

## September 2018

# New Faces of Who We Are



A national offering that has supported  
Columbus area children to attend camp  
[Neighbors in Need](#)

Wisdom Cries Out  
[Just Peace Sunday, Sept 16](#)

Vital Signs and Statistics  
[Insights on Vital Transformation](#)

Confession  
[Denominations Repent Land Grabs](#)

- [God-seeds](#)
- [Our Three Mission Priorities](#)
- [Mimanagish News](#)
- [Calendar Items and Mimanagish Summer Schedule](#)
- [Social Media links](#)

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God-seeds, reflections from Marc Stewart

*I have the world's biggest collection of sea  
shells. I keep it scattered on the beaches of the*



The Montana - N. Wyoming Conference UCC has the biggest collection of grace-filled, faithful leaders around. They are scattered among the congregations of our Conference. Have you seen them?

We could easily add a fourth verse to the "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God":

*They live in towns so far apart, but God's love connects them all;  
their faith is huge and greater still, while heeding communion's call;  
they invite all to church, and help those in need,  
listen to concerns, and the Spirit they feed;  
We might not know they are everywhere, yet I am one of them too.*

One of the marks of a faithful community is the quality of its leadership. You might think I am going to start talking about our ministers, but that will come later. Of first importance is the leadership that holds the faith, that is, the people of the church.

In our United Church of Christ way of lifting up specialized leadership from among the community, it is the church members' responsibility to discern who to entrust as church officers and as minister. Church members are the basic leaders in our system. And this leadership is outstanding.

I am encouraged by the faithfulness evident in the lay-leadership of our churches. Just look at who they have called as ministers. At our August Church and Ministry Commission meeting, the Commission met with several ministers who have either come into new positions or are being considered for a position. Every person we met with was outstanding in their own way, but also a wonderful testimony to the leadership qualities within the churches that called them:

University UCC in Missoula has called Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum as senior minister.

Jennifer was called to University UCC after serving at Forest Grove UCC in Oregon (next to the UCC-related Pacific University).

Big Timber Community UCC has called Rev. Duane Bartz as minister.

Duane was called to Big Timber from upstate New York. He previously served United Methodist Churches, as a second career pastor. Duane's previous career was as a software developer.

Mayflower UCC in Billings has called Rev. Amy Carter as a designated minister.

Amy was called to Mayflower UCC after finishing as interim senior minister at

UCC.

Red Lodge Community UCC has called Rev. Dr. Pam Peterson as a transitional (designated) pastor.

Pam was called to Red Lodge Community UCC from upstate New York. Pam also serves on faculty for Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Transitional Ministry program.

Buffalo Union UCC, Wyoming, has called Rev. Dr. Anne Hays Egan as an interim minister.

Anne was called to Buffalo Union UCC to be an interim pastor. Anne has worked for the national setting of the Presbyterian Church USA and is also a consultant to churches.

Bethlehem UCC in Worden is candidating Pastor Robert Shy as minister on September 9.

Robert will be candidating for a call by Bethlehem UCC after having served Colstrip Community Church for 18 years as a licensed minister.

*You are invited to join Marc Stewart for a monthly conversation about church vitality and viability happening in our churches. Marc will host the Micah Chat, a ZOOM chat for conversations. Join on September 26, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm by connection on your computer, tablet, or smart phone through this link:*

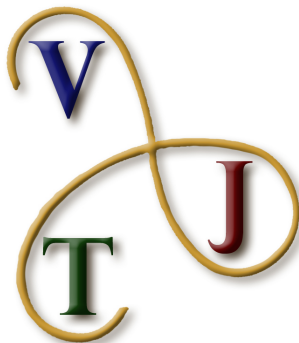
*Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/8013404215>*

