

July 2019

Excitement in the Air



General Synod Worship

[Worship Ways: Prayers and Liturgies](#)

UCC Racial Justice Ministries

[Restorative Justice Dismantles Racism](#)

UCC General Synod Resolution

[First to Endorse Green New Deal](#)

New Songs at Synod

[Song written as Synod is at work](#)

General Synod 32

[Revised Resolutions](#)

UNITE! at Purdue U. next summer

[2020 National Youth Event](#)

- God-seeds
- Mission Priorities
 - CAM registration
 - new Associate Pastor
 - PRIDE Camp Leader
 - General Synod delegates and visitors
- "b1" app updates
- Prayers
- Calendar Items
- Social Media links



God-seeds, reflections from Marc Stewart

Where you go, I will go... When we are called to follow Spirit, we are going to pass through places and settle into places we may not have ever experienced before. Our place by the singing waters, Mimanagish, has been such a Spirit-led destination for our Congregational and United Church of Christ journey in this Montana – N.Wyoming geography. For most of my 7 years of Conference Ministry with you, I have understood that Mimanagish has been the primary Spirit-led destination of the MT-NWY Conference UCC. There is movement directing us to some new places, not that Mimanagish is no longer sacred, but we are being led into new missions.

Look at where Spirit is leading our churches:

First Church Billings, Butte UCC, Pilgrim UCC Bozeman, Ballantine UCC, Absarokee UCC, Red Lodge UCC, Columbus UCC being led into ministries where they have not otherwise been present in their wider communities.

Sheridan UCC, First Church Billings, Savage UCC, Custer UCC, Plymouth UCC Helena, Absarokee UCC, and Columbus UCC investing in repairs, improvements and even remodeling to create and share accessible facilities with the wider community.

Glendive UCC, Peoples UCC Sidney, Hardin UCC, Buffalo Union UCC, Great Falls UCC, Powder River Broadus UCC, Miles City United UCC/DOC, Colstrip UCC/PCUSA engaging in various ecumenical shared ministries.

Columbus UCC and Ballantine UCC sustaining significant after-school ministries.

Sheridan UCC and Baker UCC hosting community dinners.

Plymouth UCC Helena, Great Falls UCC, and Red Lodge Community UCC engaging in intentional Open and Affirming designation processes.

First UCC Billings, Pilgrim UCC Bozeman, and University UCC Missoula adding staff

Miles City United UCC/DOC creating a book exchange widely used by the community.

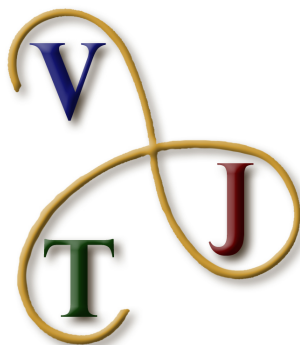
Big Timber UCC, Buffalo Union UCC, Powder River UCC Broadus, Ballantine UCC, First UCC Billings, University UCC Missoula, Absorakee Community UCC, Pilgrim UCC Bozeman, Molt UCC and Columbus UCC giving extra effort to youth ministries.

Renewed ministries with the calling of pastors in the past 5 years at Buffalo Union UCC, Sheridan UCC, Powder River UCC Broadus, Baker UCC, Miles City UCC/DOC, Colstrip UCC/UMC, Ballantine UCC, Bethlehem UCC Worden, First UCC Billings, Mayflower UCC, Molt UCC, Red Lodge UCC, Absorakee UCC, Columbus UCC, Big Timber UCC, Helena UCC, Great Falls UCC, Fairfield UCC, Butte UCC, University UCC Missoula.

Meanwhile, Plentywood UCC, Medicine Lake UCC, Glasgow UCC, Kalispell UCC, Power UCC are churches that decided to close following years of membership attrition of membership.

Obviously, the Spirit is active in our churches, and so too in our Conference. Consider where the Conference may be led by Spirit. What might it look like to be about revitalization of our rural ministries? With a seminary student due to graduate in 2 years, who wants to return to this Conference to do new church development, what might it look like to start building support for a new church? Many of our churches are the only places of worship and fellowship for people who have not been welcomed in other churches and so I wonder if it is time for us to explore becoming an “Open and Affirming” Conference and “Accessible to All” Conference.

When the Board of Directors spent just a short-time last Spring reflecting on where Spirit was leading the mission of the Conference, there was a sparkle of energy in the room. It is as if something is just waiting to be let loose among us and there is excitement in the air for where we might be led.



**The Three Mission Priorities of the
MT-NWy Conference UCC:**

All congregations will be vital and viable



Give



Serve



Attend



Grow

"What does the Lord
require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with
your God?"
--Micah 6: 8 [NRSV]

2019 CAM Information: August 9 - 11, 2019

CAM Registration Link / [Mimanagish Lodging \\$160](#)

CAM Registration Link / [No Lodging \\$100](#)

Mimanagish Lodging:

Camp lodging capacity is capped at 60 people.
Cabins will be divided into male and female cabins with limited family cabins.
Rooms with bathrooms will be assigned according to need.
Lodging will be confirmed one week prior to CAM.
Due to the number of participants we cannot make cabin requests.
Cabin assignments will be made based on participation numbers and needs.

