

# January 2018

## New Year Resolutions



Youth Awakening a Nation  
[A thousand Sermons](#)

Rev. Traci Blackmon named [person of the year](#) by the St. Louis American

Not in Our Town commentary  
Written by [Michael Schuenemeyer](#)

Calendar of Weekly Mission Prayers  
[Prayer for our Global Missionaries](#)

Completely NEW [www.mnwcucc.org](http://www.mnwcucc.org)  
[New Conference WEB Site](#)



- [God-seeds](#)
- [Mission Priorities](#)
- [Mimanagish FUNdraising Event](#)
- [Mimanagish summer 2018 schedule](#)
- [West Region Youth Event](#)
- [Calendar Items](#)
- [Veterans Reentry Training](#)
- [Climate Change Preaching Challenge](#)
- [Church Book Studies](#)
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*Therefore, be it resolved...*

Have you noticed that many pronouncements and resolutions--I am talking about the official type like those that come before annual meetings and General Synod--have 2x to 3x as much background material than "be it resolved" material? And even with all that background, it can still be difficult to explain why certain resolutions were made. Just Peace, Open and Affirming, and Accessible to All resolutions, Multiple Paths to Authorized Ministry pronouncements can take decades, if ever, to implement.

There is a resolve in the life of the Montana - N.Wyoming Conference UCC that has particularly taken hold of us for 2018. Our Board of Directors resolves to remain on task in naming our common missions and setting achievable outcomes. Mimanagish resolves to continue working with its "firestarter" leaders so that participation and usage can increase three-fold. Our Conference Administrator, Jennifer Penfield resolves to create and maintain a WEB media presence that engages churches and individuals with resources and community connections. As Conference Minister, I resolve to reach out to each church and authorized pastor to offer coaching and mission development.

Why this resolve? Isn't this what we always do? Of course, we have been resolute in ministry together

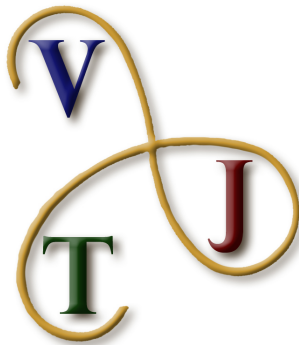
since those first mission tent-city churches started here in the late 1800's,  
as all of us headed to Mimanagish for Conference Annual Meetings in the '30s through 40's,

as we formed a new Conference with the resolve of George Barber,  
as we enjoyed years of program ministries with the resolve of John Schaefer and Michael Obeneaur

and as we came together to try Partnership with the Montana Region Disciples of Christ with the resolve of Randy Hyvonen and Ruth Fletcher.

The resolve we are led to in this time calls us to change our conference culture to a "results oriented" organization. We all know how busy and involved our ministries are, but do we know what we are accomplishing? Much of ministry may take years or decades to reach an outcome, but we will still focus on defining our goals and outcomes. This resolve will make for a cultural shift from talking about how busy we all are to naming accomplishments and failures.

1. Visit and bring Conference greetings to all 29 Conference churches in 2018.
  2. Provide up to 75 hours of clergy, leadership and group coaching.
  3. Lead 6 local church vision and mission retreats.
  4. Assess all clergy annual reviews and make action recommendations to the Church and Ministry Commission.
  5. Update stewardship case statements for Conference giving.
  6. Assess cost options and requirements for office space.
  7. Lead the Mimanagish program and curriculum team to create curriculum, provide training, and recruit leadership.
  8. Participate in January West Region Conferences planning retreat, March Council of Conference Ministers planning meeting, and host November West Region Conference Minister retreat.
  9. Provide planning and organizational leadership to upcoming conference events: January Board of Directors meeting, February Faith Formation Committee retreat, Spring Stewardship gathering, June CAM.
  10. Continue producing monthly Conference eNews.
  11. Support Mimanagish "Firestarter" initiatives and Committee for Outdoor Ministry work and give voice to intersectionality with other ministries of the Conference.
  12. Monitor conference office hours and percentage of time devoted to Mimanagish.
  13. Effectively communicate with the Board of Directors by providing all information (reports and action items) needed at least a week ahead of time for the Board to function at its best and make informed decisions.
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**The Three Mission Priorities of the MT-NWy  
Conference UCC:**

**All Congregations in the Conference will be vital and viable.**

If you are interested in vital and viable congregations, the Faith Formation Committee invites you to attend our Church Vitality Retreat at the Ursuline Center, Great Falls, February 23 noon - 24 noon. Keynote leadership from Courtney Stange-Tregear, Pacific NW Conference UCC Minister for Church Vitality. \$35 to register.

[Registration:](#)

1. Add the Church Vitality Retreat session by clicking the blue "add" button.
2. Once the retreat populates in the "Your Selections" box click "continue".

*future registrations. This enables the system remember your address and specific contact details to streamline your registration process in the future.*

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

The summer 2018 Mimanagish curriculum and program is well in development. Resources and materials for various age groups and programs will be offered. Ideas from teachers and church class leaders are needed. Contact Marc Stewart to participate in this curriculum development project. If you would like an amazing week of transformation, join the MImanagish program team by being a volunteer counselor or chaplain.

