

June 2018

Starting Summer Together



Not too late to take an offering
[Strengthen the Church video](#)

Sacred Conversations
[to end racism](#)

New Date: The Micah Chat
[Live ZOOM chat: June 13](#)

UCC Keeping You Posted
[subscribe to weekly UCC eNews](#)

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God-seeds, reflections from Marc Stewart

*A blessing is a moment of meeting, a certain
kind of relationship in which both people*



in one another.

*Rachel Naomi Remen,
My Grandfather's Blessings*

We are a people who are blessed in our meeting up with each other. The very nature of our United Church of Christ faith is respect for the spirit that dwells in each other. Our congregational vitality comes as we gather in the wisdom and power of recognizing the presence of God we each bring to relationship. The Hindu Sanskrit greeting *namiste*--which means, "the spirit in me honors the spirit in you"--can be faithfully shared among us Congregationalists.

Conference Annual Meeting is nothing less than a time of blessing. One of my projects in preparation for CAM is to collect video snippets of local church members sharing what is vital in their church life. The words and demeanor of people on these video snippets are moving testimonies of what it means to be people of blessing. Look at the [video from Plymouth UCC Helena](#) as example of what I mean. Dozens more snippets of blessings will be shared during our Saturday morning CAM business session.

Of course, there is nothing like being present to each other at CAM. Old friendships are renewed. New friendships are made. The best of blessings are found in the business, workshop sharing, and all around our fellowship events. This year, we extend welcomes to the wider church with our General Minister and President John Dorhauer presence with us, as well as 7 other national visitors: Don Hart from United Church Funds, Frank Bolden chair of our national United Church Board, Holly Miller-Shank team leader for our national Ministerial Authorization Support and Excellence team, Courtney Stange-Tregear Minister for Church Vitality with the Pacific Northwest Conference, Marcy Gansler executive for mission engagement with Global Ministries, Bill Lyons Conference Minister with the Southwest Conference, and Sue Art Conference Minister with the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Come to CAM and feel the blessing. [Registrations are still being received.](#)

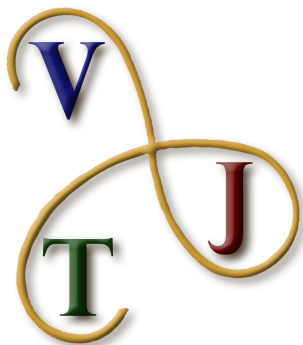
You are invited to join Marc Stewart for a monthly conversation about church vitality and viability happening in our churches. Marc will host a ZOOM chat for conversations. Join on June 13, 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm by connection on our computer, tablet, or smart phone through this link:

