

# March 2019

## Your People will be My People



***Matthew 5:16 "In the same way let  
your light shine before others."***

[General Synod 32](#)

***Preaching as Resistance***

[March 7 Racial Justice book discussion](#)

***Young Voices: Stepping Out of the  
Wilderness***

[UCC Lent devotional](#)

***More Than We Can Imagine***

[2019 One Great Hour of Sharing](#)

***2018 Service to Disaster Survivors***

[UCC funds \\$1,237,895 of Relief](#)

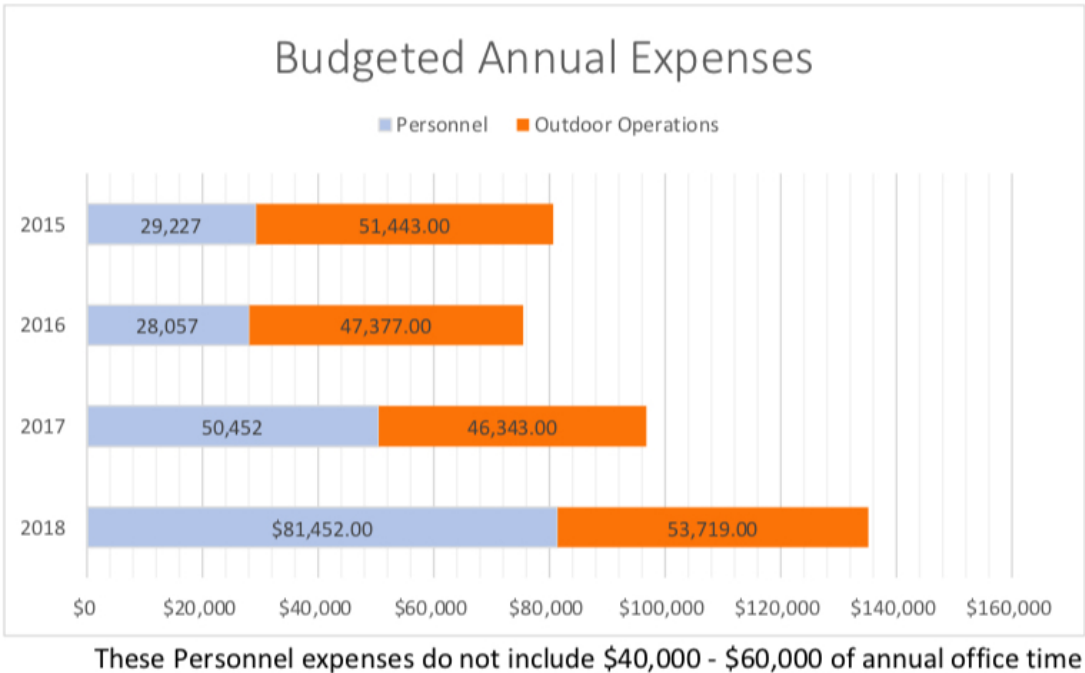
- [God-seeds](#)
- [Three Mission Priorities](#)
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In 2016 the Conference received a \$100,000 gift from Plentywood UCC when the church closed and sold its building. Our Board directed this gift into salaries for the Conference office and Camp Mimanagish. Jennifer Penfield was hired as our full-time Conference Administrator, and Josie Caton was hired as our  $\frac{3}{4}$  time professional camp director. Mimanagish added a facilities director and increased its kitchen staff compensation.

A 2008 advisory council team advised that Mimanagish move towards a professional staff, but it took until 2016 to find the money for this. The Board of Directors felt that a staff investment could strengthen and build up camp usage. This Mimanagish Annual Expense chart shows the change in staff compensation.

