adjustments as necessary. Throughout fiscal 2011 we have had adequate cash flow to pay expenses.

The Committee has also spent much of the year refining and improving policies and procedures. A sub-group has been at work distinguishing endowment and investment policies. Discussion is ongoing about a policy on reserves.

Following loss of value in the Floyd C. Ashley Endowment following the economic crisis, we agreed to divert investment income into cash, rather than reinvesting. We are grateful that the Ashley Endowment has recovered value and is currently "above water." We also laddered (through Certificates of Deposit maturing at different dates) some of our cash investment in order to get better return on the investment, but still have funds available if needed.

The Committee received a legal opinion regarding the "Sharpen the Point" Endowment and in response recommended to the Board of Directors for its approval that \$100,000 remain a permanently-restricted endowment. Interest from this account is deposited in the "Pilgrim Point Camp Capital Appeals Fund," a temporarily-restricted fund.

March and April were spent preparing the budget for fiscal 2011 (begins October 1, 2010). Budget assumptions and recommendations will be more fully explained at the Annual Meeting.

We give thanks to Don Fancher, who leaves the Committee after faithfully completing a full term of service. We also give thanks to the churches and individuals of the Conference for financial generosity.

In Christ,

Jim Bock, Chair of the Conference Finance Committee.

Our Church's Wider Mission Team, MN Conference
Annual Report for 2009-10

The major work and accomplishments of the OCWM team this year include:

- The team held a half day retreat to begin the year, and set plans and goals for its work.
- In partnership with the Associate Conference Ministers, the team continued to work on cultivating relationships with key congregations, and engaging these congregations in conversation about strengthening OCWM giving.
- The team coordinated the process of asking for OCWM pledges from churches. This year's mailing of pledge forms included a list of OCWM and stewardship resources, with suggestions about how to use them. During October and November, the team also provided a series of pieces about OCWM for the Conference email news.
- The team thanked congregations for their giving over the past year by sending a message to be read in worship or published in a bulletin or newsletter. The Conference staff are expressing thanks to congregations they visit in person. Members of the team also sent personal thank-you notes to those churches who returned their pledge forms for the coming year.
- The team requested reports from those from our Conference who serve on Boards and Committees of the National UCC.
- The National church is offering Conferences the option of producing a joint OCWM brochure (that includes both local and national information). The team is exploring this possibility for the coming year.
- The team is planning a display table board for the Annual Meeting, which will be placed in the main hallway.
- In April, Jane McBride, as chair of the team, participated in the North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy in Indianapolis.
- The team filmed OCWM testimonials at last year's Annual Meeting. However, these videos have not yet been edited or completed.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Jane McBride, chair

Outdoor Ministry Report 2009-2010

The Outdoors Ministry Team regrouped in late August to determine how to continue, and what our new identity & 'charge' might be after the 2009 Annual Meeting, (in which the possibility of temporarily closing Pilgrim Point Camp was proposed by members of the finance committee). We brainstormed various possibilities, then joined the Pilgrim Point Camp Committee and the Minnesota Conference Board for a retreat at Pilgrim Point Camp in September. A plan was agreed upon in which the Board decided an amount that they could afford to contribute towards the continuation of the running of Pilgrim Point, and the Pilgrim Point Staff agreed that they could operate within the constraints of that amount, plus that which had already been donated or earmarked for Pilgrim Point Camp. This was ratified by the special annual meeting in October.

The Outdoors Ministry Team decided to focus this year particularly in offering a 'training weekend' for local church Outdoors Ministry personnel and volunteers at Pilgrim Point Camp in April. We submitted a budget for this training weekend, and this was approved.

