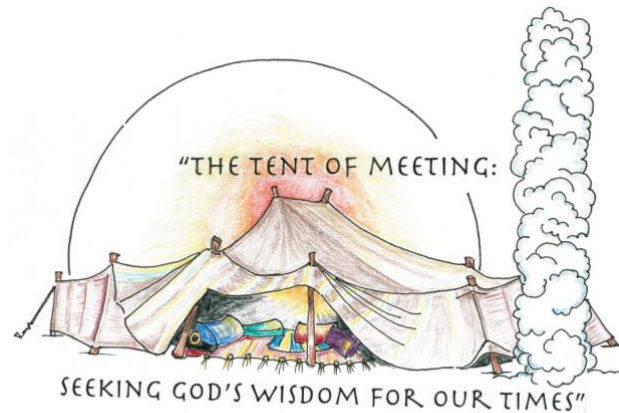


# 135th Conference Annual Meeting: The Tent of Meeting

September 18 - 20, 2020

## Agenda



Friday, September 18

- 12:00 noon Virtual lunch Gathering for informal conversation
- 12:45 pm Introducing Virtual Technology procedures for the day,
- 1:00 pm ***Setting Up the Tent***  
Welcome and Spiritual Grounding  
Introduction of theme  
Introduction of guests and visitors:  
Dr. Sara Rosenau, Claire Bamberg, Rev. Traci Blackmon
- 1:45 pm Break
- 2:00 pm Gathering of the Churches: Video greetings from each church
- 2:20 pm Group Breakout rooms
- 2:45 pm Break
- 3:00 pm MT-NWy Association and Conference Business Meeting  
Call to order, quorum established, 2019 CAM minutes  
Video introduction of officers: Where is Spirit moving in our conference?  
State of the Conference: Marc Stewart  
Treasurer's Report: Terri Goodsell
- 4:00 pm Break
- 4:10 pm Clarifications on submitted reports  
Elections of officers, Board members, and Committee chairs  
Installation of officers
- 4:30 pm Break for dinner
- 6:15 pm Virtual after-dinner Gathering for informal conversations
- 6:30 pm ***Opening the Tent***  
Design Workshop #1: Sensing God in Our Struggles and Hopes

*Small group conversations about church in this moment  
facilitated by Dr. Sara Rosenau*

- 8:15 pm Break
- 8:30 pm Evening Vespers
- 8:45 pm Conclusion for the day

Saturday, September 19

- 8:00 am Virtual Coffee Gathering option
- 8:45 am Introducing Virtual Technology procedures for the day
- 9:00 am ***Sacred Spaces in the Tent***  
*How God Moves: Interactive sharing of “spiritual touchstone”*  
facilitated by CAM leadership team and Dr. Sara Rosenau
- 10:00 am Introduction to “design workshop” process, Dr. Sara Rosenau
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 am ***Dreaming in the Tent***  
Design Workshop #2, facilitated by Dr. Sara Rosenau  
*God dreams in us: What are the most important conversations and*  
*connections we can have as church together right now?*
- Noon Virtual Lunch option for informal conversations
- 1:30 pm ***Working in the Tent***  
Design Workshop #3, facilitated by Dr. Sara Rosenau  
*We’ll spend time further connecting our dreams with the next right step*
- 3:00 pm Break
- 3:15 pm ***Stepping out of the Tent***  
Design Workshop #4, facilitated by Dr. Sara Rosenau  
*What actions can we take to fund, support, and grow our dreams?*
- 4:30 pm Break
- 4:45 pm ***Thanksgiving for the Tent***  
*Spirit Rising: A time of celebration and gratitude*
- 5:00 pm Conclude for the day

Sunday, September 20

- 10:00 am ***Tent on the Move***  
CAM Sunday Worship Link <https://vimeo.com/456314646>
- Rev. Traci Blackmon, preaching  
MT-NWy CAM Virtual Choir
- Technical Support @ 406-272-5027

# State of the Montana Northern Wyoming Conference: 135<sup>th</sup> Conference Annual Meeting September 2020

Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Marc Ian Stewart

## OUTLINE

1. *SOME HISTORICAL CONTEXT* pages 1 - 3
2. *OUR CURRENT POSITION AND UNFOLDING DISCERNMENT* pages 3 - 6
  - a. *We are Called to Minister with New Leadership* page 3
  - b. *The CoVid Pandemic has Changed the Way We Do Ministry* page 4
  - c. *We are Called to Articulate and Live Core Values* page 4
  - d. *A New Generation Calls us to Reconsider, "Why do we exist?"* page 5
  - e. *The Role of Conferences in Our Denominational Structure may be Changing* page 5
  - f. *Staff may be Deployed in New Ways* page 5
  - g. *We are Called to Financial Development that Meets Our Vision and Mission* page 6
3. *ENDNOTES: IN THE WEEDS* page 6 - 9
4. *ADDENDUM: CHURCH INFORMATION CHART* pages 10 - 12

## **1. Some Historical Context**

Vital church leadership in Montana and Northern Wyoming has always been found in women and men who are uncommonly intelligent, socially astute, and well-connected while being ruggedly self-secure. Late 1800's/early 1900's congregational homeland missionaries, along with some German evangelicals, were appointed to come out and start churches in our railroad towns, tent city mining enclaves, and high desert ranches. Only some ministries outlasted the few years of diminishing mission funds received from sponsors. Churches and Conference persisted as we were able to attract lay leaders who gave as much of themselves to keeping church going as they did to their ranching and business endeavors.<sup>1</sup>

The long-term viability of churches among us is only 14%, with 26 churches remaining from at least 185 started. Midway along a conference timeline, around 1950, there were only about 50 churches left. Since then we started 14 more churches<sup>2</sup>, and lost another 38: about half were lost to conservative re-affiliations, a quarter closed in abandoned towns, and a quarter closed to aged-out congregations that simply ran out of energy to keep going. Some smaller churches successfully yoked to share a pastor or to merge with another congregation.<sup>3</sup> Our most vulnerable churches were in communities with populations less than 200.

While our churches were often "testing grounds" for new ministers, many rural churches were not afforded the opportunity of having pastors stay for more than 1-2 years before they moved on. Now, there are not many ordained or lay ministers called to rural ministry to maintain the flow of leaders. Most rural churches are also less likely to call our recent seminary graduates,<sup>4</sup> and so they often seek pastors from outside our denominational and ecumenical heritage.<sup>5</sup>

Relational connections fostered among us are vital to local congregations.<sup>6</sup> There is a direct correlation between church leaders' participation in the Conference and the viability of the

church. Past connections include shared circuit-rider pastors,<sup>7</sup> responsibility for Camp Mimanagish, mission endeavors with Global Ministries in Uruguay and Central America, support for specific church missions such as in Kalispell, honoring covenant relationships such as Church and Ministry authorizations and ministerial ethics, supporting a strong program staff and resource library, engaging in conference-wide educational and stewardship gatherings.

