The Minnesota Conference
United Church of Christ

Recognizing
God's Goodness

ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 9-10, 2023

College of St. Benedict
St. Joseph, Minnesota
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES
65 year ordination anniversary

Rev. Daniel Schmiechen

Rev. Daniel Schmiechen had served on church and ministry committee for several years. He was ordained in 1958 after completing his Bachelor of Divinity from Eden Seminary in St. Louis, MO. Rev. Schmiechen also got married to Barbara Ann Baumgartner in 1958.

Over the course of his ministry, these are the churches Rev. Schmiechen had served: St. Paul’s UCC church in Ellsworth, WI; First Congregational UCC in Tomah, WI; Madison Christian Community in Madison, WI; and Edwards Congregational UCC in Davenport, IA until he retired in 1997. Some highlights from Rev. Schmiechen’s ministry career is bible/prayer groups, sharing stories about faith and life, and being part Ecumenical service group.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES
60 year ordination anniversary

Rev. John Roschen

John Roschen was ordained on June 23rd, 1963. Following his graduation from Oberlin Graduate School of Theology in 1963, Rev. Roschen continued his education and received a D. Min from UTS in 1984. Over the course of his ministry (1963-2005), Rev. Roschen had served the following churches: Immanuel-Memorial UCC & Peace UCC Alden & Buckeye (Iowa), Andrew’s UCC Dexter (Michigan), The Associated Church (UCC/PCUSA) Owatonna (MN), MN Conference UCC (Interim Associate Conference Minister/Eastern Association), Mizpah UCC, Hopkins, (MN), MN Conference UCC (Interim Western Association Minister), Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys PCUSA, Apple Valley UCC/New Spirit UCC Apple Valley/Savage (MN), First Congregational UCC Brainerd (MN).

Rev. Roschen continuously participate in a variety of committee positions from 1973 to 2013, most notably on the nominating work committee. He was baptized, confirmed, married, and ordained in Zion UCC in Le Sueur.
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES
55 year ordination anniversary

Rev. Richard Eick

Richard Eick was ordained on October 13th, 1968 in the Potomac Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC. During his ministry he had served at Westmoreland Congregational UCC (Washington, DC); Bethel UCC (Arlington, VA); Zion UCC (Waukon, IA); and Grace UCC (Millville, MN) until he retired in September of 2008.

Here are some of the highlights of Rev. Richard Eick’s Ministry:
1) Rev. Eick was invited to share in the lives of parishioners and community members during times of great joy and times of great sadness. His pastor/mentor spoke about becoming a “liturgical artist” in such important worship services; being such an “artist is gracious gift inspired by the Holy Spirit.
2) In each of three parishes Rev. Eick had served, he was involved in some memorable social justice ministries, and the most memorable and faithful were cooperative ministries, i.e. ministries carried out in partnership, with other UCC congregations or with an ecumenical partnership.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES
50 year ordination anniversary

Rev. Richard Waters

Richard Water attended St. Olaf College and graduated in 1969 with a B.A in Sociology. He continued his education at Andover Newton Seminary in 1972 and received a M. DIV degree. Rev. Richard Waters was ordained on June 17th, 1973. During his ministry career, he had served churches in Ohio, Iowa, and Minnesota.

Rev. Richard Waters is grateful for the opportunity to be a servant, to bring hope, spread joy, and share love. He had retired in 2013, but was still involved in the Minnesota Conference: as an association registrar, association council, Ministry Committee, Conference Outreach Committee, church camp counselor, Director, and Faith Nurturing Task Force.
Rev. Robert Griggs

Robert Griggs was ordained on June 24th, 1973. That same year, he also graduated from Harvard Divinity School Theology with a M. Div. He continued his education at Andover Newton Theological School, and received a D. Min in 1978. Robert retired from his ministry work in 2015, here are the churches he had served: First Congregational UCC (Manchester, New Hampshire), Lynnhurst Congregational UCC (Minneapolis, MN), Mendota Heights UCC (Mendota Heights), First Congregational UCC (Wadena), Faith UCC (Bertha), Pilgrim UCC (Benson), First UCC (Northfield), Union UCC (St. Louis Park).

Rev. Robert Griggs is grateful to the churches that he had have the opportunity to serve and to the people with whom he had shared his ministry. He believe in the church’s ability to make the world a better place and to make us better people.

Rev. Victor Hallberg

Victor Hallberg was ordained in May of 1973. During his ministry career, Rev. Hallberg had served Second Congregational Church in Jeffersonville, VT; and Robbinsdale UCC in Robbinsdale, MN. He transitioned to Lay Ministry in 1985, until he retired in 2018.