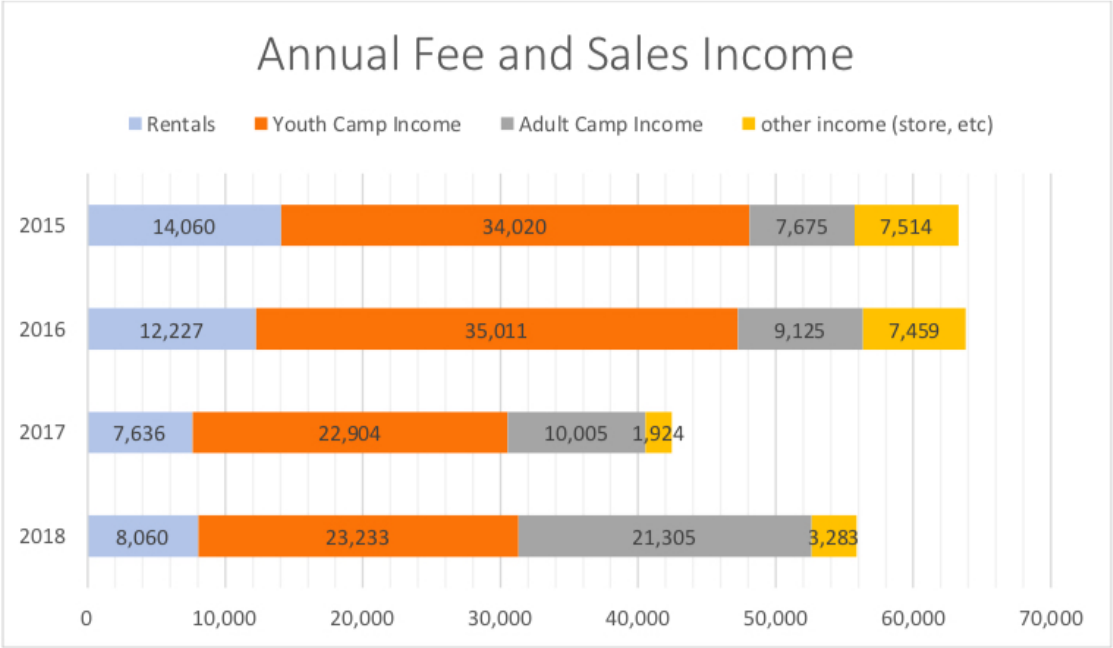


In a previous decade, the MT-NWy Conference UCC received an “essential conference ministries” grant from the UCC to fund our associate staff. Until 2008, this grant paid for Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Michael Obenauer. This position provided significant oversight of Camp Mimanagish. The end of the “essential conference ministries” grant marked the first time the MT-NWy Conference no longer received “mission support” from the national UCC.

Through 2016, Mimanagish staff were minimally compensated, even as they put

doing director and managing type work for Mimanagish. These unsung heroes enabled the Committee for Outdoor Ministries to manage with annual deficits under \$30,000 that could be met by church fundraisers and "Friends of Mimanagish" giving.

Our Montana Northern Wyoming Conference is challenged to live out its second mission priority with Camp Mimanagish: “to adequately staff the Conference to appropriately compensate staff.” Staffing for sustainability means that we need to staff for growth. Mimanagish needs a minimum of 20 campers per night to meet its current costs, or 2400 camper/night per season. The Mimanagish Annual Fee and Sales Income shows that camper income has decreased \$10,000 over the past 4 years. Keep in mind that this is despite an increase in fees.



As has been done every year, the Committee for Outdoor Ministries is pulling out all the stops to increase camper registration. We have also hired a staff person, Rev. Cathy Barker, with 400 hours dedicated through June to recruiting partner organizations into Mimamagish.

For this coming season, COM created 4 summer positions paying \$1000 honorariums for cabin counselor/assistants. The Committee for Outdoor Ministries is recruiting through a variety of young adult and college places, including the UCC Summer Communities of Service intern program. We are also in a process to receive a summer VISA/AmeriCorp volunteer. COM chairperson, Trudi Downer, has offered to fill the Mimanagish Program Director position for 2019 as a volunteer. She will also lead the Communities of Service intern program at camp.

primary issue. Giving consideration to our ability to meet staffing needs will require us to look with fresh eyes at what it really takes to successfully staff Mimanagish.