The missional dynamics that founded our churches are part of our conference culture. This territory's dependence on investment from beyond Montana and Wyoming, such as railroads, mining, oil and coal development, land acquisitions, and federal land sharing, is reflected in our conference culture. Congregational church sustenance and conference development relied on denominational mission funding for over 120 years. It is only within the last 15 years that we have given more funds to the wider church than we received. Wider church support of our conference and churches created an uneasy dependence that is unique to the high plains desert and northern Rockies.<sup>8</sup>

Conference leadership has often struggled to claim its own voice and to develop and live into an effective organizational structure.<sup>9</sup> Every few decades there has been significant attention to reworking our Conference purpose to meet the ongoing challenge of “why” be in relationship as churches. A comprehensive self-examination, accomplished in 1982, articulated Conference purposes enumerated in our Bylaws.<sup>10</sup> Nearly 20 years later, a new covenant adopted at the 1998 Conference Annual Meeting names that in our diversity we keep relationship in sharing a Gospel of transformation, caring for each other, and “to seek justice for all creation.”<sup>11</sup>

A systemic pattern in our conference history shows change happening in the midst of frustration. Even in our typical forbearance, we get to a point where we know something different needs to happen in our relationships and mission. This has led to times when new ministry endeavors have burst forth with grandiose vitality:

- 1900's—"10 new churches a year for 10 years",
- 1910's—starting a college which later became Rocky Mountain College,
- 1920's—developing Camp Mimanagish,
- 1940's—seeking ways to become independent of denomination support and control,
- 1950's—new church explorations,
- 1960's—supporting local churches joining the UCC following the formation of the denomination,
- 1970's—reconfiguring into a Montana – N.Wyoming Conference,
- 1980's—developing an endowment and significant response to the farm crisis,
- 1990's—focusing on structure and purpose,
- 2000's—developing a plan with the national UCC to support multiple staff in large-geography, small church-number Conferences.

With all these successes, the conference still wonders, within a few years again, why it exists.

During the 2010's, we have been working up to defining a relevant vision and mission of who we are together as a Conference:

- consolidating 3 associations in 2013 in because of a decreasing number of leaders,
- the 4-year Conference-Region Partnership with the Disciples of Christ ended in 2015 amid difficulties establishing common vision, mission, and relationships,
- following the Partnership experiment, our Conference became structurally and missionally independent for the first time,
- building financial accountability with direction from our treasurer, Terri Goodsell,
- restructuring program ministries focus by creating a Faith Formation Committee,
- Working with coach-consultants, Rev. Dr. Felix Villanueva and Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg, to hone our Board functioning and mission goal setting,
- reassessing our stewardship of Camp Mimanagish and voting to divest,
- initiating conversation with the Pacific Northwest Conference and Central Pacific Conference to explore shared ministry options.

## **2. Our current position and unfolding discernment**

We meet again in our 135<sup>th</sup> Conference Annual Meeting to discern where the Spirit is moving us. We will be engaged in “open source gatherings” facilitated by Rev. Dr. Sara Rosenau. Dr. Rosenau will direct us towards discerning what we are called to be and do as churches in relationship, association and conference. May we trust the Spirit of common faith and unity to enable us to discern the “why” of our relationships together as association/conference churches and congregational leaders.

If our systemic history is any indication, we are ripe for a renewed missional focus. There is a certain restlessness among conference leaders and churches to get on with some conference defining, church transforming, focused ministry. Our recent decade of reorganizations, where we have been dealing with ourselves, has left us eager to get on with the ministry of engaging the world. In times like this, we have always moved into significant engagement beyond ourselves: church planting, higher education development, ecumenical relationships, farm crises response, mission engagement, significant national UCC representation.

There are some particular factors that make us especially ready to focus on why we exist and how we are eager to get moving with renewal:

### **a. We are Called to Minister with New Leadership**

Current: There is a new cadre of intelligent, socially astute, and well-connected leaders in the Conference. Among clergy, there are 15 local church ministers new to the conference within the past 5 years. Another 7 churches are searching for pastors. Five new pastors are on the Board of Directors and bring experience and wisdom from other conferences.<sup>12</sup> While we are blessed with the participation of new leaders in Conference life, institutional leadership often does not happen as it used to as an honored duty. Many congregations, and the Conference, have difficulty filling leadership roles. Vacancies happen when we are over-structured, when we have not done adequate training for positions, and when the attrition of leaders is not being filled by younger generations.

Unfolding: Our new cadre of clergy and leaders provides us the opportunity to look again at our conference with fresh perspectives. Our coach-consultant, Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg, has helped us see that we need to provide a fuller orientation to the conference as way to “onboard” new leaders. The Conference is called to be attentive to diversity on the Board and in churches. Those willing to be nominated to a conference position are excellent leaders, but we are called to explore why we have difficulty finding willing participants who represent a fuller diversity of who we are.<sup>13</sup> We are called to continue excellent leadership, and to look at modifying our organizational structure to become more nimble and to welcome different leadership styles and interests.<sup>14</sup>

### **b. The CoVid 19 Pandemic has Changed the Ways We Do Ministry**

Current: The social upheaval of CoVid 19 pandemic has forced us to reassess and to change the way we do ministry. Churches have been trying technical alternatives<sup>15</sup> to in-person gatherings.<sup>16</sup> There are also church conversations about what it means to be church beyond Sunday morning worship and building occupation. Most significantly, there is exhaustion and anxiety that calls attention to our need for care of our spirit, mind, and mental health.

Unfolding: Information and responses to CoVid 19 throughout the country and our communities is notable for its contradictory advice and uncertain prognoses. The exhaustion and challenge brought to leaders will not abate anytime soon. With outstanding faithfulness, our pastors have been working out changes and doing new forms of ministry. While these changes may or may not last, we are called to faithful accompaniment with each other in working out our way forward. We are called to express patience, grace, and appreciation within our communities in ever new ways.

### **c. We are Called to Articulate and Live Core Values**

Current: The social-political-cultural divides in this country are so pronounced. Our core faith values of inclusivity,<sup>17</sup> covenantal giftedness,<sup>18</sup> and justice for all creation<sup>19</sup> cause many of us to be horrified at the socially and culturally destructive forces exerting power all around us. Even as our 26 churches each have their own ways of living into our core values,<sup>20</sup> I hear our longing to find mutual support with each other. I often hear a desire that churches affirm the ministries each other are doing, as well as discern ways to lift one voice and action. Justice concerns which are consistently present among various configurations of churches and leaders in our conference, include: treatment of immigrant peoples, creation justice, rural health and support, white privilege, allying with PRIDE actions, partnering with Native leadership.