We held a joint retreat with the Children and Youth Faith Formation Committee in February, which was quite successful. We decided that if the April 'training weekend' was successful, it would be repeated next year on a larger scale. We also wanted to offer scholarship/grants to local churches to enable them to provide Outdoor Ministry possibilities for the year 2010-2011. We also proposed holding 'listening sessions' in 6-8 areas within the Minnesota Conference to learn both what local churches are providing in the area of Outdoors Ministry, and how the Conference and this team could better assist them. We decided that quarterly meetings, including an annual planning retreat and special

meetings/events as needed was appropriate. We believe that this was an unusual year in that we needed to define our identity and purpose outside of, and in relationship with, Pilgrim Point Camp and the Children and Youth Faith Formation Board, but we believe that we have accomplished this and are actively engaged in improving Outdoor Ministry possibilities for the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Itzin

Minnesota Conference Evangelism Committee Annual Report | 05/16/2010

The Minnesota Conference Evangelism Committee has continued to be in the process of defining its mission and purpose in the Conference.

The Evangelism Committee sent three individuals to the New Church Leadership Conference in Atlanta in the summer of 2009. The individuals that attended had an opportunity to share their experiences and insights with the Conference Minister and both Associate Conference Ministers after they returned. Much of the conversation focused on New Church starts and Church Revitalization.

Nine individuals who had attended the New Church Leadership Conference in 2007 – 2009 were surveyed to determine what benefits and significant insights they had gained from their attendance. The hope of the Evangelism Committee was that by gathering this information we would have some opportunities to disseminate it throughout the Minnesota Conference. The Evangelism Committee decided to share this information at the 2010 Annual Meeting via a workshop/panel format. Five individuals have committed to being a part of the panel to share their insights and experiences at Annual meeting.

Several individuals who attended the New Church Leadership Conference over the last few years have committed to meeting together with Associate Conference Minister, Rick Wagner, to discuss and research New Church Start models and determine the possibilities of new church starts for our conference. The group is lovingly called; “KUDZU”.

The Committee spent a good amount of time reviewing the Conference Evangelism Committee Description and discussed how we can best serve individual churches, congregational staff and the conference as a whole. In addition, the Evangelism committee engaged in discussion about how to best utilize the funds that are available to send individuals to capacity building events such as the New Church Leadership Conference. The Evangelism Committees concern was that there we no way for individuals to share their experiences and insights with the greater conference and that much of the capacity building would be limited to only a single congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. James Pennington & Sue Scully – Evangelism Co-Chairs

Global Partnership Team May 2010

The Global Partnership Team was formed as the outcome of actions taken by the June, 2009 Annual Conference meeting. The purpose was to incorporate the work of the Philippine partnership within a broader understanding of partnerships with other middle judicatories.

The team met twice in person in Minneapolis, and three times via tele-conferences. The outcome of the meetings are as follows:

A partnership statement focusing upon our relationship with the Southeastern Mindanao Jurisdiction (SEMjur) of the United Church of Christ in the Phillipines was written submitted to and approved by the Conference Board of Directors for this 2010 Conference Annual Meeting.

Realizing the enormity of the task the mission of the team for the next 18 months was set reflecting the following two priorities:

- strengthening and deepening our partnership with SEMjur including the 2011 Philippines trip led by Dr. Eleazar Fernandez;
- supporting our two Global Ministries couples; Tom and Monica Liddle - Timor Lohosa (East Timor), Peace UCC Duluth; and Don and Maryjane Westra, - Zimbabwe, Federated Church UCC, Fergus Falls.

These two priorities will be address through the implementation of two categories of tasks: Communication and Advocacy. It has been an exciting, challenging, and fruitfully formative first year for the team. Thanks to all of the team and especially to David Lindsey for calling us together.

