

Mission Bite: from across the Minnesota Conference

from Rev. Dr. Karen Smith Sellers, Conference Minister

The Church in the Age of the Emotional Economy

"People don't come to church to know more about God," said Rev. Al Winseman, Senior Learning Consultant for Gallup, to the gathering of the West Central Region Conference Ministry Staff at its annual gathering last month. "They want an experience of the holy."



We know this, and yet we in the US mainline continue to appeal to the brain and not to the heart. Winseman said, "We do church from the sinuses up." But those who will survive and thrive in today's world will have to figure out how to lead in **the age of the emotional economy**.

For example, today's leaders must address the following **four emotional needs of followers: compassion, stability, hope, and trust**. Followers must know that they have a leader

who cares about them and have confidence in the security and predictability of the organization. They need to see the possibility of a brighter future and view the leader as honorable and dependable.

Winseman also spoke of the importance of **church member engagement**. Gallup research has turned on its head the assumption that "believing leads to belonging" - i.e., that an individual's personal spiritual commitment naturally leads to a desire to belong to a faith community. To the contrary, "belonging is far more likely to lead to believing." In fact, the extent to which a member feels engaged in a faith community has a profound effect on his or her personal spiritual commitment.

What are the elements of engagement? A positive response to these twelve items which assess two overarching questions: Am I valued and do I make a meaningful contribution?

What do I get?

1. As a member of my congregation I know what is expected of me.
2. In my congregation my spiritual needs are met.

What do I give?

3. In my congregation, I regularly have opportunities to do what I do best.
4. In the last month, I have received recognition or praise from someone in my congregation.
5. The spiritual leaders in my congregation seem to care about me as a person.
6. There is someone in my congregation who encourages my



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spiritual development.

Do I belong?

7. As a member of my congregation, my opinions seem to count.

8. The mission or purpose of my congregation makes me feel my participation is important.

9. The other members of my congregation are committed to spiritual growth.

10. Aside from family members, I have a best friend in my congregation.

How can we grow?

11. In the last six months, someone in my congregation has talked to me about the progress of my spiritual growth.

12. In my congregation, I have opportunities to learn and grow.



In a national Gallup sample, 29% of those assessed were engaged, 54% were not engaged and 17% were actively disengaged. Congregations that measure engagement and attend to it see engagement go up. They also see a significant increase in service, inviting and giving. Indeed, engaged members volunteered twice the number of hours in community service per week, were more than 2.5 times more likely to invite someone to participate in church life during the last month, and gave financially nearly twice as much annually as non-engaged members.

To learn more about church engagement and leading in the age of the emotional economy, we suggest Dr. Winseman's book: [Growing an Engaged Church: How to Stop "Doing Church" and Start Being the Church Again.](#)

Joys and Concerns

1. An Ecclesiastical Council for Michael MacMillan will be conducted Monday, November 21 at 2:00pm at Edina Morningside UCC (4201 Morningside Road in Edina). Refreshments will be served following the vote. To ensure a quorum, anyone who plans to attend should contact the church at emcucc@emcucc.org or 952-926-6555.

2. We offer prayers for the newest members of the United Church of Christ Collegium of officers, installed this past Sunday, November 13, at the Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Cleveland, OH. These persons are: Rev. J. Bennett Guess, Executive of Local Church Ministries, Rev. Jim Moos, Executive of Wider Church Ministries and Mr. W. Mark Clark, Associate General Minister. As they take up their ministries, please pray for the work and ministry of our national church, made possible by our gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission, for all the Local Churches of the United Church of Christ, and for our shared ministry of extravagant hospitality, continuing testament and changing lives. We also give thanks for the following persons who serve the Minnesota Conference on our national Boards, which met in Cleveland this past weekend: Thomas Haines (Mayflower, Minneapolis) Wider Church Ministries;

Church of Christ

Right now: Don't forget to add your Mission:1 totals to the tote board! www.ucc.org

[UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns](#)

Right now: Celebrate 25 years of Open and Affirming

[Global Ministries](#) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ

Right now: Prayer focus on South Africa this week

[Association of United Church Educators](#)

Right now: Regional educator events announced

[Congregational Vitality](#)

Right now: bless! DVDs are now available!