#### Positions to be filled for 2019 Mimanagish Season

1. [Camp Director](#), May - September
2. [Facility Manager](#), May - September
3. Four [Counselors](#), June - August
4. [Kitchen Director](#) filled by Jonna Mandeville
5. [Camp Assistant](#)
6. [Camp Counselors](#) various weeks in July and early August

Further information about Camp Mimanagish financial issues and Conference decision-making process is curated on the Conference WEB site homepage:  
[www.mnwcucc.org](http://www.mnwcucc.org)

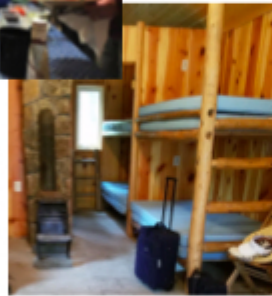
Come Away...

## Experience Nature at its finest

at Camp Mimanagish on the Boulder River  
at the edge of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness  
in central Montana



Stunning Scenery  
Healthy Meals



Fishing, Hiking, Archery,  
Campfires, Horseshoes,  
Pingpong, Games,  
Walking the Labyrinth

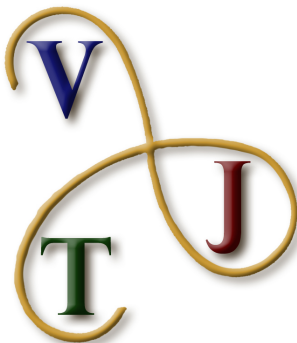
\$60 per person per night for rustic accommodations includes lodging, meals and recreation  
Upgraded facilities and menus available at additional cost



Camp Mimanagish is a sacred  
wilderness sanctuary where we engage  
in spirit, community and creation.

If you choose Camp Mimanagish for your retreat, reunion, or  
gathering, we consider you a partner with us in respect and care  
for each other, our facility, and the beautiful setting around us.

Contact Cathy: [cbarker@mnwcucc.org](mailto:cbarker@mnwcucc.org)



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

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]



## **Is there a "one size fits all" for church stewardship? No, but there are some common approaches. Stewardship Task Force**

The Stewardship Task Force is offering simultaneous East/Central area and West area church gatherings on May 4, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm, at Plymouth UCC Helena and at Mayflower UCC Billings.

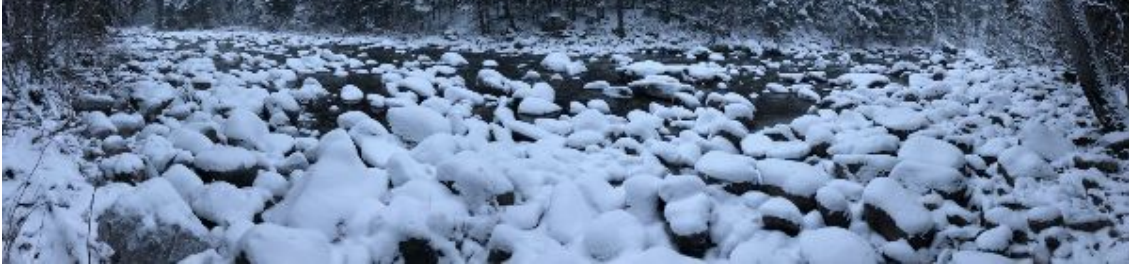
***What About Stewardship?*** will be the theme for our time together for sharing stories and ideas about how churches financially support their ministries. Plans include an inspirational speaker, fellowship and meal, and sharing time. Rev. Sue Artt, Conference Minister with the Rocky Mountain Conference, will keynote the Helena gathering. Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister with the Illinois South Conference, will keynote the Billings gathering.

Churches are encouraged to bring at least 3 - 4 members. Recruit now and save the May 4 date. More information will be sent by late March.

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

The Mimanagish Budgeted Expenses chart in the God-seed article above has a disclaimer "these personnel expenses do not include \$40,000 - \$60,000 of annual office time." The Board of Directors has allocated \$44,000 of administrative expenses ([see line 5.4.990](#)) for 2019 after allocating \$60,000 in 2018. This amount pays for a salary portion of the Conference staff to support the work of Camp Mimanagish. Our Conference Administrator, Jennifer Penfield, sometimes devotes half of her time to Camp, and our Conference Minister devotes about a quarter time to camp. The support work of Jennifer and Marc includes WEB development, registrations, COM support, program support, staff recruitment and support, and grant writing.