The members of the team;

- Rev. David Lindsey (initial chair, on leave of absence) - Lynnhurst Congregational UCC, Minneapolis
- Dr. Eleazar Fernandez - New Brighton UCC and professor at United Theological Seminary
- Renee Pfenning- First Congregational of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- Mariana Shulstad - Plymouth Congregational, Minneapolis
- Karen Evenson - Pilgrim Congregational, Benson and serving as licensed minister of First Congregational UCC, Graceville and Congregational UCC, Ortonville
- Rev. Kathy Nelson - Peace UCC, Duluth
- Rev. Dr. Karen Smith Sellers - Conference Minister and member Mayflower UCC, Minneapolis

Submitted for the team by Rev. Al Thompson, Convener, First Congregational UCC, Mankato

The Emmaus Anti-Racism team saw several members go off the team at the last Annual Meeting and several new members join. With this transition of members came an effort to refocus the team which came into being in 2004. During this past year, the team saw the appointment of two new co-chairs - Janet White and Grace Anderson. With the leadership of the new co-chairs and the creativity, commitment and enthusiasm of the team, the Emmaus Anti-Racism Team is redirecting some of its efforts and is re-examining its purpose and goals for the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Grace Anderson
Co-Chair

2010 Justice Witness Team Annual Report

JW Team Core Questions

Your Conference Justice Witness Team began the year asking these core questions:

- What are our interests?
- What are the needs to which we can respond?
- What are our resources?
- What are our tools?
- What can we do?
- What do we need others to do?
- Who are our partners?

We Interview and Learn from our Congregations

As we talked among ourselves, we decided the answers, or, better stated, the possibilities, were 'out there' – in the bedrock of our Minnesota Conference: its congregations. So we interviewed the pastors and members of several Just Peace churches, discovering an array of local justice witnessing:

- Anti-racism work
- After school tutoring

- Summer Peace Camps
- Feeding the hungry in programs like “Loaves and Fishes,” “Thursday’s Table,” and Food Shelf support
- CROP Walk
- Participation in the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition Day on the Hill
- Habitat for Humanity participation
- Immigration issues
- Anti-war/Peace issues
- Opening and Affirming
- Ecumenical worship
- Working on “Every Church a Peace Church”
- Race for the Cure
- MN Without Poverty Initiative
- Meals on Wheels
- Youth group mission trips
- International organization participation with volunteers and financial support (including mission – service trips to other countries)
- Local support of social service work
- Domestic violence advocacy and services
- Participation in *ISAIAH*, a community organizing ministry
- Green Church and Earthwise commitments
- Health Care accessibility

In celebration and gratitude your Conference Justice Witness Team lifts up and gives thanks for this work and for the faith calling it forth. Many of these *doing justice* congregations are ready to share their expertise and we (the Justice Witness Team) are considering how best to broker such information sharing.

Peace Fund

Some of the congregations we interviewed celebrated the role that Peace Grants have played or could play in their work and in the work of other congregations. We are grateful to the generosity of the many that over the years created and sustained the Peace Fund grant program.

We also want to give thanks for the congregations who have requested and used these funds as fuel for expanding their justice work. This year your Peace Fund gave grants to the following congregations and programs:

1. Cherokee Park, \$400 for program *Overcoming Racism, Why is it So Hard* conference;
2. Clark Memorial, energy audit grant, \$200;
3. St. Paul’s, Eyota, accessibility project, \$2500;
4. Peace United Church of Christ, Duluth: \$400, *Cracking the Shell of Whiteness*; \$100, *Latino Voices: Immigration in OUR Community*.

Grant policies and applications are available on the Justice Witness Team page of the Conference web site (<http://www.uccmn.org>). Also, a recent statement is included as a part of this report – note, however, that our written report covers grants from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting. The chart is only for fiscal 2010. Maybe next year your congregation will be on this list.

Green Church – Earthwise and Accessibility Recognitions

We are continuing to invite congregations to engage the challenge of ‘greening’ and becoming an Earthwise Congregation as well as becoming ‘accessible’ to all people through our annual recognition program.