[Justice & Witness Ministries](#)

Right now: Are you participating in Community Supported Agriculture?

[Council for Health and Human Services Ministries](#)

Right now: Pilgrim Place leads resident-centered care

Herbert Perkins (Cherokee United, St. Paul) Local Church Ministries; Kiely Todd Roska (UCC New Brighton) Justice and Witness Ministries, and James Maki (Zion, Le Sueur) Executive Council.

3. We extend deep sympathies to Rev. Bill Colby-Newton (Minn. Conference UCC Authorized Minister, member of Mendota Heights UCC) and his family for the death of his father, O. Reed Newton on Friday, November 11. A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's UCC, Wausau, WI, 426 Washington St on Saturday, Nov. 19th, 11:00am. Bill said of his father, "My dad was the greatest man I ever knew or ever will know." He is surely greatly missed.

4. Carol LeDuc, wife of Rev. Paul LeDuc who served as pastor of First Congregational UCC in Brainerd from 1984-1996, died this past Saturday, November 12. A memorial service will be held on Monday, November 21 at 10:00am at Central Congregational UCC in Topeka, KS. A full obituary is [linked here](#).

Intergenerational Church Workshops Available!

Robin and Eric Nelson, who were Program Directors of Pilgrim Point Camp this past summer, will be offering intergenerational workshops in the coming year for Minnesota Conference congregations and their communities. The workshops will explore creative ways of worshipping together and building community through play. Offerings include puppetry, mask-making, creative presentation of biblical stories, singing and game playing, and family folk dance. Ashley Funds may be available to help meet your congregation's costs. Congregations interested in exploring setting up this kind of program, please contact Robin or Eric at mcgnelson@aol.com or 612 378 7578.



A Visit to East Timor

By Linda and Tom Curran, members of Peace UCC, Duluth
East Timor, we have arrived at your exotic, tropical doorstep and find a people of hope and love as you struggle with literacy, decolonization, liberation, and celebration of your cultural identity. We give our minds a time out and pay attention to the richness of daily life. The reality that most people in the world live preoccupied with survival is not lost on us in East Timor. At the same time we experience spirit, reverence, awe, sacredness, vitality.

Half way around the world, a day and a half on four airplanes crossing the international dateline plus a 5 ½ hour wild drive on a mountainous road - and we have arrived in Lospalos and into the loving arms of the Liddles who graciously welcome us and allow us to walk with them for a week, witnessing God's dream for them.

Together, we all share life: meals that always include rice and veggies, maybe tempeh, and once even a Brazilian chicken; games with Hannah that bring English and Tetum words together; follow the leader with Simon as he explores his world; in-depth discussions involving faith, purpose, literacy, and East Timor challenges; singing and worship at home, in the clinic, and in daily life; shopping for supplies at the local markets. Each day we smile and greet our Timorese brothers and

sisters, "Bon Dia!"

Life in East Timor is dialectic. Life and work morph - there is prayer and tea time and a clinic-shared lunch while the various children of the clinic staff slide in and out, greeted by their mothers and by the other mothers who are in the middle of consulting, drawing blood, looking into a microscope, diagnosing TB, malaria, worms. Life, work, school, community, healer, healed - an intoxicating sense of holy, hardship, and worship; offering and opening - transcendence.

We feel so blessed to have shared this walk with Tom and Monica Liddle. We come back to Duluth and Peace UCC asking ourselves and our community, "What is God's dream for each of us?"

Books for the Philippines

We are currently collecting books for our partners in the Philippines. Books can be brought to Lynnhurst UCC or either of the Peace UCC congregations in Duluth or Rochester. We hope to send them the first week of January. Consider this as an alternative Christmas gift. Hazel Navaro in the Southeast Mindanao Jurisdiction office wrote us this:



Here are some of the following books we need:

1. Contemporary theology
2. Pastoral care/ counselling
3. Early childhood education
4. Worship and liturgy guide
5. Commentaries (I.B, ID.B)
6. Church History
7. Books on Martin Luther King, Jr and D. Bonhoeffer

We appreciate so much your kind concern in strengthening our partnership.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rev. Kathryn Nelson, chair, Minnesota UCC Global Partnership Team

Micro-grants are now available!