Unfolding: As contentious as these issues maybe in our national political culture, I believe we are called to faithfully engage these in a unity of faith. Let’s name for each other how we approach justice issues as people of faith. Let’s seek what we are called to name and act upon together. We are gifted with core values that can guide us into common mission. The “Open Source Process” of gathering facilitated by Dr. Rosenau this weekend will help us articulate some vision and mission. Our next step will be to develop accountability with each other to work together. Our Board and Conference Minister will lead us to empower expressions and actions of common mission. In the next month, our 2020 budget will be created by the Board then voted upon by the Conference on October 29. This budget will support the vision and mission unfolding among us during this CAM gathering.

#### **d. A New Generation Calls us to Reconsider, “Why do we exist?”**

Current: The importance of institutional life varies among the generations. Expectations of church may differ between those who primarily seek a missional connection to personally engage others and those who seek a strong institution to do what they cannot accomplish on their own. We are somewhat bifurcated as we seek to fulfill general programming requests as well as be responsive to those seeking support for their own unique programs and missions.

Unfolding: One common question among us, that has been asked in each generation of leaders, is “Why does the conference exist?” This is being asked again and so will be at the forefront of our considerations and decision-making about everything “conference.” Asking and exploring our “why” is exactly the open and invitational question that makes room for Spirit and faithful discernment to guide us. We are called to seek out and follow the energy of where the Spirit is moving rather than to keep replicating what was worked in the past.

#### **e. The Role of Conferences in Our Denominational Structure may be Changing**

Current: The role of Conferences within the institutional structure of the Church may be changing. I observe that the new unified governance in the national United Church of Christ is changing the role of Conferences in national decision-making.<sup>21</sup> Also, Conferences and regions are experimenting with various configurations of structure, as we too have tried. The size of our territory, our small number of churches and members, and western cultural dynamics make it challenging to compare ourselves with the consolidations of the new (2019) Southern New England Conference or the (2017) mid-west Tri-conferences. I have wondered aloud among conference and denominational leaders, “What might a non-geographical configuration of churches be like?” I have also wondered, “What might an association without being a conference be like?”

Unfolding: As we keep tuned for nudges of the Spirit suggesting forms of connection, I observe that our Conference leadership is focused on enabling the MT-NWy Conference UCC to affirm why it exists and to decisively carry out its mission. We are called to be a voice in an unfolding discussion of why and how we configure groupings of local church. To this end, I applied for and received \$25,000 in grant money from the national UCC to support this work. We are called to continue in “Wholiness Teams” discernment with the Central Pacific and Pacific Northwest Conferences, even as we concurrently hone our own functioning.

#### **f. Staff may be Deployed in New Ways**

Current: Our Conference staffing configurations are designed to enable the conference to effectively live into its role and mission with local churches, denomination, and ecumenical community. Staffing follows funding, and funding follows mission, and mission follows vision. The Board of Directors strives to provide staffing that meets our Conference vision and mission. What we know of our huge geographic size, small numeric size and unknown financial capacity need not be limiting-beliefs as we staff for a dynamic vision and mission.

Unfolding: Staffing needs to ultimately reflect the vision of the Conference. The Board will be carefully listening to this year’s Conference Annual Meeting process to discern our vision and mission ahead, and thus be able to appropriately deploy our staff.

### **g. We are Called to Financial Development that Meets Our Vision and Mission**

Current: Most of our churches have difficulty keeping their financial stewardship up to pace with their avowed vision and mission. Churches that have endowments or extra funds are often tapping into those funds to broaden their ministries in hope that their mission investment will prove to be beneficial. Stewardship and financial changes in our churches sometimes reflect changes in their membership and mission priorities.<sup>22</sup> Our Conference Stewardship and Financial Development support has focused on strengthening local church's stewardship, in the belief that strong congregational stewardship leads to strong conference mission.

Unfolding: We are called to gratitude for steady financial support to churches and to the conference through these 6 months of CoVid pandemic. Let us be aware that the levels of supporting church and conference have changed between the generations of people, so that the stewardship practiced by a lifelong church member may not be matched by a newer church participant. There is more giving capacity among us than we often realize. Our challenge is to make a connection between what our mission and our giving.

### **3. ENDNOTES and Getting into the weeds**

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Lawrence Small, in his book, *Trails Revisited*, reports that Jessica Stickney told the Conference in her last moderator report in 1982: "I find myself reflecting now...not so much on program but on 'so great cloud of witnesses' who are involved in the work of the conference, and who care about its existence and effectiveness...I am confident that our strength lies in this multitude of faithful servants." (p. 206)

<sup>2</sup> Churches started 1950-1997: *Power, Wilsall, Fort Peck, Circle, Miles City, Trout Creek, Mayflower Billings, Pilgrim Bozeman, Plymouth Helena, Yellowtail Dam, West Yellowstone, Colstrip, Christ Billings, Kalispell (since closed or left denomination).*

<sup>3</sup> Yoked congregations include Sidney-Savage UCCs, Colstrip PCUSA/UCC, Miles City United DOC-UCC, Buffalo UCC/ELCA, Hardin UCC/UMC. During the 2010's three churches closed because they were unable to create or sustain a yoke or merger with other congregations: Plentywood with ELCA, Medicine Lake with UMC, Glasgow with UMC. Two rural churches (population less than 200) yoked with nearby UCC congregations closed as they lost sustaining members: Power, Froid. Our most recent church start, Kalispell UCC church, aged-out of sustaining members after 20 years. Pilgrim Church in Billings, voted to leave the UCC in 2012.

<sup>4</sup> Some issues regarding recent seminary grads: significant drop in UCC seminary graduate rate, educational loan load too high to accept a call into a part-time ministry, small town search committee concerns about issues of candidate sexual orientation, family status, ethnicity, age.

<sup>5</sup> Churches currently served by non-denominational pastors include Baker UCC, Colstrip UCC/PCUSA, Custer UCC. Our Church and Ministry Commission is working with Butte UCC and Pastor Justin Dryden towards UCC authorization. Eight churches served by UCC partner denomination pastors include: Glendive (UCC/DOC ordained), Hardin UCC (UMC lay pastor),



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Miles City United (UCC/DOC ordained), Buffalo Union UCC (ELCA ordained), Ballantine UCC (PCUSA ordained), Columbus Community UCC (ELCA ordained), Helena Plymouth UCC (UCC/DOC ordained), Fairfield UCC (PCUSA lay minister).

<sup>6</sup> Association connections were deep when we had 3-4 associations—Eastern, Central (Yellowstone), Western, German—as church leaders gathered a few times a year for fellowship, support, and worship. The churches that were historically most active in association life continue to this day, and are most active with Conference activities.

<sup>7</sup> There are stories in Lawrence Small’s book, Trail’s Revisited, of all manner of circuit ministers who itinerated on foot, by horse, by motorcycle, by train, by model T, by private plane, by train.