The unique Green Church-Earthwise program invites congregations to begin simply then sustain and add to their efforts year after year – the goal is to some day recognize EVERY Conference congregation. Once recognized, both maintaining and expanding your efforts can lead to repeat celebration of your ‘green church’ commitment year after year. Green church – Earthwise efforts ‘add up.’ Next year – add your name to what we hope will be both an expanding list and a sign of deepening commitment to the environment. Green Church – Earthwise Congregation information is available on the Justice Witness Team page of the Conference web site (<http://www.uccmn.org>).

We Try Something New

Many suggestions came to us through our interviews. We tried one: a free UCC ‘Pre’ Joint Religious Legislative Coalition Day on the Hill event. We gave it ‘our best shot’ but had to cancel it because of a lack of registrations. Still – we have been asked to try again; we think this or something similar might ‘work.’ Stay tuned.

A word from National JW Rep: Keily Todd Roska (after her first national JW meeting) -

“I was overwhelmed by the number of justice initiatives being led by our National staff and by the amount of information on the JWM section of the UCC website: www.ucc.org/justice. There are so many great people and resources that could benefit the Minnesota Conference and much justice work happening in Minnesota that the National staff should know about. My challenge will be to become an effective liaison between the Minnesota Conference and the Justice and Witness Board.”

We hope this gives you some idea of what we have tried to do. Remember us in your prayers. Encourage us with your ideas.

Respectfully – Your 2009 – 2010 Justice Witness Team,

Don Britt, Jack Chandler, Ray L. Daniels, Hillary Freeman, John Guttermann (Chair), Joanne Klug, Chris Smith, Dwight Wagenius; and Conference Staff: Rev. Elena Larssen

			Current Statement of Peace Fund (Fund 352)	Expenditure s	Contributions	Balanc e
Since prior report			Opening Balance			13,967
11/25/2009	4125	Offerings	25 November 2009 Cash Receipts		50	14,017
12/28/2009	4125	Offerings	8 December 2009 Cash Receipts		10	14,027
12/31/2009	4125	Offerings	31 December 2009 Cash Receipts		167	14,194
12/31/2009	4125	Offerings	31 December 2009 Cash Receipts		400	14,594
1/26/2010	4125	Offerings	26 January 2010 Cash Receipts		8	14,601
1/27/2010	5850	Other Grants	Cracking the Shell of Whiteness	400		14,201
1/27/2010	5850	Other Grants	Latino Voices: Immigration in OUR Community	100		14,101
1/28/2010	4125	Offerings	28 January 2010 Cash Receipts		250	14,351
2/9/2010	4125	Offerings	9 February 2010 Cash Receipts		135	14,486
2/18/2010	4125	Offerings	18 February 2010 Cash Receipts		270	14,756
2/23/2010	4125	Offerings	23 February 2010 Cash Receipts		30	14,786
2/26/2010	4125	Offerings	26 February 2010 Cash Receipts		740	15,526
2/26/2010	4320	Registrations	26 February 2010 Cash Receipts		50	15,576
3/16/2010	4125	Offerings	16 March 2010 Cash Receipts		552	16,128
3/17/2010	4125	Offerings	refund	10		16,118
3/23/2010	4125	Offerings	23 March 2010 Cash Receipts		394	16,512
3/23/2010			Current Net Assets (Fund Balance)			16,512

2010 REGISTRAR'S REPORT

By Rev. Dr. Jeff Palmer (June 1, 2009 – June 1, 2010)

SECTION I

ORDAINED MINISTERIAL STANDING, ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER STANDING or DUAL STANDING

Total number of clergy holding Standing (as of June 1, 2009) 340

Removed

Deceased

Stanley Lundberg, Herbert Zimmerman, Richard Kozelka, Marion Zenke

Standing transferred out of Conference

Lev Reynolds, Linda Reynolds, Christopher Ross, Bryan Olson, Lyle Avant, Robert Fellows, Hannah

Brown

Standing Terminated (with prejudice)

Gregory Kapphahn

Standing dropped (without prejudice)