We are pleased to announce that the MN Conference Board of Directors has approved use of up to \$10,000 for micro-grants of \$300-\$800 from the Ashley Endowment of the MN Conference for congregations to do multi-congregational and/or community outreach events. Grants must support the ministry and work with children, youth and/or families. The application deadline is rolling. The grant application form with more information is available here:

[View and download the micro-grant application here.](#)

2012 Outdoor Ministries Ashley Grants

The MN Conference UCC is pleased to offer congregation grants for intergenerational, youth, and children camps and retreats. The camps & retreats can be at Pilgrim Point in Alexandria, MN or at other locations - whichever best serves your local context of ministry.

[View or download the grant application form here](#)

Grant application forms are due by January 23, 2012. Please see the form for more information.

The Christmas Fund - A Gift the Keeps on Giving

As you prepare your Christmas giving list this year, please include a generous gift to the Christmas Fund. The Christmas Fund, one of four Special Mission Offerings received annually in the United Church of Christ, is a beacon of light and hope for many who have served, and who continue to serve, our church.

Your generous giving to the 2010 Offering enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance program to provide, on behalf of the whole church, \$1,504,420 in Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to individuals and families facing financial crises.



Your Annuitant Visitors, Rosanna Walker, Gary Kasten, Richard Sheerer and Doug Allen, frequently receive the thanks of our retired clergy and lay annuitants for the assistance you provided to them through the Christmas Fund. One of our annuitants received a Christmas check, allowing her to buy a newer used car to provide rides to her neighbors. Your gifts really do make a difference all through the year.

If you have given to the Christmas Fund in the past, please accept our thanks on behalf of all you have helped. If you have not yet given to the Christmas Fund, please consider adding a Christmas Fund gift to your giving this season. It truly is a gift that keeps on giving. Thanks!

"Now that my husband the minister has passed away and my health has deteriorated, I am completely living on my retirement salary of less than \$1,500 a month. Yours was a blessed gift and very greatly appreciated, especially at this joyous Christmas season."

Transgender Remembrance Day

Transgender Remembrance Day is Sunday, Nov. 20

Transgender Day of Remembrance is an opportunity for congregations to show support for the transgender community - which still faces hurdles in the struggle for equality and basic civil rights. Since 1999, this date has been set aside to remember transgender people who have been killed because of their gender identity or expression. The majority of these crimes have never been solved.

Many of the victories we've celebrated in the past year still do not protect the transgender community. The repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" does *not* secure the right of transgender citizens to serve openly in the armed forces. Many civil-rights ordinances protect lesbian and gay citizens from discrimination but not our transgender neighbors.

And the rate of suicide attempted suicide in the transgender community is the highest for any group in the country: a staggering 41%.

Since 2009, the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns has required wording in new Open and Affirming covenants that cover the transgender community. New Open and Affirming churches typically include the phrase "gender identity and expression" along with "sexual orientation" in their covenants, or equivalent language. For older Open and Affirming congregations, now is the time to update your covenants to include a clear welcome to the transgender community. This is an opportunity to learn more about the transgender experience and to open dialogue with transgender neighbors in your community. The Coalition is ready to help with resources, including the groundbreaking documentary, "Call Me Malcolm."

The Coalition will be honoring our transgender family on Nov. 20. We hope your congregation will join us.