*Or iPhone one-tap :*

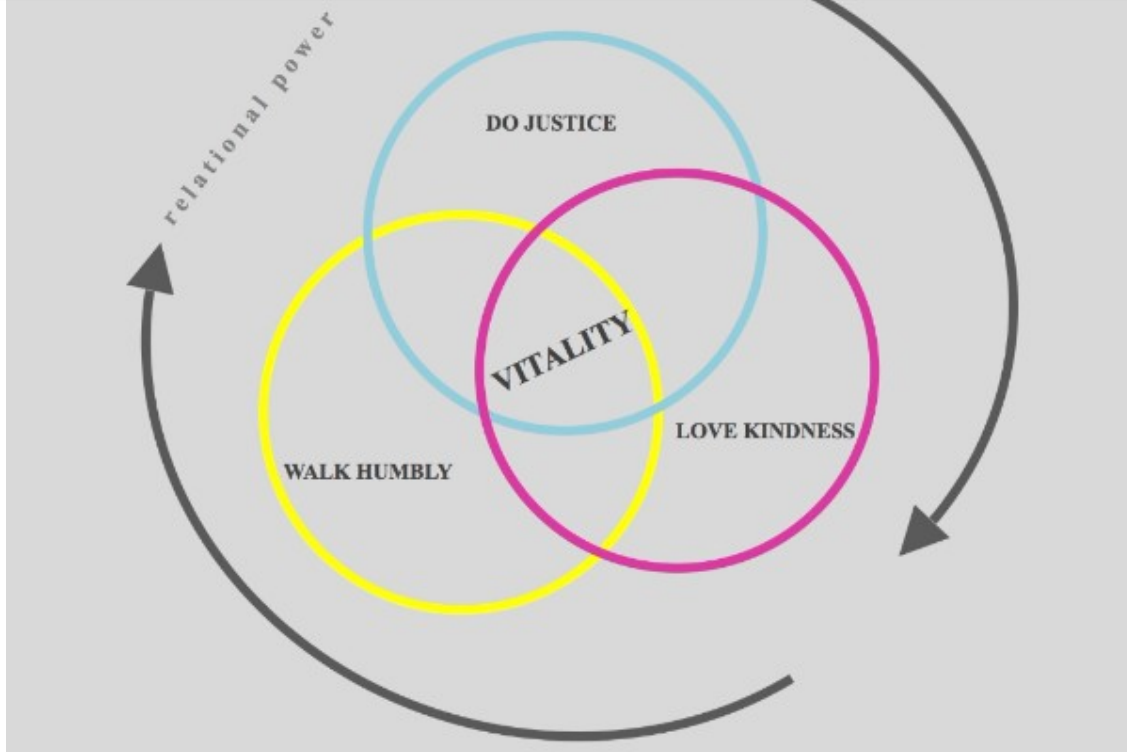
*US: +16699006833,,8013404215# or +16465588656,,8013404215#*

*Or Telephone:*

*US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 646 558 8656    Meeting ID: 801 340 4215*



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



**1.  
All congregations  
will be vital and  
viable**

“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]



The decommissioning and closure of a church is a time of affirmation of ministry over the years, and a bittersweet recognition that a faith community gathered as a United Church of Christ congregation is ending. After 18 years of ministry, Kalispell UCC will be closing on September 7. The UCC Living Legacy resource notebook provided a

churches, and the Conference throughout its two decades. Rather than further diminish its assets, the church council has voted to gift \$10,000 to a local LGBT+ organization, and to gift the remaining \$39,000 to the MT-NWy Conference. The Church and Ministry Commission will be reviewing the history of Kalispell UCC to discern what we might have missed as a Conference in helping this congregation be vital and viable.

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

So many of our churches have called pastors this summer, but we still have a few churches in the search process:

[Baker UCC](#) is seeking a part-time minister, includes parsonage

[Butte UCC](#) is seeking a part-time minister

Colstrip Community Church (PCUSA and UCC) is seeking a pastor to begin in the new year, includes parsonage. They are also exploring calling a pastor along with Hysham Presbyterian Church.

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

A Youth Council has been proposed by the Faith Formation Committee:

### **PURPOSES**

The spiritual purpose of the Youth Council shall be:

- a. To serve God to the best of our abilities by promoting good will through youth fellowship activities.
- b. To generate excitement and growth in Christian faith.
- c. To spread the Good News of the Gospel.
- d. To provide faithful witness to the Montana – N.Wyoming UCC.
- e. To develop and encourage leadership for local churches, Conference, and

Mimanagish.