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

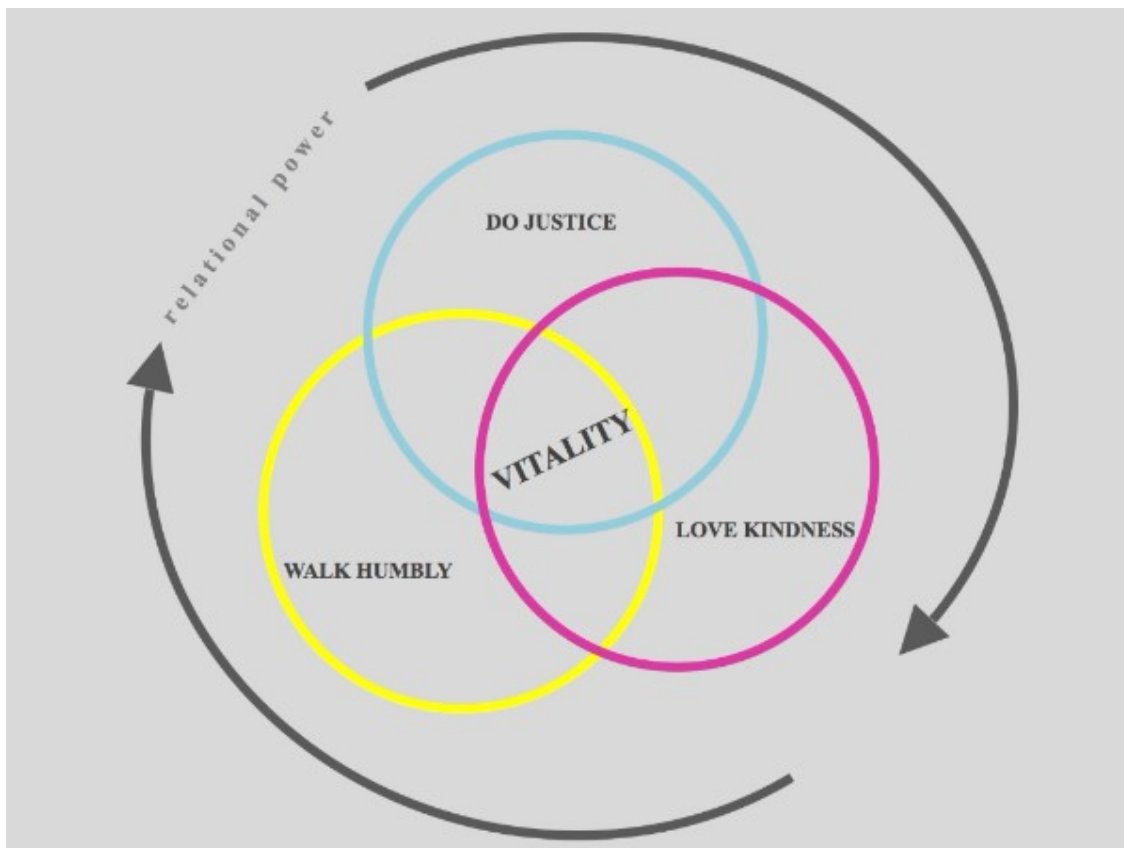
Or iPhone one-tap :

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

Or Telephone:



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



1. All congregations will be vital and viable

but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with
your God?”
--Micah 6: 8 [NRSV]



When I went to divinity school long ago and far away, we were pretty certain about what it meant to “do justice.” Doing justice meant standing with the marginalized, advocating for the oppressed, eliminating racism and sexism and heterosexism, and dismantling the structures of empire.

And, of course, doing justice still means ALL of that and more today. So, at the Vital and Viable Churches Retreat, I listened and nodded approvingly as people from the more urban churches in our conference described some of the great things they’re doing to “keep the walls of the church as transparent as possible,” so that there will be less and less division between church members inside and those who spend most of their time on the streets surrounding the church. I am deeply inspired by, for instance, what Mike Mulberry and Lisa Harmon and the congregation of First Church Billings are doing to serve the chronic inebriate population in downtown Billings, and by the way that church respects and appreciates Native American spirituality, thereby bringing some of their near neighbors out of the shadows of downtown. Addressing matters of racism and addiction are clear examples of doing justice.

But what does doing justice look like in other parts of Montana, in non-urban places like Absarokee, where I serve, which is not even an incorporated town? I see inspiring examples of loving kindness and walking humbly with God in my church and my community every single day, but doing justice in rural Montana doesn’t look the same as it does in cities.

Republicans who tend to think the same way would also do pretty well reaching consensus. But what about in my congregation, where the entire political spectrum is represented in the pews every Sunday? Can we get clear about doing justice in our context when just the words “social justice” raise hot-button political issues before we even get to the end of one sentence? [Side note: I actually think that having people of all political persuasions participating actively, side-by-side, in our church is evidence of viability and vitality, requiring justice and kindness and humility to blend together on a regular basis.]

Yes, we drink Fair Trade coffee and we are a “5 for 5” church, joining with our covenant partners throughout the denomination in reaching out around the country and around the globe. We do our best to work with other churches and other nearby organizations like the Senior Center and the VFW and the schools and many others to respond to real and current needs in the community.

About a year and a half ago, we started a food bank, which tries to respond to some of the less visible injustice in our community, allowing people to share some of what they have with others in the area who are going through a rough patch.

We also have a sense that one thing we’re called to do is to offer a way of being church that is different from the large church down the road, a way that is more about sharing a journey than about sharing a set of clear-cut answers.

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

The Church and Ministry Commission and Board of Directors are recommending [updated Clergy Compensation Guidelines](#). These will be voted upon at CAM. The guidelines include a 2% increase over the 2015/16 guidelines, and new guidelines for part-time ministries.

