

August 2021 eNews

Keeping Faith



Rev. Dr. Marc Ian Stewart

Sabbatical Plans

Thank you, Montana -N.Wyoming Conference UCC for affording this opportunity for a time of sabbatical. I trust this will be rejuvenating, actually life-giving for all it entails for me and for the Conference!

I am so glad to introduce Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel to you as our Supply Conference Minister. Ginny will be working with the MT-NWy Conference during my sabbatical time, August 1 – November 8. During her recent years as Conference Minister with the Missouri – Mid South Conference, Ginny was a trusted colleague and role model to me of how to do this ministry with passion, compassion, and excellence. I have complete confidence that the Conference will be well-served in the months ahead.

The scope of Ginny's work with the conference will be limited to a ¼ time contract plus any emergencies. The priorities for her ministry include working with the Church and Ministry Commission, being available to church and pastors in the search process, available for some staff and administrative oversight, and working with the Board of Directors. Ginny will work remotely using zoom and phone, though I wish you could meet her in person sometime.

Other vital ministries that are being covered during sabbatical:

Conference Moderator Rev. Lynne Spencer Smith will assume some administrative oversight functions as needed.

Conference Treasurer Rhonda Petersen will continue to work closely with Conference Administrator Jennifer Penfield to assure our financial systems and reporting are happening in good order,

Board members in the Billings area, Amy Carter and Trudi Downer will be check signers.

Jennifer Penfield and Patty Martinson will forward my communications that would usually come on to Ginny and Conference leaders as appropriate.

Jennifer Penfield will send the Conference eNews out each mid-month. Material needs to be submitted to Jennifer in edited and proofed form in Word DOC format by the 10th of each month.

Church and Ministry Commission members, Rev. Meg Hatch and Rev. Peter Shober, will be on call for pastoral visits to local churches as assigned by Ginny or CMC Chairperson Ann Hanson.

Patty Martinson and Jennifer Penfield will be caretakers of the 2 conference Siamese cats, Sonya and Shugo, who will be keeping the Conference office mouse-free. So there will be no "the mouse comes out to play while the conference minister is away."

Communication Procedures

1. Call or email the conference office as needed (2-3 day response)
406.647.2040. JPenfield@mnwcucc.org
2. Email [Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel](mailto:ginny@mnwcucc.org) for church questions and needs.
ginny@mnwcucc.org
3. Email [Rev. Lynne Spencer Smith](mailto:lynne@mnwcucc.org) regarding Conference administrative concerns or staff concerns
4. Email eNews material to [Jennifer Penfield](mailto:jpenfield@mnwcucc.org) by the 10th of each month
5. In emergencies call the conference office. If no one is available at the office, a voice recording will provide a number to call

During sabbatical, Cheryl and I will be spending some August time in Maine at cottage on Sebago Lake with our 3 sons and visiting family. In September and October, we will be walking in Spain for 400 – 500 miles on el Caminos. We intend to walk el Camino Madrid north from Madrid to Sahagun where we meet the el Camino Frances and head west to Compostela de Santiago. Spain is open at the moment, but CoVid responses could make it necessary to adjust our plans. We may spend a week in London visiting my British family if the UK relaxes its 10-day quarantine. I am adding a week of vacation to the sabbatical and so will be back on November 8.

Our Conference Moderator, Lynne, has organized a sabbatical send-off happening Sunday, July 25, 2 pm by zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85456410423>

Meeting ID: [854 5641 0423](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85456410423)

Passcode: 913089

One tap mobile

[+12532158782](tel:+12532158782),,[85456410423](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85456410423)#,,,,*913089#