<sup>8</sup> In his book, American Nations, Colin Woodward illustrates the persistence of formative cultures of colonizing peoples in America. Our region’s, or “Far West,” national identity, is unique because of our dependence on outside institutions and capital investments to make a living in this high desert and mountainous environment. We are also fiercely independent even as we rely on investors. Woodward suggests that the Far West is like an “internal colony” of the rest of the country, both dependent and resentful of the outside forces that sustain us.

<sup>9</sup> Conference superintendents were appointed by and accountable to the national denominational setting until 1948. Various forms of monthly or annual denominational financial support assisted the conference through 2008. In 1998, Dr. Larry Small wrote, “The long-cherished dream of self-sufficiency may become an imperative for the new century.” (Trails Revisited, p. 236)

<sup>10</sup> Conference purposes named in 1982 are in our Bylaws, Article II:B

1. To provide leadership to our local churches, and organizations as we seek to carry out ministries in the world.
2. To care for, nurture and empower our authorized ministers, local churches, and organizations for ministry.
3. To facilitate the identification, development and use of resources which are helpful and necessary for the vital life and ministry of the local churches, the Association and Conference, and the denomination.
4. To promote the work of the wider church through denominational and ecumenical relationships and ministries.
5. To exercise the ministerial authorization functions of an Association of the United Church of Christ...

<sup>11</sup> A mission statement and covenant created in 1998 and added to our Bylaws, Article III:C  
**Mission Statement.** The Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference works to bring people of diverse perspectives into community as members of the body of Christ.  
**Shaped by scripture, tradition and personal experience, we covenant together to proclaim the transforming word of the gospel, to nurture and affirm one another, and to seek justice for all creation.**

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<sup>12</sup> New pastors to the Conference have been willing to step into vital leadership roles: Lynne Spencer Smith (formerly in the Wisconsin Conference), Sheila Naismith (formerly in the S. California/Nevada Conference), Nicholas Knoblauch (formerly in the Ohio Conference), Phil Maxwell (formerly in the Glacier Presbytery PCUSA), Pam Peterson (formerly in the New York and Connecticut Conferences) and Jennifer Yocum (formerly in the Central Pacific Conference).

<sup>13</sup> Our Board of Directors composition: 9 female, 1 male; 7 clergy, 3 lay; 3 rural, 7 city; include no BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and all are from the baby-boomer generation.

<sup>14</sup> A number of churches have moved away from a committee structure to team ministries and from a Board of Directors to an Executive Committee.

<sup>15</sup> \$4000 of a grant provided by the national UCC has been earmarked for assisting churches to purchase audio-video equipment and a professional sound tech person is donating consultation services. Churches utilizing this opportunity include: University UCC Missoula, Fairfield UCC, Helena Plymouth UCC, First UCC Billings, Mayflower UCC Billings, Sheridan UCC, Molt UCC, Baker UCC, Buffalo Union UCC.

<sup>16</sup> During the first wave of CoVid 19, worship moved to a virtual form in 18 churches, distributed worship/sermon manuscripts were offered in 5 churches, and temporary closure in 3 churches. As of late summer, 2020, our larger city churches (8 congregations) continue with virtual worship, while our rural congregations are regathering in place.

<sup>17</sup> All our churches ascribe in one way or another to the *God is Still Speaking* affirmation that “all are welcome here.”

<sup>18</sup> Covenant is core to how we organize ourselves in faith-based decision-making (as churches, committees, Conference, Denomination) that affirms a “priesthood of all believers” having voice and vote in discerning and setting direction. All are blessed in their participation by an assurance that the “Spirit” speaking through them is part of the whole voice that God would have God’s people hear, discern, and be responsive to.

<sup>19</sup> We are reminded with each changing version of our Conference Bylaws that we believe in “justice for all creation.”

<sup>20</sup> Some ways in which I observe each congregation among us evidencing its core values in the wider community: see church report in Addendum below, column 7.

<sup>21</sup> The new (Synod 2017) unified decision-making structure of a United Church Board with a singular executive minister has offset the relational connections that had formerly guided the denomination. For example, in the “new ecology of giving,” national financial development outreach can be made directly to congregations, supplementing, if not also supplanting, the Church-Conference-Denomination relationship of OCWM giving.

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<sup>22</sup> Four of our large congregations have added staff in recent years, but have had to reduce a total of approximately \$30,000 of OCWM and Dues to the conference. A number of churches have committed to maintain or even increase conference support as a vital part of their mission. Many of our rural churches have experienced significant membership decreases that affect their own income and the amount they are able to provide the conference.

#### **4. ADDENDUM Local Church Information**

Abbreviations and Terms used in chart below

BoD: Board of Director rep  
C4L: Coaching for Leaders trained pastor  
CAM: Conference Annual Meeting  
CJ: Creation Justice  
CMC: Church and Ministry Commission  
Conference Engaged: conference participation in gatherings and on committees  
Consult: issues addressed with pastor and/or church leadership during the last quarter  
CoVid Response: primary approach to worship, italics is secondary  
CRE: CREDO Clergy Life Planning  
CUE: UCC Seminary Support  
Dues: per member dues for 2019 (\$20 per member recommended in 2019)  
F: Frontier, Inc Homes  
FFC: Faith Formation Committee  
FT: Financial Task Force  
FLT: Full Time  
GM: UCC Global Ministries special support  
GS: General Synod Delegate  
HRC: Human Resources Committee  
I: United Church Insurance  
IMCH: Intermountain Children's Home  
JP: Just Peace Congregation  
MAC: MT Association of Christians  
MIN: MT Interfaith Network  
OA: Open and Affirming  
Population: Community population from 2017-2019 data  
Preach: Month and Year of Conference Minister's most recent preaching  
PT: Part time, ½ to ¾ time  
RMC: Rocky Mountain College support  
SPL: supply pastor, usually preaching  
SSC: Situational Support Consultation  
UCC/Other Engaged: UCC and Wider Church ministries activity  
UCM: United Campus Ministry  
Visit: Month and Year of CM's most recent visit