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

Mimanagish offers a place of transformation where lives are changed by the community and place that camp is. It is also the primary means by which the conference reaches out to places and people where we have not otherwise been present. Among the outreach possible this year, 8 children Ballantine UCC's meal program have heard about camp and would like to attend. A special thank you to Plymouth UCC Helena, University UCC Missoula, Great Falls UCC, and People's UCC Sidney for scholarship support to these children. If you have scholarship support available to add to the [Carlee Downer scholarship](#) fund, we can assure that all who want can come to Mimanagish this summer.

CAM 2018

Great Falls MT

June 15-17, 2018



Our Conference Annual Meeting will be hosted by [First Congregational UCC Great Falls](#), June 15-17, 2018

Details to share at your church about this year's CAM:

[Letter of Call](#) to meeting has been emailed to pastors and moderators,

Pre-CAM Boundary Training led by [Holly Miller-Shank](#), Thursday 11 am - 5 pm

Friday

- * noon luncheon keynote with Rev. Courtney Stange-Tregear, Church Vitality Minister with the Pacific NW Conference UCC
- * afternoon workshop offerings on being a viable church
 1. Church Vitality with Courtney Stange-Tregear
 2. New Pastoral Relations with Holly Miller-Shank
- * hearings on business: budget, Mimanagish, bylaw changes, compensation
- * fellowship evening event, BBQ with Tater Sax band

Saturday

- * roundtable discussions during breakfast
- * morning business session, interspersed with video presentations from our conference churches
 1. vote on [Conference Bylaw change](#) to add youth/young adult delegates
 2. vote on national [UCC Constitution and Bylaw change](#) to designate one chief executive officer instead of a collegium of executives
 3. vote on [Clergy Compensation Guidelines](#)
 4. accept reports
 5. vote on budget
 6. vote on nominations and install leadership
- * luncheon keynote with Rev. Dwight Welch, MSU-Billings [campus minister](#)
- * Mimanagish engagement experience and workshops
- * evening banquet with keynote by [UCC General Minister and President Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer](#)

Sunday

A written sermon will be provided to each church so that all pastors may attend

post-CAM event

* meet and greet with John Dorhauer and Frank Bolden (chairperson of the United Church Board) at Rocky Mountain College "great hall" in Billings, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Every congregation is asked to create a 2-3 minute video clip (you can use someone's smart phone) after worship or during fellowship time where people respond to the question: What are you most excited about in your faith and/or in your church? Please email your clips to the conference office to: ucc@mnwcucc.org



[Mimanagish retreats and camps](#)

Mimanagish, our church conference camp and retreat center, is gearing up for its busiest, most diverse summer ever. See www.mimanagish.org for more details on all offerings and to register.

Carlee Downer Scholarship Fund: Sponsor a child, youth, or adult to attend Mimanagish by supporting the Carlee Downer scholarship fund. For those who need scholarship, please fill out the [application form](#).

Building and Safety Projects Happening at Mlmanagish

1. New Mattresses 12,000 Expanded to include upgrades for full/queen beds and to buy beds for new bedrooms
2. Deck Replacement 1,000 Full Moon deck covered by insurance; volunteer labor to remove and replace should give enough funds to pay for materials for decks for Full Moon and Lodge
3. Add two private bedrooms to Lodge; move current bedroom to office. 2,000
4. Add bathroom to Lodge 2,000 Addition to previous list - Composting toilet available for \$800
5. Electrical 5,000 Correct electrical deficiencies
6. Big Timber Remodel 10,000 Includes addition of bathroom with shower/composting toilet, enclosure of loft, chinking
7. Fire suppression 9,000 Kubota and portable tank
8. Lighting 2,500 Change from solar to wired path lights
9. AED 2,000
10. Chinking Managers Cabin 1,000
11. Managers Cabin Bathroom 3,000 Composting toilet and shower



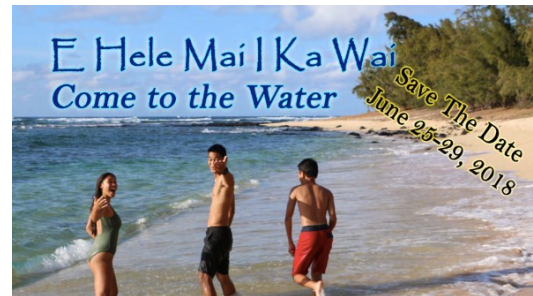
Camp Mimanagish Store

1. Give the gift of a full or partial Mimanagish Camp registration.
2. Give a donation to Mimanagish in honor of a love one. ([Donation link](#))
3. [New merchandise](#) for the 2018 Mimanagish season.