Myles Alexander, Rebecca Myrick

Total removed 14

Added

Standing transferred into Conference

Deborah Bartelt, John Steiner, Mark Mallinger, Mark Pettis, Allen Hilton, Kayla Bonewell, Beth

Benson

Deborah Hasdorff, Elizabeth Endicott

Received Standing by ordination

Robert Fellows, Amy Wick Moore, Obadiah Ballinger, Vicki Wunsch, Shuji Moriichi

Granted Dual Standing

Connie McAllister, April Davis Campbell

Total added 16

Total number of ordained ministers with Standing (June 1, 2010) 342

Commissioned ministers 3

Licensed minister 13

Total number of authorized ministers 358

PERSONS IN-CARE OF THE CONFERENCE

Total number In-Care (as of June 1, 2009)26

In-Care status terminated (without prejudice)

Herbert Perkins, Danielle Bartz, Jodi Pfarr, Rex Beyer

Removed from In-Care Status (Ordination)

Robert Fellows, Amy Wick Moore, Obadiah Ballinger, Vicki Wunsch, Shuji Moriichi

In-Care status re-instated

Gail Antonson

Granted In-Care Status

Tara Bauer, Nathan Roberts, Leslie Neugent, Paul VanAntwerp, Charles Owens, Shai Wise,

Michael MacMillan

Total number In-Care (as of June 1, 2010)25

PERSONS IN-CARE

Name	Church Membership	Received In-Care	Seminary
Grace Anderson	Macalester-Plymouth, St. Paul	03-16-2000	UTS
Gail Antonson	Cherokee Park United, St. Paul	01-15-2010	UTS
Lauren Baske Davis	St. Anthony Park UCC	01-17-2008	UTS
Tara Bauer	Plymouth Congregational, Mpls	09-17-2009	Bethel

Joann Bell	Macalester-Plymouth, St. Paul	10-23-2008	Chicago Theological
Frank Bennett	Wayzata Community Church	04-17-2008	UTS
Rebecca Bernu	Robbinsdale UCC	09-16-2004	UTS
Lindsey Braun	Zion UCC, Le Sueur	08-28-2007	University of Chicago
Jeanne Bringgold-Pro	Macalester-Plymouth, St. Paul	01-15-2009	UTS
Catherine Duncan	Plymouth Cong, Minneapolis	08-26-2007	UTS
Doug Federhart	Spirit of the Lakes, Minneapolis	11-18-2004	UTS
Kathleen Itzin	Mayflower, Minneapolis	04-17-2008	St. Paul
Victoria Johanneck	Wayzata Community Church	10-21-2004	UTS
Wilma Lawrence	Mayflower, Minneapolis	04-16-1992	UTS
Michael MacMillan	Mayflower Congregational, Mpls	05-20-2010	UTS
Patti Mogren	St. Peter's UCC, Stillwater	08-19-1999	UTS
Leslie Neugent	Wayzata Community Church	11-12-2009	UTS
Chester O'Gorman	Lyndale UCC, Minneapolis	06-19-2008	UTS
Charles Owens	Faith United Church, Ada	04-15-2010	UTS
Kathleen Remund	Minnehaha UCC, Minneapolis	11-17-2005	UTS
Nathan Roberts	Lynnhurst Congregational, Mpls	10-15-2009	Luther
Luann Suilmann	Union Congregational, Elk River	10-23-2008	UTS
Paul VanAntwerp	Peace UCC, Duluth	02-25-2010	UTS
Dwight Wagenius	Mayflower Congregational, Mpls	04-19-2007	UTS
Shai Wise	Plymouth Congregational, Mpls	05-20-2010	Luther

In Discernment for Commissioned Ministry

Dawn Carlson Conn	Robbinsdale UCC	10-23-08	UTS
-------------------	-----------------	----------	-----

SECTION II

OTHER ACTIONS OF COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (June 1, 2009 – June 1, 2010)