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

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On January 27, Columbus Community United Church of Christ will host a big, **FUNdraiser** for Camp Mimanagish at Stillwater Little Metra (W 5th Ave N, Columbus, MT). We'll have dinner, live music & silent auction. Cost \$20. Silent auction 5-8 pm, Dinner 6 pm. Cash's Country Music and other musicians will play 5 pm till 9 or 10 pm. Ask your friends/family to **SAVE THIS DATE**.

Meet Ed Cash, of Cash's Country band: Ed Cash is a childhood friend of Rhonda Peterson who grew up in the Molt UCC church and now lives in Laurel. His band is Cash's County, which plays a mix of old and new country music, plus fun rock 'n roll. He started his band in 1984 and has toured the U.S. Cash's County will be featured at our Camp Mimanagish fundraiser Jan. 27 in Columbus.



**Mimanagish offerings planned for the 2018 season.**  
**Registration will be active beginning in February.**

Camp Opening  
 Thursday, May 17 - Friday, May 18

Kick-off Camp  
 Friday, May 18 - Sunday, May 20

Wilderness First Aid  
 Saturday, May 19 - Sunday, May 20

Family Camp  
 Friday, May 25 - Tuesday, May 28

Geography of Grace  
 Friday, May 25 - Monday, May 28

Women's Retreat  
 Friday, June 1 - Sunday, June 3

Women's Retreat Service Option  
 Monday, June 4 - Tuesday, June 5

Men's Retreat  
 Friday, June 8 - Sunday, June 10

Men's Retreat Service Option  
 Monday, June 11 - Tuesday, June 12

Soul of Aging  
 Sunday, June 10 - Thursday, June 14

Creative Arts Camp  
 Thursday, June 14 - Sunday, June 17

Creative Writing Retreat  
 Thursday, June 14 - Sunday, June 17

Singer/Songwriter Retreat  
 Thursday, June 14 - Sunday, June 17

Give Back Camp  
 Wednesday, June 27 - Sunday, July 1

Yoga, Wellness & Cleanse Retreat

OWL Adult Program

Grandparents and Me Thursday, July 5 - Sunday, July 8	Counselor Training - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 Friday, July 6 - Saturday, July 7
Grade Camp - 9, 10, 11, 12 Sunday, July 8 - Saturday, July 14	Seasoned Adults Saturday, July 14
Mini and Me Camp Sunday, July 15 - Tuesday, July 17	Counselor Training - Grades 2, 3 Friday, July 13 - Saturday, July 14
Grade Camp - 2, 3 Tuesday, July 17 - Saturday, July 21	Counselor Training - 4, 5 Friday, July 20 - Saturday, July 21
Grade Camp - 4, 5 Sunday, July 22 - Saturday, July 28	Counselor Training - Grades 6, 7, 8 Friday, July 27 - Saturday, July 28
Grade Camp - 6, 7, 8 Sunday, July 29 - Saturday, August 4	New Parents Retreat Friday, August 3 - Sunday, August 5
Over The Hill Gang Friday, August 3 - Sunday, August 5	Mini and Me Science Inquiry Tuesday, August 7 - Thursday, August 9
Fishing Camp Thursday, August 10 - Sunday, Aug 12	Pride Family and Youth Camp Sunday, August 12 - Saturday, August 18
College Orientation/Adulting Immersion Sunday, Aug 19 - Saturday, Aug 25	Pastor's Retreat Monday, Sept 10 - Saturday, Sept15
Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, Sept 13 - Saturday, Sept 15	Civic Action Retreat Friday, Sept 28 - Sunday, Sept 30

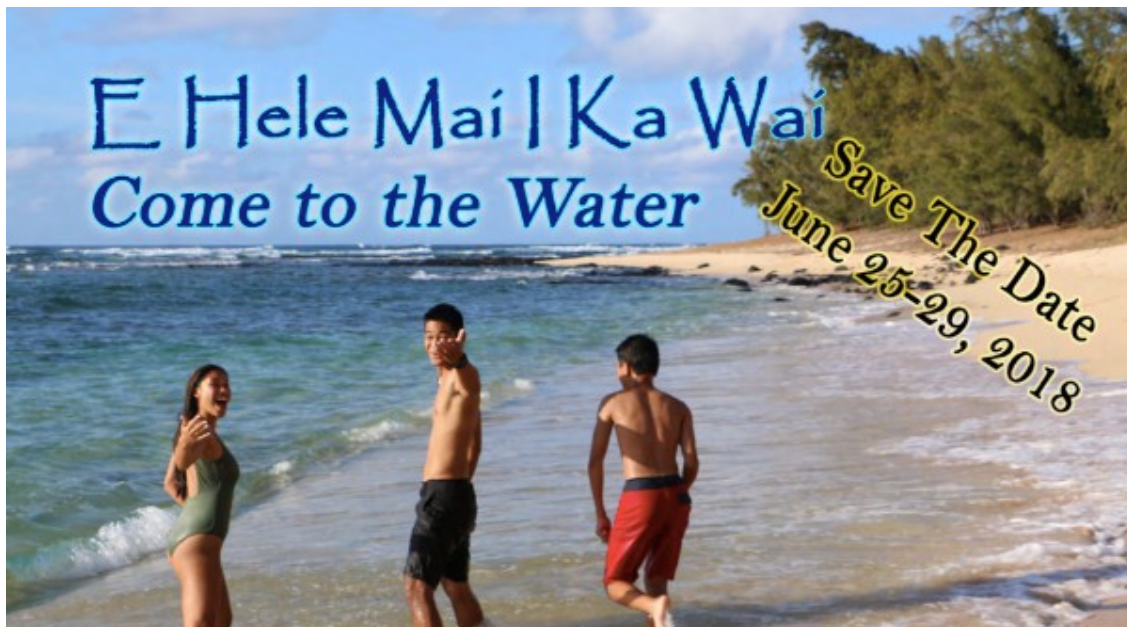
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# Camp Mimanagish Store