<b>Church</b> (# of clergy members) <b>Pastor, Type</b> <b>Community</b> <b>population</b>	<b>Conf</b> <b>Minister</b>  <b>Visit</b> <b>Preach</b> <b>Consult</b>	<b>Conference</b> <b>engaged</b>	<b>UCC/other</b> <b>engaged</b>	<b>Stewardship</b> <b>% to OCWM 2019</b> <b>(+- change from</b> <b>prior year)</b> <b>Dues per member</b> <b>Online Giving</b> <b>Membership #</b>	<b>CoVid</b> <b>Response</b>	<b>Mission</b> <b>Emphasis</b>
<b>Absarokee</b> (2) Meg Hatch PT Population: 1150	1/18 1/18 CoVid	COM, CAM CMC, BoD, HRC	I, OWL, G	5% (-5%) 100 members	Zoom	Community outreach, Food cupboard
<b>Baker</b> (2) PT Tom Sauer  Population: 1910	11/18 11/18 Admin	CMC, CAM, SSC, tech	I	0% Dues-\$5.71 35 members	ReGather <i>Facebook</i>	Weekly community dinner
<b>Ballantine</b> (1) John Dyce SPL Population: 320	8/19 1/13		I	0% 11 members	Zoom ReGather	After-school and meal program
<b>Big Timber</b> (2) Duane Bartz PT  Population: 1682	10/19 3/19 CoVid	CAM	I	0% Dues-\$14.93 67 members	ReGather other	Host day care and after-school
<b>Billings 1st</b> (10) Lisa Harmon FLT Population: 109,577	8/20 8/20 Contract Safety	COM, CAM C4L, tech	GS, CJ, F MIN, MAC RMC, OA, G	2% (-1%) CloverGive 265 members	Zoom FaceBook	Native American, host non-profits
<b>Billings, Mayflower</b> (5) Amy Carter FLT  Population: 109,577	2/20 8/20 CoVid Admin	COM, CAM CMC, BoD, HRC, C4L, tech	I, F, OA, JP, RMC, MAC, CUE, MSU, OWL, G	8% (-1%) Dues \$3.86 Vanco 205 members	YouTube <i>OutDoor</i>	Community garden, extra property lot
<b>Bozeman Pilgrim</b> (2) SPL Dick Weaver Population: 48,532	8/20 CoVid Interim Admin	COM, CAM FT, FFC	I, OWL, OA	1.6% (-.5%) Dues-\$15 Vanco 229 members	Zoom FaceBook	Host multiple organizations
<b>Broadus</b> (2) PT <b>Powder River</b> Nick Knoblauch Population: 473	5/19 5/19 Rural Worship	COM, CMC, CAM	GS, MESA	1.4% (+1%) Dues-\$19 36 members	ReGather	Host day care, some shared ministry with ELCA
<b>Buffalo</b> (2) PT Larry Sydow  Population: 4573	2/20 2/20 Search Admin	SSC, CAM	G	3% 26 members	ReGather	Shared ministries with ELCA
<b>Butte</b> (1) SPL Justin Dryden Population: 34,993	3/19 3/19	CAM	I, OA, JP, GM	8% 35 members	ReGather	O&A advocacy
<b>Colstrip</b> (1) SPL Jeremy Stradley Population: 2266	8/19 8/19	SSC	I	0% Dues-\$16 20 members	ReGather	Community VBS

<b>Church</b> (# of clergy members)	<b>Visit Preach Consult</b>	<b>Conference engaged</b>	<b>UCC/other engaged</b>	<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>CoVid Response</b>	<b>Mission Emphasis</b>
<b>Columbus</b> (2) Robert Leaverton PT  Population: 2049	8/20 10/18 Search CoVid	CAM	GS, CRE, G	3% (+.6%) Dues-\$17 76 members	FaceBook ReGather	After-school Wednesday program, some shared ministry with ELCA
<b>Custer</b> (1) SPL Dohn Ratliff Population: 159	1/20 7/15 VBS	Contact with moderator		0% Dues-\$3.50 90 members	ReGather	All-community VBS
<b>Fairfield</b> (1) PT Phil Maxwell Population: 730	9/18 9/18	BoD, CMC, CAM, tech	I	7% Dues-\$18.42 38 members	ReGather	Virtual outreach
<b>Glendive</b> (1) PT Guy Pontoriero  Population: 4960	2/19 2/19 CoVid Future	SSC, CAM	I	1.8% Dues-\$20.37 53 members	ReGather	Summer ministry with UMC
<b>Great Falls</b> (3) Lynne Spencer- Smith FLT Population: 58,434	2/20 2/20 Admin	BoD, CAM, HRC, W, OM	GS, I CRE, OWL, RMC, CUE, OA, GM	12% (+2%) Dues-\$12.14 PayPal Link 387 members	Zoom FaceBook YouTube	Shared space with Christ UMC, O&A advocacy
<b>Hardin</b> (1) Bill Briggs SPL  Population: 3833	1/20 10/15 Admin CoVid	SSC	F	6.1% (+3%) 27 members	AM Radio Outdoor	Local health clinic support
<b>Helena</b> (3) Roger Lynn FLT  Population: 32,315	12/19 6/17 Account	CMC, CAM, HRC, W, FFC, tech	I, IMCH, OA, G	5%, Dues-\$21.82 PayPal Link 121 members	YouTube OutDoor	Host daycare and UUA, community garden
<b>Miles City</b> (2)PT Amber Dixon Bob Thaden Population: 8393	10/19 10/19	tech	OA	1.5% 62 members	FaceBook ReGather	O&A advocacy, bookstore
<b>Missoula</b> (6) FLT Jennifer Yocum Laura Folkwein Janice Springer Population: 74,428	11/19 11/18 Grants CoVid	FFC, BoD, CAM, W, C4L, tech	I, OA, G	6.3% Dues-\$19.56 271 members Breeze	FaceBook Zoom Small Group Outdoor	Creation Justice, Justice advocacy, host multiple organizations
<b>Molt</b> (1) Jim Smith SPL  Population: 642	9/19 9/19 Interim Admin	COM, CAM BoD, Profile, SSC, FFC, OM, tech	I, UCM	8% (+2.5%) Dues-\$20 45 members	Zoom Summer off	Outdoor ministry scholarships
<b>Red Lodge</b> (3) Pam Peterson FLT Population: 2294	10/19 8/20 Admin	CMC, BoD CAM, C4L, FFC	IMCH, F, GM, RMC, CUE, OA	5.2% Dues-\$13.30 152 members Bank egiving	FaceBook OutDoor	Community ministries and partnerships

<b>Church</b> (# of clergy members)	<b>Visit Preach Consult</b>	<b>Conference engaged</b>	<b>UCC/other engaged</b>	<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>CoVid Response</b>	<b>Mission Emphasis</b>
<b>Savage (1)</b> FLT-K Population: 765	5/20 2/20 Contract Search			0% 35 members	<i>FaceBook</i> ReGather	Rural community relationships
<b>Sheridan (2)</b> PT Sheila Naismith Population: 17,849	5/18 1/18	CAM BoD tech	JP, G	0.11% 33 members	<i>Skype</i> <i>Facebook</i> ReGather	Host lunch program
<b>Sidney (2)</b> FLT-K Population: 6246	5/20 2/20 Contract Search	CMC, CAM FFC		2% Dues-\$15.73 89 members	<i>FaceBook</i> ReGather	Long-term care facility ministries
<b>Worden (1)</b> PT Robert Shy Population: 577	6/19 6/19	STF	CRE, CUE I	2.2% Dues-\$15.18 112 members	<i>FaceBook</i> ReGather	Rural agriculture, Community VBS