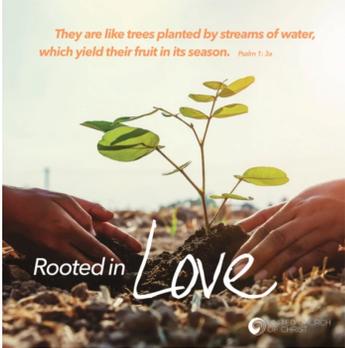


Introducing Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel

Ginny most recently served as the Conference Minister for the Missouri Mid-South Conference for 5 ½ years. Ginny was the Pastor and Teacher of Plymouth United Church, UCC, in Spring, Texas for 12 years and the Associate Pastor and Teacher of Christ’s Reformed Church, UCC, in Hagerstown, Maryland for 3 ½ years. Ginny currently serves on the Cornerstone Fund Board of Directors and UCC Women’s Table. She is a graduate of Auburn University (Alabama) and the Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond (Virginia). In 2010, Ginny received her Doctor of Ministry degree from Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, Virginia) with her dissertation project focusing on deconstructing and reconstructing church members’ understanding of the sacrament of baptism. Ginny lives in Houston with her husband, David, 2 cats and 2 dogs. Ginny’s Supply Conference Minister email address is ginny@mnwcucc.org.



Resource Quick Links



Now Available: [2021 Stewardship Resource](#)

Rooted in Love

Coordinated stewardship materials for your congregation’s annual stewardship efforts. The “Rooted in Love” theme draws inspiration from Psalm 1: “They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.”

Resources include:

- Directions and suggestions for an effective campaign
- Social media and email directions
- Letters and newsletter articles (ready for editing)
- OCWM Basic Support Coloring Pages
- Theme artwork (formats: PDF | EPS | JPG | PNG), including for social media.

[order Here](#)



Minister for Generosity: [Andrew Warner](#)

A Question to Ask Ourselves

Teach and thank as often as you pass the plate.

[Watch Here](#)

Living the Best of General Synod

Workshop videos and children resources can be purchased through December 31, 2021. Check out the workshop Rev. Dr. Marc Stewart co-led on starting a UCC Rural Ministries Coalition, along with Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates and Rev. Dr. Roberto Ochoa

Workshop Orders



The Board of Directions Conference Video

One Community, Many Long Roads

The Board of Directors has produced a video where church members throughout the Conference tell why our ministry is important to them.

Watch Here

Conference News

To include your church news, email items to ucc@mnwcucc.org before the 10th of each month.

Retreats Registrations Due July 25

The Committee for Outdoor Ministries has organized a variety of intergenerational retreats and youth camps for the 2021 summer camp season at Christikon in the Boulder River valley. Christikon has graciously extended our commitment time for registrations them. Register now to attend the Yoga and Wellness Retreat, or the Fishing Camp Retreat ASAP. More information is available on our Conference Web site or from COM chairperson, Trudi Downer.

Adult and Me Camp Information

Great "You and Me" Camp



You & Me Intergenerational Camp was successfully held June 30 to July 3. Programming was led by Trudi Downer. Cook was Marcia Warner of Helena. It was hosted at Christikon in their Retreat Center. It is a beautiful facility. We broke even with our budget. We took a mission offering at the end of Camp. \$90 was given for our mission which is the Conference Carlee Downer Scholarship Fund. In addition, campers took home leftovers and \$100 was donated to help cover the cost of the food taken. This camp provided a camp for some special needs campers who were delighted with the experience. One young camper hugged Marcia and me and told us it was the best camp ever and said he hoped he see us again next year. Here are pictures from the Camp. This is the same facility reserved for our August adult camps..

Take a closer look



Read along with the Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel will be facilitating a read through with the Board of Directors of [Another Way: Living and Leading Change on Purpose by Lewis, Williams and Baker](#). You are invited to buy the book for your own reading.



New Pastors Coming into Conference Churches

Plymouth UCC Helena: [Rev. Steven Brehe and Rev. Mark Wilson](#) are co-ministers for the summer. On August 26, Rev. Charles Wei arrives from N. California as the new designated minister. [Click here](#) for pics of Rev. Roger Lynn's retirement on June 27.

Columbus Community UCC has called [Rev. Kate Stulce](#) who arrives from Tennessee to begin in late summer.