LICENSURE

Licensed

Terese Tomanek, Abigail Henderson, Michael MacMillan, John Edgerton, Paul VanAntwerp,
Jeanne Bringgold-Pro, Leslie Neugent

License Renewed for 1 year

Cindy Lemke, Sarah Yetter,
Danielle Goette, Catherine Duncan

License Renewed for 3 years

Richard Abel, Jennifer Sandstrom

License Terminated

Don Kain, Rob Sandstrom

APPROVAL OF ECCLESIASTICAL ENDORSEMENT

Janet Stark

APPROVAL OF CONTINUED ECCLESIASTICAL ENDORSEMENT

Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin, Elizabeth Mahan

APPROVAL OF FOUR-WAY COVENANTS

Marilyn Benson, Vicki Wunsch, Shuji Moriichi, Catherine Duncan

AFFIRMATION OF STANDING AFTER LEAVE OF ABSENCE

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Victor Hallberg, Rebecca Parkhurst, Henry Hendricks

LEAVE OF ABSENCE EXTENSION GRANTED

Eric Nelson

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCILS

September 2, 2009	Vicki Wunsch	Mayflower Community Congregational, Minneapolis
October 6, 2009	Obadiah Ballinger	First Congregational of Moorhead
December 8, 2009	Dwight Wagenius	Mayflower Community Congregational, Minneapolis
May 11, 2010	Kathleen Remund	Minnehaha UCC, Minneapolis
May 19, 2010	Catherine Duncan	Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

SERVICES OF ORDINATION

August 23, 2009	Robert Fellows	Linden Hills Congregational, Minneapolis
October 4, 2009	Amy Wick Moore	Union UCC, Elk River
January 23, 2010	Obadiah Ballinger	Community UCC, St. Paul Park
February 20, 2010	Vicki Wunsch	Mayflower Community Congregational, Minneapolis
May 8, 2010	Shuji Moriichi	St. Mark's United Church of Christ, Bloomington

SERVICES OF INSTALLATION

August 9, 2009	Brigit Stevens	St. Paul's UCC, Henderson
September 20, 2009	Norma Rae Hunt	St. Paul's UCC, St. Paul
November 22, 2009	Mark Pettis	First Congregational, Moorhead
January 23, 2010	Obadiah Ballinger	Community UCC, St. Paul Park
January 24, 2010	Connie McAllister	Mendota Heights UCC, Mendota Heights
March 14, 2010	Kayla Bonewell	Peace UCC, Rochester
April 18, 2010	Allen Hilton	Wayzata Community Church
May 23, 2010	Jane McBride	First Congregational Church of Minnesota, Minneapolis

SERVICES OF FAREWELL/CLOSURE

August 16, 2009	Christopher Ross	Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Benson
August 30, 2009	Doris Ruben	Grace UCC, Millville
December 20, 2009	Nancy Peebles	Congregational UCC, Faribault
December 27, 2009	Ruth and Robert Beck	St. Peter's UCC, Stillwater
January 17, 2010	Bridget Haefner	St. Matthew's UCC, Forest City; Peace UCC, Eden Valley
February 28, 2010	James Clausen	First United Church UCC, Sauk Centre
March 21, 2010	Jerald Fenske	The Congregational Church, Excelsior

SECTION III

CHURCH STANDING

Total number of churches holding Standing (as of June 1, 2009)	138
Churches with UCC Standing	124
Church with Minnesota Conference Standing only (Plymouth, Mpls.)	1
Churches with Dual Standing	13
Faith United Church, Ada (UCC/UMC)	
Colonial Church of Edina, Edina (UCC/NACCC/CCCC)	
The Federated Church, Fergus Falls (UCC/PCUSA)	
Glenwood United Parish, Glenwood (UCC/UMC)	
United Church of Grand Meadow, Grand Meadow (UCC/UMC)	
St. Paul's UCC/ELCA, Lewiston (UCC/ELCA)	
First United Church, Little Falls (UCC/UMC)	
The United Church, Mapleton (UCC/ABC)	