<b>CONFERENCE CLERGY</b>	<b>CONFERENCE NATIONAL and WIDER CHURCH</b>	<b>CONF AVE. OCWM 2019</b>	<b>CoVid response as of Sept 2020</b>
<b>Local Church</b>	<b>Chaplains</b>	<b>3.7% (-1%)</b>	
7 Full Time	2 college	<b>DUES 2019</b>	16 ReGather
11 Part Time	5 hospital	Dues-\$10.87	10 virtual
8 Supply	<b>Retired</b>	<b>Members</b>	
14 UCC Ordain	29 retired	2620	
2 Lay Ministers		<b>Mimanagish</b>	
3 UCC/DOC		<b>Special Giving</b>	
2 ELCA		<b>2017-19</b>	
1 PCUSA		\$129,894	
1 UMC Lay			
3 Non-Denom			
	Global Ministries co-chair Carol Shipley, Great Falls Manual on Church Team Nick Knoblauch, Broadus Innovative Ministry Team Fin. Development Team UCC Disaster Ministry Team Small Conference Team Marc Stewart MT Assoc. of Christians Marc Stewart, president		

## Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference Report of the Moderator

A year ago, I was looking forward to one more year to serve as the Conference Vice-Moderator in partnership with our then Moderator, Tracy Heilman. About eleven months ago, Tracy and Marc Stewart contacted me to let me know that Tracy had accepted a call to ministry in another conference and she would not be completing her term as moderator. The hope was that I would step into the position of Moderator at the conclusion of the Board of Director's October meeting, which I did. I was totally planning on using this year to learn the moderator ropes a bit more deeply without actually walking them. But since 2020 has not turned out as any of us have expected, why would Conference leadership be exempt. It's been a year of on-the-job-training. I am forever grateful for the understanding and patience of our Board.

Since so much of the Conference's leadership has been wrapped up in specific, time-sensitive items such as Camp Mimanagish and settling in after the dissolution of the partnership with the Disciples of Christ, the Board realized that we are in a place of looking forward to set some new visions for ministry in the Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference. As we began to engage this reality, the plans for this year's Conference Annual Meeting started to take shape to be a wonderful opportunity to begin to gather information to take us into a period of discernment. CAM was originally slated to be held in Red Lodge. Those plans had to change due to health and safety concerns related to COVID19. I am so grateful for the vision and work of Board members Jennifer Yocum and Pam Peterson in bringing the format of this year's CAM. I'm excited to see what will come out of our time together in September.

We have come to realize that our by-laws could use some tweaking. Understanding that by-laws, by nature, are living documents that shift with changing times and needs of the organization, this is not a critique of previous Conference leadership. We simply need to bring the by-laws into alignment with what is happening and strengthen some aspects of process and accountability. The hope is to present some amendments during future conference meetings.

Following through on the Conference vote to divest from Camp Mimanagish, the Board has hired a realtor to list the improvements and represent us through marketing, showing and negotiating a sale. We interviewed two potential realtors and contracted with Mary Lair of ML Properties in Big Timber. Mary has communicated with the Forest Service so she can be aware of their needs and requirements. She also has access to world-wide marketing as well as local. Although there has been some serious interest in the property, we have no offers on the table at this time.

We have continued our interaction with the Wholiness Project, an exploratory effort of three conferences: Pacific Northwest, Central Pacific, and Montana Northern Wyoming. The intent is to seek out what it is that we might do better together, both in existing ministries and programs and new. Our last meeting was in late January/early February, just prior to the COVID19 outbreaks across the country. Three main opportunities have surfaced through our work together: a tri-conference Annual Meeting to be held in Boise in 2021; a Virtual Climate Summit to address the church's response to climate change; and establishing and deepening relationships across conference boundaries.

We have been blessed to have the guidance of coach Claire Bamberg. Claire has been working with our Board through the summer to facilitate communication and help us come together as a more effective working team, laying the groundwork to receive the information that will come from CAM and be able to take it to the next step of establishing a vision and understanding of ministry in the Conference.

2020 is simply turning out to be nothing that any of us could have expected. I am grateful for Marc Stewart's presence and leadership during the harried early days of the COVID19 shutdown. As a local church pastor, I so appreciate his diligence in providing access to information that seemed to be changing daily and offering a variety of ways to stay connected. Administrative staff, Jennifer Penfield and Patty Martinsen were also right there offering their expertise and support. I am also grateful for the Board of Director's flexibility when it came to scheduling and re-scheduling meetings so we could be sensitive to one another's COVID related burdens and fatigue.

It is an honor to serve as your Moderator. I ask for your prayers and support for the entire conference as we move into a still-uncertain future. The certainty that I hold on to is that we are not in any of this alone. God is with us!

Rev. Lynne Spencer-Smith  
Moderator



## Treasurer's Report

**To:** The Churches, Members, and Friends of the Montana-Northern Wyoming United Church of Christ

**From:** Terri Goodsell, Treasurer of the Board, Montana-Northern Wyoming United Church of Christ

**Date:** August 22, 2020

**2019 Financial Statements** A summary of 2019 Cash Flow compared to previous years and to 2019 budget is provided for your review.

Actual results were better than budgeted due to:

..Diligent efforts to reduce our camp spending .

..Conference Operations spending was lower than budget because planned repairs were not completed in 2019.

..The Conference had unbudgeted revenue from an insurance claim for the conference building; the repairs were not completed in 2019.

..Budgeted funds for priority teams and reserve enhancement were not spent.

### 2020 Financial Statements

Through July 31, 2020, the Conference shows a net loss of \$19,458.12. Substantially all of the loss is attributable to the \$20,000+ decrease in the value of our investments year to date. Given the volatility of markets this year, I find that quite acceptable. We have received \$28,000 in Grants this year, very little of which has been spent to date. We are showing some softness in OCWM receipts also. We believe this is due mainly to Covid-19.

### 2020 Budget

The Executive Committee in consultation with the Conference Board will be developing the 2020 budget after Conference Annual Meeting. CAM will focus on discussions that are necessary to guide the Board and the various Conference committees in prioritizing spending. A separate Conference-wide meeting will be called in Fall 2020 to discuss and approve the budget.

### Operational Notes

At the beginning of 2020, Jennifer Penfield, Conference Administrator, recommended that we change accounting systems to Aplos, an online system designed for nonprofits. We were able to discontinue the use of a bookkeeper and rely on office staff to enter information into the system. I continued to review the results and give guidance on the use of the system. We are delighted with the system and its ease of use. We would be happy to give anyone who wants a demonstration and we highly recommend it to our churches. The Absarokee church also adopted it and was able to also discontinue use of its bookkeeper.