West Region Youth Event

<https://www.uccwrye.com/>

Over 400 youth from the 8 conferences of the West Region UCC will be attend, including 14 of ours led by Kim Harris.





*General Minister and
President of the United Church of Christ*

JOHN DORHAUER

*Prescott Hall
Rocky Mountain College*

Sunday - June 17, 2018

5:30 to 7:30 pm

Appetizers and Drinks

Please RSVP by June 1, 2018

*Members and friends of UCC churches in the Montana
Northern-Wyoming Conference are invited to a reception honoring
John Dorhauer, the General Minister and President
of the United Church of Christ.*

campus on Sunday afternoon, June 17, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Appetizers, wine, beer and soft drinks will be served
and admission is free.

Seating is limited and attendees must RSVP by
June 1 to Jennifer Penfield at the Conference office by email
to jpenfield@mnwcucc.org or by phone at 406-656- 8688.

John will come to Billings directly from the Conference annual
meeting in Great Falls where he will deliver the key note address
and preach at the Sunday morning service on June 17.

The reception at Rocky will be an excellent opportunity
for UCC church members and friends to hear from John about
the ongoing work of the national church. Other speakers include
Frank Bolden, chair of the National UCC Board,
Marc Stewart, Conference Minister, Leslie Roche, Conference
board member and chair of the Outdoor Ministries Committee
and Doug McClelland, member of the UCC Board of Directors.

The reception is sponsored by the Montana-Northern Wyoming
Conference, the Office of the UCC General Minister and President,
and the UCC Pension Board. Please RSVP soon to attend.



June 1-3, [Women's Retreat](#), Mimanagish with Marcia Warner

June 10-14 [Soul of Aging](#), Mimanagish with Cathy Barker

June 13 [Micah chat](#) with Marc Stewart 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

June 14-17 [Creative Arts Camp](#), Mimanagish with Virginia Bryan

June 11-15 [Creative Writing Camp](#), Mimanagish with Russell Rowland

June 14 [UCC Clergy Boundary Training](#), Great Falls 11 AM - 5 PM

June 15-17 [Conference Annual Meeting](#), Great Falls noon Friday through Sunday

June 17 "meet and greet" with John Dorhauer and Frank Bolden, Rocky

Mountain College, Prescott Great Hall, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

June 25-29 West Region [Youth Event](#)

June 25-July 10 Marc Stewart on vacation

June 28-July 1 [Yoga, Wellness, and Cleanse Retreat](#), Mimanagish with Lisa Harmon

June 28-July 1 [Our Whole Lives \(OWL\) Adult Program](#), Mimanagish with Ann Hanson

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

July 8-14 [Grades 9-12 Camp](#), Mimanagish with Lynne Spencer-Smith

July 17-21 [Grades 2-3 Camp](#), Mimanagish with Nicholas Knoblauch
July 22-28 [Grades 4-5 Camp](#), Mimanagish with Dwight Welch
July 29-Aug 4 [Grades 6-8 Camp](#), Mimanagish with Cheryl Stewart
Aug 7-9 [Mini and Me Science Inquiry](#), Mimanagish with Jenn Grace
Aug 10-12 [Fishing Camp](#), Mimanagish with Marc Stewart
Aug 12-18 [PRIDE Camp](#), Mimanagish with Bobbie Zenker
Sept 7-9 [Civic Action Retreat](#), Mimanagish with Tricia Decker
Sept 10-12 [Pastors Sept Spa Camp](#), Mimanagish with Pension Boards
Wellness Team
Sept 13-15 [Board of Directors](#) at 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 NEW CONFERENCE WEB SITE

www.mnwcucc.org

and our NEW MIMANAGISH WEB SITE

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!](#)