1. Check out our Camp Mimanagish branded merchandise store at:  
<https://campmimanagish2017.itemorder.com/sale>
  2. Give the gift of a full or partial Mimanagish Camp registration. (The registration costs will be \$420 for a youth camp.)
  3. Give a donation to Mimanagish in honor of a love one. ([Donation link](#))
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**Come to the Water**, the West Region Youth Event, will be hosted by the Hawaii Conference at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu campus, June 25-29, 2018.

- There will be workshops and breakout groups, as well as opportunities for service.
- Follow WRYE on Twitter, @WRYE\_2018, Instagram, wrye2018.

**Event Fee:**

- The early registration fee is \$475, and after the deadline becomes \$495.

**Airfare Fee:**

- The airfare cost for each individual is \$1,380 which includes chaperon expenses.
  - You may register for the airfare cost to the event at: [airfare registration link](#).
  - Once you are registered you can add funds periodically to save monthly towards the airfare cost of the youth event. We recommend dividing the total of \$1,380 by the number of months left through June to make the cost easier for families.
  - If you begin in January 2018, the monthly payment for six months would be approximately \$230 depending on your initial deposit.
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January 4 COM and Mimanagish "Firestarters" ZOOM call 6 pm

January 13 Marc leads envisioning and leadership training, Union UCC, Buffalo WY

January 14 Marc preaches at Buffalo and Sheridan WY

January 19-20 Board of Directors and Task Forces meeting, First UCC Billings

January 27 Mimanagish fundraiser dinner, Little Metra, Columbus 5 - 9 pm

January 28-31 Marc attends West Region Conference Minister Meeting, Phoenix AZ

January 30 Veterans Reentry Clergy Training, Red Lodge UCC 9 am - 3 pm

February 23-24 Church Vitality Workshop Retreat noon-noon

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## VETERANS REENTRY CLERGY TRAINING

**JANUARY 30, 2018**

**9:00AM – 3:00PM**



Clergy Training in how to care and minister to Military Veterans and their families. This program is entirely funded and led by the Veteran's Administration and the Montana Army National Guard. This day of free training will cover the first two units of a four part curriculum established by the VA and National Guard. Your presenters will include: Ret. Ch. Col. Ken Duvall, Ch. Col. Dan Thompson, USANG for the Montana, and representatives from the Veterans Administration stationed here in Montana. Clergy and religious leaders of all faiths and denominations are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP so that we can ensure that we have enough supplies on hand.

308 S. Broadway Avenue Red Lodge, MT 59068

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### Climate Change Preaching Challenge

Rev. Mike Mulberry, [First UCC Billings](#), offers a challenge for our MT-NWy Conference preachers and churches to participate in the 1000 sermons project. Might there be 25, 50 or even 100 sermons among to be preached in support of "[Youth Awakening a Nation on Climate Change](#)"? Send your sermon to the [Conference Office](#), as we will create an archive on our new WEB site.



**My generation is rewriting history. We're doing what so many people told us we were incapable of doing: holding our leaders accountable for their disastrous and dangerous actions. I and my co-plaintiffs are demanding justice for our generation and justice for all future generations. This is going to be the trial of our lifetimes.** - Xiuhtezcatl Martinez

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**Books and videos being used in church study groups:**

[Billings First Church](#)

"Leonardo" Walter Isaacson

[Bozeman Pilgrim UCC](#)

Men's Breakfast Club: "Just Mercy" Bryan Stevenson"

Wednesday Wisdom Way: "The Endless Practice" Mark Nepo

Women's Study: "Dying to be Me" Anita Moorjani

[Great Falls UCC](#)

"Darkwood Brew" small group ministries, Dr. Eric Elnes

[Helena Plymouth UCC](#)

[Missoula University UCC](#)

"A Hidden Wholeness" Parker Palmer

[Red Lodge Community UCC](#)

"What's the Least I can Believe and Still Be a Christian" Martin Thielen

Making Sense of the Christian Faith, video

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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)

That 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!](#)

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

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