The Federated Church, Morris (UCC/UMC)
 The Associated Church, Owatonna (UCC/PCUSA)
 Cherokee Park United, St. Paul: (UCC, PCUSA)
 Macalester-Plymouth. St. Paul (UCC, PCUSA)
 United Protestant, Silver Bay: (UCC/UMC/PCUSA/ABC, and CC/DOC)

Number of churches added since June 1, 2009	0
Number of churches closed since June 1, 2009	0
Number of churches for which standing was terminated since June 1, 2009.....	1
First United Church of Christ, Comfrey	
<i>Total number of churches with standing as of June 1, 2010</i>	<i>137</i>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF AUTHORIZED MINISTERS TEAM
Minnesota Conference, United Church of Christ

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

Team Members: Glenn Herrington-Hall, T. Michael Rock, Rosemary Rocha, Eliot Howard, Anne Swallow Gillis (Chair), Elena Larssen (Staff)

The Professional Development of Authorized Ministers Team (PDAMT) works on behalf of the Conference and its churches to:

- Annually review Clergy Compensation Guidelines and make recommendations of proposed changes to the Board of Directors and the Annual Meeting
- Provide for continuing education and collegial support opportunities for Authorized Ministers of the Conference.
- Welcome and orientation for new Authorized Ministers to the Conference.
- Administer and make selection for the annual Armstrong Voss Scholarship for fulltime in-care students at UCC seminaries.

Our work this year has included:

- Made Compensation Guidelines recommendation that congregations offer 100% health benefits, as well as a 2% increase (reflecting current industry standard set by Minnesota Council on Non-Profits) and to decrease mileage reimbursement to \$.50/mile.
- Provided a welcoming and orientation for new authorized ministers, with a luncheon following to meet other current clergy in Fall 2010. The afternoon program was a presentation on "Nurturing Disciplines for Preaching and Teaching" by UCC pastor Alan McNamara and Dean of Students from Luther Seminary, Patricia Lull. Hosted by Olivet Congregational UCC, St. Paul.
- Provided a second Renewal of Ordination vows service for authorized ministers, lead by the Conference Ministers and hosted by The Congregational UCC, Rochester.
- Processed applications for Armstrong Voss Scholarship, to be presented at 2010 Annual Meeting of the Conference.
- Researched other UCC Conferences and professional societies regarding recommendations for possible clergy continuing education requirements. Provided a workshop at 2010 Annual Meeting to brainstorm the topic.

Submitted by The Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis, Chair

Minnesota Conference UCC Development Committee
2009-10 Annual Report

During 2009/2010 the Development Committee of the Board of Directors continued to carryout its responsibility for promoting the financial development of the Conference by:

- Encouraging members of the Board of Directors to lead by example and complete “Give and Get “ commitment pledges and become Friends of the Conference;
- Sponsoring Friends of the Conference Cultivation Events to let potential Friends know how their support can further the ministries of the Conference and to thank current Friends;
- Promoting Friends of the Conference giving through periodic appeals via letter and Commentary that share the real difference that the Conference is making in the lives of members and churches across Minnesota;
- Providing input to the Conference Minister regarding the implementation of the financial development function;
- Promoting Friends of the Conference giving at the 2010 Annual Meeting with a visible presence and an effective appeal;
- Sharing development knowledge with local churches via an Annual Meeting workshop on planned giving.

Thanks to all who responded positively to our appeals to be a Friend of the Conference!

Committee members: Gordon Everest, Falcon Heights UCC; Charles Green, Edina Morningside UCC; Anne Swallow Gillis, Olivet Congregational UCC, St. Paul; Barbara Peterson, New Brighton UCC; Cindy Russell, St Mark’s UCC, Bloomington; and Rev. Jeffrey Sartain, Plymouth Congregational, Minneapolis.

Barb Peterson
Liaison from the Board of Directors & Chair