[Learn more about Transgender Day of Remembrance](#)
[transACTION: a free study resource for congregations](#)
[Gender Identity and Our Faith Communities](#)
[Order "Call Me Malcolm" video](#)

Clergy Clusters in the coming week

Northeast Cluster: Tuesday, November 22, 2:00pm
The Federated Church, Morris

Circle of Names



On November 17, 4-6 p.m. in the Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church parsonage, seven women of faith will be among the honorees at the Twin Cities Area Circles of Names gathering sponsored by

the National Council of Churches. The Circles of Names is an NCC project to raise money for women's ministries by inviting contributions of \$100 or more to honor women who have been special mentors of faith and exemplars of justice. Our own **Rev. Sarah Campbell** (pastor, Mayflower UCC, Mpls.) will be honored at the gathering, along with Dorothea Burns, Rabbi Amy Eilberg, the Rev. Alika Galloway, Dr. Josie Robinson Johnson, Dr. Fatma Reda, and Elona Street-Stewart. For more information or to RSVP to this event, please contact Alison Killeen ajkilleen@gmail.com. To contribute in the name of a mentor, see www.circlesofnames.org.

National Youth Event 2012

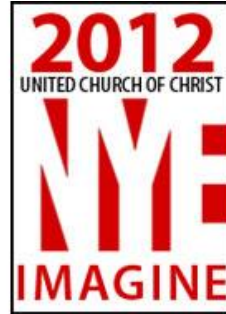
The National Youth Event, held every four years, provides an opportunity for over 3000 youth to gather for worship, workshops, faith, fun and fellowship.

"Imagine"

Held July 10-13, 2012 at Purdue University in Lafayette, IN

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

STILLSPEAKING
YOUTH
The future is now!



Get your youth group organized and registered! **Registration is going to be done individually** through the conference at our subsidized price by clicking on the link above.

Registration fee includes:

- Transportation to and from the Twin Cities
- Full NYE Registration
- Housing
- An AWESOME conference T-SHIRT!!

Register before February 1st and get a FREE pair of conference FLIP-FLOPS!!

After registration, you can download the necessary forms by clicking [HERE](#). Either mail, fax, or email the completed forms to the conference ASAP. *We can mail you hard copies of the forms to be filled out upon request.*

NOTE: Ignore national setting registration fee announcements since your registration is going to be subsidized through the conference. Questions? Contact Zac at Zacn@uccmn.org for details and answers

Middle School Service Days

Serve others while making friends from around the MN Conference UCC!! (6th-8th Graders)

There are 3 upcoming service days:

- Saturday, January 28, Henderson UCC
 - Saturday, March 10, Anoka UCC
 - Saturday, May 12, Pilgrim Point Camps & Retreats
- (Each of the days are from 9:30am-3pm)

Cost is only \$5 per person per service day!
Attend all 3 Service Projects & get a FREE T-SHIRT!

REGISTER NOW!

Every location will have different kinds of projects and different sites so groups will need to be flexible, but all days will include:

- Orientation to service projects
- Group building games
- Sack lunch
- Debriefing
- Closing Worship

Local Church Events

Check out all the events happening at our local churches across Minnesota on our [Local Church Events Calendar](#)! You can surf around the calendar to see what's coming up across the

Conference. Just click on the title of the event in the calendar to get more details.

- **Thursday, November 17:** [Children of Genocide: The Holocaust, Cambodia and Rwanda, Edina Morningside UCC, Edina](#)
- **Saturday, November 19:** [3rd Annual Trash or Treasure, Linden Hills UCC, Minneapolis](#)
- **Sunday, November 20:** [The Wisest of Investments: Early Education, Linden Hills UCC, Minneapolis](#)
- **Sunday, November 27:** [Rooted in God's Love: Healing Minnesota Service, Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis](#)
- **Wednesday, November 30:** [Fare for All Express, Hazel Park UCC, St. Paul](#)
- **Thursday, December 1:** [Community Candlelight Service: World AIDS Day, Falcon Heights UCC, Falcon Heights](#)
- **Sunday, December 4:** [Evensong Service, St. Paul's UCC, St. Paul](#)

Would you like your events to appear on this calendar? Just email Alison Bents at alisonb@uccmn.org. Simple as that!

Employment Opportunities

Check out the Employment Opportunities portion of the Minnesota Conference website. [Click here to see the listings](#).

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