I have enjoyed working as the Conference Treasurer. The experience has introduced me to so many wonderful individuals that I would not have known otherwise. Thank you for trusting me for the last five years.

Yours in Christ,  
Terri Goodsell, Treasurer

<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
<b>1.1.000 · Cash Accounts</b>	
1.1.100 · FIB Checking 1470	63,940.80
1.1.410 · UCC Savings Account 4909	<u>728.53</u>
<b>Total 1.1.000 · Cash Accounts</b>	<u>64,669.33</u>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>64,669.33</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	64,669.33
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
<b>1.6.000 · Fixed Assets</b>	
1.6.100 · Conference Office	86,315.00
1.6.200 · Office Furniture and Fixtures	37,424.00
1.6.430 · Camp Mimanagish Vehicles	26,528.66
1.6.600 · Camp Mim Equipment	70,249.34
1.6.700 · Camp Mim Leasehold Imp	363,535.19
1.6.900 · Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-414,350.27</u>
<b>Total 1.6.000 · Fixed Assets</b>	<u>169,701.92</u>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	169,701.92
<b>Other Assets</b>	
<b>1.2.000 · Investments and Endowments</b>	
1.2.420 · Ferguson/Mim Endow	24,049.07
<b>1.2.500 · Vanguard Accounts</b>	
1.2.510 · Vanguard Permanent Endowment	1,278,655.12
1.2.520 · Vanguard Temp. Restr. Reserve	72,041.23
1.2.530 · Vanguard Operating Savings	<u>27,894.82</u>
<b>Total 1.2.500 · Vanguard Accounts</b>	<u>1,378,591.17</u>
<b>Total 1.2.000 · Investments and Endowments</b>	<u>1,402,640.24</u>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	1,402,640.24
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>1,637,011.49</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>2.1.000 · Short Term Liabilities</b>	
2.1.100 · Payroll Liabilities	<u>3,189.79</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>3,189.79</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	3,189.79
<b>Equity</b>	
3.2.000 · Perm Restricted Funds	968,723.45
3.6.000 · Temp Restricted Funds	113,208.54
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	376,091.19
Net Income	<u>175,798.52</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>1,633,821.70</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>1,637,011.49</u></u>

## 2019 Cash Flow and Profit/Loss Summary

Category	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2019 Budget
Unrestricted-Board Designated	\$33,504	-\$13,034	\$0
Unrestricted-Interest Income	\$34,612	\$35,653	\$35,000
Unrestricted- Endowment Draw	\$60,000	\$25,020	\$25,000
Unrestricted-Conference Operations	-\$12,432	-\$37,035	-\$57,085
<b>Total Unrestricted P&amp;L</b>	<b>\$115,684</b>	<b>\$10,604</b>	<b>\$2,915</b>
<b>Pass-throughs</b>	<b>-\$117</b>	<b>-\$115</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Mimanagish Operations	-\$138,148	-\$65,149	-\$108,255
Mimanagish Anonymous Donor	\$50,000	\$0	
Mimanagish Unrestricted Donations	\$60,392	\$46,864	\$20,000
Mimanagish Available Cash Flow for Operations	-\$27,755	-\$18,285	-\$88,255
Mimanagish Permanent Restricted	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Mimanagish Development & Main	-\$5,832	-\$12,458	-\$20,000
Mimanagish Temporary Restricted	\$4,020	-\$2,212	\$0
<b>Total Mimanagish</b>	<b>-\$30,175</b>	<b>-\$31,955</b>	<b>-\$107,255</b>
Other Temporary Restrictions	-\$3,714	\$5,432	\$0
Permanent Restriction	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Cash Flow</b>	<b>\$81,678</b>	<b>-\$16,035</b>	<b>-\$104,340</b>
Increase in Mimanagish Fixed Assets	\$79,867	\$12,458	
Conference Office Depreciation	-\$2,209	\$0	
Mimanagish Depreciation	-\$22,045	-\$20,473	
Endowment draw offset	-\$60,000	-\$25,020	
Ferguson Market Value Change	-\$1,607	\$1,923	
Temporary Restricted Market Value Change	-\$2,272	\$13,494	\$1,100
Unrestricted Market Value Change	-\$547	\$274	\$0
Unrestricted-Endowment Market Value Change	-\$70,007	\$208,464	\$24,000
<b>Total P&amp;L</b>	<b>\$4,465</b>	<b>\$175,085</b>	<b>-\$79,240</b>

**MNWC**  
Balance Sheet by Fund  
as of 07/31/2020

Account Number	Account Name	General Fund	Pass-throughs Fund	Conference Endowment Fund	Scholarships Fund	Grants Fund	Church Vitality Fund (50%)	Ferguson Endowment Fund	Operating Reserve Fund	Amount
<b>Assets</b>										
<b>Current Assets</b>										
1000	Checking	\$45,744.59	\$1,080.00	\$0.00	\$2,426.63	\$13,069.13	\$2,889.45	\$164.34	\$-3,363.58	\$62,010.56
1010	Savings	\$728.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$728.53
1100	Accounts Receivable	\$197.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$197.13
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>\$46,670.25</b>	<b>\$1,080.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,426.63</b>	<b>\$13,069.13</b>	<b>\$2,889.45</b>	<b>\$164.34</b>	<b>\$-3,363.58</b>	<b>\$62,936.22</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>										
1500	Buildings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$147,440.77	\$147,440.77
1510	Land	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
1520	Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,433.14	\$12,433.14
1530	Vehicles	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,846.99	\$1,846.99
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		<b>\$8,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$161,720.90</b>	<b>\$169,720.90</b>
<b>Investments</b>										
1800	Vanguard 4176-Endowment	\$304,415.41	\$0.00	\$949,980.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,254,396.36
1810	Vanguard 2553	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,203.47	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$81,138.88	\$103,342.35
1880	Ferguson Endowment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,049.07	\$0.00	\$24,049.07
<b>Total Investments</b>		<b>\$304,415.41</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$949,980.95</b>	<b>\$7,203.47</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$24,049.07</b>	<b>\$81,138.88</b>	<b>\$1,381,787.78</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$359,085.66</b>	<b>\$1,080.00</b>	<b>\$949,980.95</b>	<b>\$9,630.10</b>	<b>\$28,069.13</b>	<b>\$2,889.45</b>	<b>\$24,213.41</b>	<b>\$239,496.20</b>	<b>\$1,614,444.90</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>										
<b>Current Liabilities</b>										
2200	Payroll Liabilities	\$62.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$62.34
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>\$62.34</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$62.34</b>