Rev. Hallberg went to Wesleyan University, graduated in 1968 with a B.A. Degrees, majoring in Religion. He continued his education at Chicago Theological Seminary, and graduated in 1972 with a M. Div. degree. A highlight from Rev. Hallberg’s ministry career is having the honor of walking with lay people through all the joys and sorrows of life.
Rev. Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemo

Helgemo, Rev. Marlene Faye Whiterabbit February 10, 1947 - July 22, 2022 Rev. Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemo, So tt ti to twik ("Voice Above All") (Ho-Chunk Nation), passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on July 22, 2022.

Devoted to God and service to Native American communities, Marlene graduated from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary and became the first Native American woman ordained in the Lutheran church. As a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, she served the faithful people of All Nations Indian Church in the heart of the Indian community of Minneapolis.

Marlene and Harvey were endlessly supportive of their wider community, consistently present to support others and showing up in the places where it mattered most, lifting up everyone in their communities and especially caring for the most vulnerable. Marlene was in touch with hundreds by email, text, Facebook or telephone, who showed persistence in her love and brought everyone warmth and a sparkle along with her sig-

Rev. Curtis Johnson

The Rev. Curt Johnson, born on October 18th, 1928 was a longtime Pastor for Ministerial Support at First Congregational Anoka, died peacefully on September 21, 2022 after his health declined rapidly in the last 2-3 months. He was 93.

Curt worked as a parish pastor for the American Baptist Church, serving in rural South Dakota among other places. He left parish ministry ultimately to work in nonprofit work with the Mayo Clinic, and spent the last five decades providing volunteer ministerial services at Anoka, with Bible Study foremost among his efforts.
Rev. Carol A. Joyce

Joyce, Carol Ann beloved mother, wife, grandmoth-er and great-grandmother, passed away Wednes-day November 30, 2022, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Carol was a trailblazing church administrator, minis-ter, and national officer of the United Church of Christ, the first woman to be elected to a top national office for any mainline Protestant church. After stepping down from that role, she served as the pastor of Robbinsdale United Church of Christ in Minneapoli-sis until retirement, then underwent two years of training to become a volunteer docent at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, creating and leading tours for school groups and the general public.

Carol was known for her intelligence and her compassion, her meticu-lous organization and her passion for fairness. She could be modest and self-deprecating, but had a wicked and irrepressible sense of hu-

Rev. Martha Hendricks

Reverend Martha G. Hendricks passed away peacefully on August 21, 2022 at age 81. She was born to the late Paul and Virginia (Gustuson) Glasoe on May 17, 1941.

Martha was born in Rochester, NY and grew up in Springfield, OH as well as Upper Long Lake in Wisconsin. She graduated from Wittenberg College in Ohio, married her college sweetheart Dr. Daniel Kincaid and had two wonderful children, David and Paul.

A self-taught artist, Martha enjoyed calligraphy, watercolors and rosemaling and loved to share her completed pieces with family. Later in life she discovered a talent and joy of writing about her elder experiences through her blog, White Hair Grace (https:// whitehairgrace.com/) ending many of her entries with “And I’m very okay with that” as she shared the life lessons of her journey.
Rev. Daniel J. Maiden

Daniel Maiden of Granite Falls passed away on Saturday, September 3, 2022, at his home at the age of 59.


He married Paul Ledford on February 21, 2015. They moved to Granite Falls later that year where Dan served as pastor in Granite Falls United Church of Christ, Congregational and First Congregational in Montevideo. Dan loved hiking and canoeing in the Minnesota River valley. With friends he journeyed to the Badlands and Black Hills, Canadian Rockies, BWCA, Bighorn mountains, Yellowstone, and the Grand Tetons.

Rev. Richard Mark

Pastor Mark passed away at his home on April 24th of 2023. He was the pastor at St. John’s from 2006 to 2011.

Mark spent many years in Paul Bunyan country in north-central Minnesota, working as a school administrator and as a newspaper columnist in Pequot Lakes, whose claim to fame is having Paul Bunyan’s bobber as its water tower.

While he was in Pequot Lakes his newspaper sponsored a Paul Bunyan look-alike contest for an annual town celebration.

Mark likes to say that there is a Paul Bunyan renaissance going on, inspired in part by the character’s legendary kindness, strength and honor.
Rev. Dennis Tooley

Surrounded by the beauty of God’s creations and his family, Denny died on Saturday, July 16 at Seasons Hospice House in Rochester. His greatest joy in life was sharing his love of the outdoors with family, friends, and anyone who would join him for an adventure from the Boundary Waters of Minnesota to the mountains of Arizona. His heart was at home right here at Chester Woods County Park where he devoted years of volunteering to the development of the park and helped form the Friends of Chester Woods.