The organization purpose of this Youth Council shall be:

- a. To gather and distribute information about youth ministry activities.
- b. To increase awareness of local, state, national, ecumenical youth opportunities.
- c. To forge links among various youth ministry programs.
- d. To work with local, conference or national youth ministries by forming a task force to work on particular projects.

The relational purpose of this Youth Council shall be:

- a. To foster understanding and participation in and with other

- c. To facilitate and provide resources for the development of Youth Ministry to Montana – N.Wyoming UCC.

This Youth Council shall be accountable to the Montana – N.Wyoming Conference of the United Church of Christ, reporting to Faith Formation Committee.

Specific events to focus on:

- a. Fall Youth Retreat
- b. Spring Youth Retreat
- c. National/Regional Youth Events
- d. Mimanagish programming
- e. Youth Leadership Academy with CAM

#### MEMBERSHIP in the YOUTH COUNCIL

Three adults will be appointed by the Faith Formation Committee. Up to 7 Youth will be recruited by the Faith Formation Committee and adult leaders. Oversight by FFC as task force recognized by the Board of Directors.

#### MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Youth Council will be held three times per year, with additional meetings and continued communication arranged as needed. The Conference will provide ZOOM links for conference call meetings.

#### FINANCES

The Faith Formation Committee will oversee grants to Youth Council for its work.



#### MIMANAGISH CAMPS AND RETREATS

Mimanagish camper evaluations are reporting that summer 2018 was a wonderful camp season of relationship building, superb programming, and transformational experiences. Look to our Facebook page and WEB site for details and pictures of camp.

PRIDE Camp chaplain, Laura Folkwein





Camp director, Josie Caton, readying a group for a hike.



David Overture, photographer, has taken thousands of summer photos and made Mimanagish postcards.







Kitchen crew, Dilynn Wise (assistant) and Jonna Mandeville (cook) have served up hundreds of meals this summer.



Cheryl Stewart and Rick Thompson lead evening vespers for Middle High Camp

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1. Give the gift of a full or partial Mimanagish Camp registration.

2. Give a donation to Mimanagish in honor of a loved one. ([Donation link](#))

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**Sept 7 Service of Decommissioning and Closure for [KalisPELL UCC](#)**

**Sept 9 Marc at [Fairfield and Power UCCs](#)**

**Sept 7-9 [Civic Action Retreat](#), Mimanagish with Tricia Decker**

**Sept 10-12 [Clergy and Spouses Sept Spa Camp](#), Mimanagish with  
Pension Boards Wellness Team**

**Sept 13-15 [Committees and Board of Directors](#) at Mimanagish**

**Sept 15 Church communications software (B1) introduction with John  
Eisenhauer, Billings office, 4:30 - 6:30 pm with dinner**

Sept 18-21 Stewardship, Fundraising and Philanthropy workshop, Cleveland  
Sept 26 Faith Formation Committee ZOOM meeting, noon  
Sept 26 [Micah Chat ZOOM gathering](#), 3:30 pm  
Sept 28-30 [Central Pacific UCC CAM](#), Marc as guest  
Oct 2 [United Campus Ministry anniversary](#), Billings, Marc keynotes  
Oct 12-13 [Faith, Science, and Climate Action Conference](#), Bozeman  
Oct 14 Installation of Rev. Dr. Jennifer Yocum, University UCC Missoula 10 AM  
Oct 26-27 Church and Ministry Commission, Billings office  
Oct 28-31 Marc hosts West Region Conference Ministers at Chico Hot Springs  
Nov 10 [MAC](#) (Montana Assoc. of Christians) CONNECT workshops, Helena

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### **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 NEW CONFERENCE WEB SITE

[www.mnwcucc.org](http://www.mnwcucc.org)

and our NEW MIMANAGISH WEB SITE

[www.mimanagish.org](http://www.mimanagish.org)

We are on Facebook. Stay in touch and get all 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!](#)

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