



THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

122 WEST FRANKLIN, SUITE 323, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404 PHONE:(612) 871-0359 FAX: (612) 870-4885
MN PHONE: 1-800-684-1718 WEB SITE: HTTP://WWW.UCCMN.ORG

WITNESSES... TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 48TH ANNUAL MEETING
11-13 JUNE 2010
COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICT, ST. JOSEPH, MN

March 23, 2010

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

In recent weeks many of you have asked, **“What’s happening with Pilgrim Point Camp?”** Sometimes the question is posed in a spirit of fear or mistrust. Almost always it arises from a deep love for our Camp and for the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ. As spring arrives and summer plans take shape, an update seems in order.

Contributions to last summer’s Pilgrim Point Camp “2010 and Beyond Fund” are now almost \$81,000. (An additional \$7000 has been pledged but not yet received.) At the September 26, 2009 Special Meeting of the Conference, \$50,000 of that amount was directed toward meeting the fiscal 2010 Camp budget. An additional \$50,000 contribution came from the Ashley Endowment.

While these gifts and actions made it possible to keep the Camp open this year, the **Pilgrim Point Camp Committee realized that it needed help in developing a long-range plan and sustainable business plan for the Camp. After reviewing proposals from two consulting firms, the Committee voted at its December meeting, to recommend to the Board of Directors the engagement of Kaleidoscope, Inc. (www.kaleidoscope-inc.com).** Further, the Committee recommended that half of the consulting fees come from the Pilgrim Point Camp 2010 and Beyond Fund and the other half from the Ashley Endowment. At its January meeting, the Board of Directors approved this request.

This past weekend **Kathleen Trotter, President and Principal Consultant of Kaleidoscope, Inc.**, traveled to Minnesota and spent a full day interviewing key Camp stakeholders. She also met with the Conference Minister and the Pilgrim Point Camp Committee. This was an important opportunity to see the breadth and depth of Kathy’s knowledge and skills. **Members of the Pilgrim Point Camp Committee agreed unanimously that they were favorably impressed and are excited about the work she will be doing with us.** Said Committee member, Kim Shaffer, “Kathy outlined her process, asked us what we thought were the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the Pilgrim Point Camp ministry, helped us understand the Committee’s role in the Conference governing structure, and analyzed our attendance and income figures in comparison to other camps around the country. I am confident that she will provide recommendations that will enable us to provide outdoor ministries in a sustainable way in the Minnesota Conference.”

It may help to know that Kathy

- has worked with a number of other United Church of Christ Conferences, including Connecticut, Florida, Nebraska, and Rocky Mountain;
- is currently engaged with the camps of the Minnesota United Methodist Annual Conference and with Camp Koinonia of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church;
- is a nationally-recognized specialist in camp, conference center and retreat center programming and management;

KAREN SMITH SELLERS
Conference Minister
122 W. Franklin, Suite 323
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Phone: (612) 871-0359
karens@uccmn.org

ELENA LARSEN
Associate Conference Minister
122 W. Franklin, Suite 323
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Phone: (612) 871-0359
elenal@uccmn.org

RICHARD WAGNER
Associate Conference Minister
122 W. Franklin, Suite 323
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Phone: (612) 871-0359
rickw@uccmn.org

DEE DRESSLER
Managing Director
Pilgrim Point Camp
P.O. Box 305
Alexandria, MN 56308
Camp Phone: (320) 846-2852
Office: (320) 763-6549
Cell: (320) 241-1394
deed@uccmn.org

WADE ZICK
Ashley Minister
of Faith Formation
for Children and Youth
122 W. Franklin, Suite 323
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Phone: (612) 871-0359
wadez@uccmn.org

- has been a successful site director and executive staff person in both camp and conference center settings; and
- has demonstrated her ability to develop and market creative programs for all ages, to operate financially stable and self-supporting sites, to supervise staff and lead boards to optimum effectiveness, and to manage a start-up project as well as revitalize stagnant operations.

In her time with the Pilgrim Point Camp Committee, Kathy pointed out items for immediate action, and she directed our attention to key areas of concern. She analyzed our usage and income history and concluded that our current system is not sustainable. At the same time, she thought that a sustainable model could be recommended after further study. Kathy encouraged the Pilgrim Point Camp Committee to set standards for operations and for staff, program directors and counselors to ensure consistency and safety and to emphasize that camp is 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.

During the next few weeks, **Kathy will be working with us to develop an electronic survey that will be widely distributed throughout the Conference shortly after Easter.** Equipped with the feedback from that instrument, Kathy will return in late April/early May to visit the Camp site, to meet with the Board of Directors, and to consult again with the Pilgrim Point Camp Committee.

Meanwhile, Camp brochures have been mailed to each local church of the Minnesota Conference and to previous campers. The season includes a number of new camps and some long-time favorites. Volunteer Program Directors are in place and seasonal staff members are being actively recruited. We encourage you to consider when and how you and your gifts might be offered to the Camp this summer. We urge you to **sign up for the Camp that best fits you and to encourage others to do the same.**

We give thanks for your prayers and support as we seek a faithful way forward for the Pilgrim Point Camp ministry of the Minnesota Conference, and we welcome your questions.

Rev. Paula Northwood (paulan@plymouth.org)
Chair, Pilgrim Point Camp Committee

Rev. Dr. Karen Smith Sellers (karens@uccmn.org)
Conference Minister