As an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, Dennis served churches in Aitkin, Glyndon, and Dilworth, MN. He then served as a chaplain at the Rochester State Hospital until its closing. He provided marriage and family counseling at the Rochester Pastoral Counseling Center and was an officer in the National Association of Mental Health Chaplains.

OTHER DEATHS OF NOTE

Marilyn Stille

Born on October 11, 1930, in Coon Rapids, Iowa, Marilyn was the daughter of Boise and Mildred McLaughlin. She attended country school through grade eight and later graduated from Coon Rapids High School. Following graduation, she attended Buena Vista College in Storm Lake where she received her elementary education degree. Marilyn also met her future husband, Dean, singing in the college choir, and the two were married on August 12, 1951.

The couple moved to New Jersey where Marilyn taught and Dean attended graduate school. Their next move was to Wisconsin, where Marilyn found work teaching while Dean attended seminary. They spent two years at a church in Harbine, Nebraska before settling into ministry at Peace United Church of Christ in Minnesota Lake.

In 1996, Marilyn and Dean moved to Wells, Minnesota where they bought their first home and spent time renovating and putting in flower beds. She enjoyed gospel music concerts and conventions with her husband as well as gardening, traveling, and singing.
OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATIONS in the Minnesota Conference

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Anoka
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Austin

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Brainerd
United Faith Community, Buffalo

St. Paul’s UCC, Delano
The Congregational Church of Detroit Lakes
Peace United Church of Christ, Duluth
Pilgrim Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Duluth

Union United Church of Christ, Elk River

Falcon Heights United Church of Christ,
Congregational Church of Faribault

First Congregational UCC, Grand Marais

Union Congregational UCC, Hackensack
Mizpah United Church of Christ, Hopkins
New Journey UCC, Hutchinson

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Mankato

First Congregational Church of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Edina Morningside Linden Hills Congregational UCC, Minneapolis
Living Table UCC, Minneapolis
Lyndale United Church of Christ, Minneapolis
Lynnhurst Congregational UCC, Minneapolis
Mayflower Community Congregational UCC, Minneapolis
Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Montevideo
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Moorhead
OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATIONS
in the Minnesota Conference

United Church of Christ in New Brighton
  Community UCC, Newport
First United Church of Christ, Northfield

  Associated Church, Owatonna

Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ
  Peace United Church of Christ, Rochester
The Congregational Church UCC, Rochester

  Peace United Church of Christ, Saint Cloud
Union Congregational United Church of Christ,
  St. Louis Park

Cherokee Park United Church, Saint Paul
  Hazel Park UCC, St. Paul
Macalester-Plymouth United Church, Saint Paul
  Olivet Congregational UCC, St. Paul
  St. Anthony Park UCC, Saint Paul
  St. Paul's UCC, Saint Paul

New Spirit United Church of Christ, Savage
Clark Memorial United Church of Christ, South St. Paul
Grace Community United Church of Christ, South Saint
  Paul
  St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, Stillwater

Zwingli United Church of Christ, West Concord
  Parkview UCC, White Bear Lake
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Winona

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Zumbrota
5 for 5 Congregations 2023

5 for 5 congregations donate to OCWM basic support and the OCWM special funds: Strengthen the Church, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund (formerly known as Veterans of the Cross).

First Congregational UCC, Alexandria
First Congregational, Anoka
St. James UCC, Barnesville
First Congregational UCC, Brainerd

Zoar UCC, Chaska
Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
St. Paul’s UCC, Delano
The Congregational Church of Detroit Lakes UCC
Peace UCC, Duluth

Chapel Hills UCC, Edina
First Congregational UCC, Fairmont
Congregational Church of Faribault UCC
St. John’s UCC, Faribault

United Church of Christ, Gaylord
First Congregational UCC, Glencoe
First Congregational UCC, Grand Marais
Granite Falls UCC

St. Paul’s UCC, Henderson
Mizpah UCC, Hopkins
New Journey UCC, Hutchinson
Bethlehem UCC, Maple Lake
Grace UCC, Millville
First Congregational Church of MN
Living Table UCC, Minneapolis
Peace UCC, Minnesota Lake
First Congregational of Moorhead

St. John’s UCC, New Albin IA
United Church of Christ, New Brighton
First Congregational UCC, New York Mills
First United Church of Christ, Northfield
Friedens UCC, County Line Church

St. Paul’s UCC, Plato
Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ
The Congregational UCC, Rochester
Peace UCC, Rochester

Union Congregational UCC, Saint Louis Park
Hazel Park Congregational UCC, Saint Paul
Macalester Plymouth United Church, Saint Paul
St. Anthony Park UCC

Wabasha UCC
Parkview United Church of Christ, White Bear Lake
First Congregational Church, Zumbrota

Thank you!