Attendees Not Lodging at Mimanagish:

Attendees not staying at Mimanagish is capped at 40 people.
There are 19 reserved rooms at the Super 8 in Big Timber.
These rooms are on a first come, first serve basis.
For reservations please call 406-932-8888.
Use the code: UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST for our group rate.
Rooms are approximately \$200 total for both Friday and Saturday night.
There is no elevator, so please indicate the upper or lower floor.

What to Bring:

Bedding, pillow and toiletries for those staying at Mimanagish.
Nights can get chilly so bring a sweatshirt and/or jacket.
Pen, notebook and comfy shoes.

Meeting Schedule (everything will be at Camp Mimanagish):

Saturday morning Workshops 9:15 - 11:45 am:

Youth zoom meeting with National UCC Youth Minister

Planned Giving with Howard Hawkins

Stewardship with Stewardship Task Force

Coaching with Conference Coaching Team

Miminagish Timeline with Camp Team

Saturday MT-NWy Conference Business Meeting, 1 - 4 pm

Budget and Reports

Elections and Installation of new leaders

Sunday Communion Worship Service 9:30 am

2. The Conference and Churches will be appropriately staffed and the staff will be justly compensated.



Congratulations to Rev. Laura Folkwein as she was unanimously voted to the Associate Pastor position at University UCC Missoula. Laura had been the Minister for Small Groups at University UCC. She also serves as co-chair of the Faith Formation Committee and is the chaplain for PRIDE Camp.

3. The Conference will offer transformative experiences and have an active presence in places where we are not now present.

Bobbie Zenker
Pride Camp Program Leader

Roberta Zenker (she, her, hers) has worked in public service for nearly 40 years. She has worked in LGBT



the Montana Human Rights Network, Montana Pride, Inc.; she has been on the Leadership Action Team for the PRIDE Foundation; she is a member of the Rural Transgender Wellness Project and has served on a number of steering committees and projects, as well as testifying before the Montana Legislature and local government bodies numerous times. She is a published author and artist.



General Synod participants (l-r): Tracy Heilman, Sophia Heilman, Carol Shipley, Sara Branom, Marc Stewart, Nicholas Knoblauch, Lynne Spencer Smith, Lisa Harmon.



Synod delegate, Sophia Heilman shares an articulate statement about the need for leadership change in the UCC.



An artist's representation of our first day of synod plenary sessions.



All Eight of the UCC's
Western Region Conferences
and their
Conference Ministers
have joined the movement.

They're wondering...

Will YOUR church **b1** ?

The "b1" cloud based phone and WEB application is soon ready to roll out. This has been a project of the West Region Conferences and Kombi software company.

Check out "b1" features and support videos at www.b14ucc.com.



July 5 - 8 [Grandparents and Me Camp](#), Mimanagish

July 10 - 14 [PRIDE Camp](#), Mimanagish

July 11 [Conference Special Meeting](#) to vote on Board of Directors
recommendations regarding selling Camp Mimanagish, 7 pm

July 14 - 20 [Sr. High MADD Camp](#), Mimanagish

July 19 - 21 [Mini and Me Camp](#), Mimanagish

July 21 - 27 [3rd, 4th, 5th Grade Camp](#), Mimanagish

July 28 - Aug 3 [6th, 7th, 8th Grade Camp](#), Mimanagish

August 3 - 5 [Mom and Me Camp](#), Mimanagish

August 3 - 5 [Pay it Forward Camp](#), Mimanagish

August 3 -5 [Young Adults Camp](#), Mimanagish

August 8 Board of Directors meet

Aug 9-11 [Conference Annual Meeting at Camp Mimanagish](#)

August 17 - 20 [Soul of Aging Retreat](#), Mimanagish

August 30 - Sept 2 [Geography of Grace Retreat](#), Mimanagish

August 30 - Sept 2 [Fishing Camp](#), Mimanagish

August 31 - Sept 2 [Dad and Me Camp](#), Mimanagish

September 5 - 8 [Yoga and Wellness Camp](#), Mimanagish



Did You Know...

Mimanagish Matters is our new monthly eNews all about Mimanagish. Mimanagish Matters comes out during the third week of the month. Email the Conference office [to subscribe](#).

Check out our CONFERENCE WEB SITE

www.mnwcucc.org

and our MIMANAGISH WEB SITE

www.mimanagish.org

We are on Facebook. Stay in touch and get all of the latest news by liking our page.

[Click here!](#)

And check out our Camp Mimanagish Facebook page. [Click here!](#)

"Another Voice" community television series features some of our Billings area clergy and Conference Minister [Click here!](#)