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

The Conference has received three grants totaling \$25,000 this year that mesh with our third mission priority:

1. Margaret Ping Foundation Grant for \$5000 for Mimanagish scholarships to children and families impacted by poverty. Churches are encouraged to identify children, youth, and families that can be awarded scholarships to attend a Mimanagish camp.
  2. Neighbors in Need grant from the National UCC for \$5000 to support our second year of PRIDE Camp.
  3. Essential Conference Ministry grant for \$15,000 to share with the Central Pacific Conference and Pacific North West Conference in bringing together 6-member teams to consider what ministries might be shared across our three conferences.
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## MIMANAGISH SUMMER 2019

- Kick-Off Family Camp - May 24-27
- Creative Arts - June 27-30
- Over the Hill Gang Work Camp - June 27-30
- Grandparents & Me - July 5-8
- Pride Camp - July 10-14
- Senior High Camp - July 14-20
- Grade 3-5 Camp - July 21-27
- Mini and Me - July 21-23
- Grade 6-8 Camp - July 28-Aug. 3
- Pay It Forward Work Camp - Aug. 3-5
- "Mom" & Me - Aug. 3-5
- Young Adult Camp - Aug. 3-5
- Conference Annual Meeting - Aug. 8-11
- Soul of Aging - Aug. 25-28
- "Dad" & Me - Aug. 31-Sept. 2
- Fishing Camp - Aug. 30-Sept. 2
- Geography of Grace - Aug. 30-Sept. 2
- Yoga Wellness Retreat - Sept. 5-8

Camp Mimanagish is the wilderness retreat center of the Montana/N. Wyoming Conference of the United Church of Christ. Located in Montana's Boulder River Valley, just 40 miles south of Big Timber.

Information/Register Now: [www.mimanagish.org](http://www.mimanagish.org)

Campers need to [register](#) for their youth, adult, and family camps as soon as possible. It is urgent that we receive registrations early this year for the 2019 season. Our decision making for this year's season required your Conference Board to set some benchmarks, including registrations benchmarks.

Minimum camp enrollment has been set at 20. That means that there need to be 20 paid campers in order for each camp to be held. Staffing and planning needs necessitate us to set an April 1 deadline to assess the viability of each camp. Your early registration will help us successfully plan for a 2019 camp season.





We keep Rev. Sheila Naismith in our prayers as she has preventative surgery in San Diego. Sheila is our pastor at [First Congregational Church in Sheridan, WY](#), and is also our east area representative on the Board of Directors.

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link to online [Conference calendar](#)

March 4-7 Marc Stewart and moderator Tracy Heilman at Council of

March 14-15 Rocky Mountain College, [Wheatley Lectures](#)  
March 15 Ministers and Church Leaders breakfast at RMC 8 - 9:30 am  
March 18 - 22 [Coaching training](#), Ursuline Center, Great Falls  
March 19 COM meeting, Billings and zoom, 7 pm  
March 24 Marc preaching in Butte  
March 25-26 Wholiness teams gather in Portland OR  
March 29 - 30 [Jesus Seminar](#), Billings First UCC  
"Displacement, Loss, and Reinvention"  
March 31 Installation of Rev. Duane Bartz in Big Timber Congre. UCC 10 am  
April 1 Registrations due for Camp Mimanagish 2019 Camps  
April 8-9 Board of Directors meet  
April 16 COM meeting, Billings and zoom, 7 pm  
May 4 Stewardship Gatherings, Plymouth UCC - Helena, Mayflower UCC -  
Billings, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm  
May 4 [Rocky Mountain College Commencement](#), Billings, 1 pm  
May 5 Installation of Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch, Powder River UCC - Broadus, 4  
pm  
May 24-27 Mimanagish [Kick-Off Family Camp](#)  
June 21 - 25 [UCC Gen Synod in Milwaukee](#) MT-NWy staying at Hilton City Center  
June 27-30 Mimanagish [Creative Arts Camp](#)  
Aug 9-11 Conference Annual Meeting at Camp Mimanagish

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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 CONFERENCE WEB SITE

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

and our 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