Buffalo Union UCC is searching for a pastor along with St. Lukes ELCA in Buffalo. They will be meeting and voting on a recent ELCA seminary graduate, Anne Knighten in August. The interim pastor, Ken Thoruw has recently retired again as he faces cancer treatment. Please keep [Rev. Ken Thurow](#) in your prayers.

Pilgrim UCC Bozeman has put their search for an interim/designated pastor on hold as they are negotiating with a pastor who will start this fall. This is such hot news that we can not share the name, yet.

Charlie Smilie is the new children's and youth ministry at First Church Billings, the church he was reared in. Charlie is also working with a local church discernment team as part of a the Member In Discernment pre-ordination discernment process. The Board of Directors recently elected Charlie to be the new Faith Formation Chairperson on the Board.



Green Team Growing

At our recent Conference Green Team meeting, we talked a lot about recycling. Amy reported on a podcast she had listened to on "How to Save a Planet." She remembered that:

tin and aluminum can be recycled the most easily.

- Tin or aluminum cans can be made into new cans, over and over.
- Paper items can be recycled, made into new paper items, but after numerous recycling, the fibers weaken.
- Glass can be made into new glass, but requires a lot of energy investment, and new material has to be added.
- Plastics of some kinds can be recycled, but not made back into the original product. A plastic bottle could be made into a rug or garment or part of the city pavement. Then, it cannot be recycled more.

Martha and Cheryl had heard about plastics being made into vanilla flavoring. The vanilla can flavor air spray, candles, etc. Researchers are not sure if the vanilla is edible.

Martha also read about plastic being made into jet fuel and Barbie dolls.

Our Green Team will take August off, so our next meeting will take place September 14 at 2 p.m. In September, Amy will give us worship resources on Creation Justice.



Some among have passed recently



Rev. Karalee Ann Ringo Mulkey died on July 6. Karalee was pastor at Powder River UCC for nearly 20 years until 2013. Cards can be sent to Gordon Mulkey, PO Box 203, Broadus, MT 59317. A funeral service and committal was officiated by Conference Minister Marc Stewart on July 17 in Bozeman. For more information, [click here](#).

Jane Suddendorf, wife of former University UCC Missoula co-pastor, Rev. Jeff Suddendorf, died on July 4, 2021. For more information, [click here](#).

Barbara Dobesh, longtime member and organist at Billings First Congregation Church over 25 years died on July 21, 2021. Cards can be sent to Jerry Dobesh and Family: 2154 Fairpark Drive, Billings, MT 59102

A memorial service will be held for Merle Theimer at First Church Billings on July 25, 1 pm. Merle died on May 8, 2021. She was an active member of First Church and in the old Yellowstone Association of the MT-NWy Conference. For more information, [click here](#).



Calendar

All meetings other than outdoor camps and retreats are happening virtually

July 25. Sabbatical Send-Off zoom gathering. 2 pm

July 30 [August camps/retreats](#) full registration deadline

August 1 - November 8 Marc Stewart on sabbatical and vacation

August 10 eNews submission date

August 11 Committee for Outdoor Ministries 7 pm

August 19 Conference Board of Directors 10 am - noon

August 25 - 28 [Yoga for Body and Soul retreat](#)

August 26 - 29, or a 27 - 29 option, [Creative Hearts Camp](#)

August 27 - 29 [Fly Fishing Camp](#)

September 8 Committee for Outdoor Ministries

September 14 Green Team. 2 pm

September 16 Conference Board of Directors. 10 am - noon

October 21 Executive Committee meeting 10 am - noon

November 18 Conference Annual Meeting Business Meeting 7 - 9 pm

Montana - N.Wyoming Conference United Church of Christ

editor, Marc Stewart

2016 Alderson Ave., Billings

MT 59102 United States

406.656.8688

ucc@mnwcucc.org



You received this email because you signed up on our website or have made a donation to the MT-NWy Conference UCC.

[Unsubscribe](#)

mailer lite