



June 10, 2021

Dear colleagues in Ministry,

I write to you today with a heart of gratitude, deep gratitude for our connection with each other through the Montana - Northern Wyoming Conference of the United Church of Christ. Over the past year, we've made many decisions regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. Prayerfully we have taken into consideration the safety of our congregations and our communities. Yet, even as I worked from home alone, I was profoundly aware that I was not on this journey alone. I sang the Response to Psalm 46 in the New Century Hymnal, "The God of hosts is with us; therefore we will not fear."

In my moments of fear, doubt, and confusion, God's presence came to me through Zoom conversations with other clergy in our Conference about the difficult decisions we were making. God's presence came to me in the many communications from Rev. Marc Stewart about how to be the church amid a pandemic. All of this was possible because of our connections with each other as the Montana - Northern Wyoming Conference. And so, I want to express my deepest thanks for you as part of this Conference.

I also write to ask you to raise funds for our Conference as we move into the future. Currently, one-third of our Conference churches are going through a pastoral search and call process. They are going to need the guidance and support of our Conference Minister. And so, I ask you and the people of your congregation to make an offering to the Conference. I am asking on behalf of the Conference Board of Directors. We are requesting folks to contribute to the Conference sometime in the month of June.

Here are some things you might consider:

- ★ Take up an offering on a Sunday in June.
- ★ Print this letter in your newsletter and invite people to donate either by check or on the Conference website.
- ★ Create a challenge gift by matching donations from people in your congregation.
- ★ Or, this fall, Marc will be walking the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. It is roughly a 400-mile walk. Make a monetary pledge to the Conference for every mile Marc walks on this pilgrimage.
(Marc was the one who suggested this.)

Be on the lookout for a video to help promote this fundraiser. And please make your gift or your pledge to give in the month of June. You may send a check to the Conference Office 2016 Alderson Avenue, Billings, MT 59102. Or you can go on the Conference website at www.mnwcucc.org and click on the "give" button on the menu.

Thank you so much.

Rev. Amy M. Carter
On behalf of the Board of Directors of the
Montana - Northern Wyoming Conference of the United Church of Christ.