Account Number	Account Name	General Fund	Pass-throughs Fund	Conference Endowment Fund	Scholarships Fund	Grants Fund	Church Vitality Fund (50%)	Ferguson Endowment Fund	Operating Reserve Fund	Amount
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		\$62.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$62.34
<b>Equity</b>										
<b>Unrestricted Net Assets</b>										
3000	General Fund - Fund Balance	\$359,023.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$359,023.32
<b>Total Unrestricted Net Assets</b>		\$359,023.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$359,023.32
<b>Restricted Net Assets</b>										
3101	Pass-throughs Fund - Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$1,080.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,080.00
3103	Endowment Fund - Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$949,980.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$949,980.95
3104	Scholarships - Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,630.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,630.10
3105	Grants - Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28,069.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28,069.13
3107	Church Vitality Fund - Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,889.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,889.45
3109	Ferguson Endowment Fund - Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,213.41	\$0.00	\$24,213.41
<b>Total Restricted Net Assets</b>		\$0.00	\$1,080.00	\$949,980.95	\$9,630.10	\$28,069.13	\$2,889.45	\$24,213.41	\$0.00	\$1,015,863.04
<b>Board-Designated Net Assets</b>										
3201	Operating Reserve Fund - Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$239,496.20	\$239,496.20

Account Number	Account Name	General Fund	Pass-throughs Fund	Conference Endowment Fund	Scholarships Fund	Grants Fund	Church Vitality Fund (50%)	Ferguson Endowment Fund	Operating Reserve Fund	Amount
Total Board-Designated Net Assets		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$239,496.20	\$239,496.20
Total Equity		\$359,023.32	\$1,080.00	\$949,980.95	\$9,630.10	\$28,069.13	\$2,889.45	\$24,213.41	\$239,496.20	\$1,614,382.56
<b>Total Liabilities + Total Equity</b>		\$359,085.66	\$1,080.00	\$949,980.95	\$9,630.10	\$28,069.13	\$2,889.45	\$24,213.41	\$239,496.20	\$1,614,444.90

Income Statement by Fund for the period of 01/01/2020 to 07/31/2020

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Account Number	Account Name	General Fund	Pass-throughs Fund	Scholarships Fund	Grants Fund	Church Vitality Fund (50%)	Ferguson Endowment Fund	Operating Reserve Fund	Amount	Annual Budget	% of Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>											
<b>Operating Income</b>											
4000	Our Church's Wider Mission	64,095.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	64,095.89	130,000.00	49%
4010	Local Church Conference Dues	26,750.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,750.38	40,000.00	67%
4020	Event Fees	76.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	76.06	8,500.00	1%
4300	Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,000.00	0.00	#DIV/0!
4500	Other Contributions Income	3,326.06	0.00	725.00	0.00	105.00	0.00	0.00	4,156.06	10,000.00	42%
4600	Other Operating Income	1,453.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,453.08	0.00	#DIV/0!
4800	Pass-through Income	0.00	7,466.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,466.00	0.00	N/A
4900	Interest/Dividends Earned	15,386.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	164.34	0.00	15,550.53	35,000.00	44%
	<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>111,087.66</b>	<b>7,466.00</b>	<b>725.00</b>	<b>28,000.00</b>	<b>105.00</b>	<b>164.34</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>147,548.00</b>	<b>223,500.00</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>Non-operating Income</b>											
4950	Unrealized Gains/Losses	-13,945.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-6,906.95	-20,852.46	25,100.00	-83%
	<b>Total Non-operating Income</b>	<b>-13,945.51</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-6,906.95</b>	<b>-20,852.46</b>	<b>25,100.00</b>	<b>-83%</b>
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>97,142.15</b>	<b>7,466.00</b>	<b>725.00</b>	<b>28,000.00</b>	<b>105.00</b>	<b>164.34</b>	<b>-6,906.95</b>	<b>126,695.54</b>	<b>248,600.00</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Expense</b>											
<b>Operating Expenses</b>											
5000	<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>										
5010	Salaries	59,381.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	59,381.10	105,040.00	57%
5020	Housing	12,716.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,716.62	21,800.00	58%
5030	Employer Payroll Taxes	12,092.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,329.50	6,282.00	53%
5040	Employer-provided Benefits	10,787.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,550.76	33,838.00	58%
5050	Workers Comp Insurance	-4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-4.00	716.00	-1%
	<b>Total 5000 - Salaries and Benefits</b>	<b>94,973.98</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>94,973.98</b>	<b>167,676.00</b>	<b>57%</b>
5200	<b>Other Expenses</b>										
5210	Continuing Ed/Training	145.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	145.48	1,000.00	15%
5211	Travel-Meals, Lodging, Transportati	3,043.25	0.00	0.00	2,294.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,337.42	14,800.00	36%
5212	Outside Services	3,075.00	0.00	400.00	3,615.50	0.00	0.00	593.55	7,684.05	22,378.00	34%
5213	Software	3,667.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,667.21	2,000.00	183%
5214	Fees and Dues	286.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	286.06	1,700.00	17%
5215	Leases, Equipment Maint	984.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	479.74	1,464.56	2,400.00	61%
5216	Supplies, Postage	1,146.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.31	1,235.29	2,200.00	56%
5217	Background Checks	26.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.50	150.00	18%
5220	Insurance	2,340.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,819.50	12,159.50	3,898.00	312%
5221	Utilities	2,168.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	585.95	2,754.51	3,500.00	79%
5225	Repairs, Maintenance	527.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	527.97	0.00	#DIV/0!
5250	Bank Fees	592.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	592.63	500.00	119%
5252	Reconciliation Differences	-277.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-277.04	0.00	#DIV/0!
	<b>Total 5200 - Other Expenses</b>	<b>17,727.42</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>5,909.67</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>11,567.05</b>	<b>35,604.14</b>	<b>54,546.00</b>	<b>65%</b>

5300	Conference Mission Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	#DIV/0!
5310	OCWM	9,189.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,189.54	20,800.00	44%
<b>Total 5300 - Conference Mission Contributions</b>		<b>9,189.54</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>9,189.54</b>	<b>29,300.00</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<b>121,890.94</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>5,909.67</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>11,567.05</b>	<b>139,767.66</b>	<b>251,522.00</b>		<b>56%</b>
<b>Pass-through Expenses</b>												
5900	<b>Pass-through Expenses</b>	0.00										
5910	Neighbors in Need	0.00	1,909.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,909.00	0.00	N/A
5911	One Great Hour of Sharing	0.00	1,072.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,072.00	0.00	N/A
5912	Christmas Fund	0.00	2,680.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,680.00	0.00	N/A
5913	Strengthen the Church	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	N/A
5914	Other Pass-through expenses	0.00	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00	N/A
<b>Total 5900 - Pass-through Expenses</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,386.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,386.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Total Pass-through Expenses</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,386.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,386.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>121,890.94</b>	<b>6,386.00</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>5,909.67</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>11,567.05</b>	<b>146,153.66</b>	<b>251,522.00</b>		<b>58%</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>		<b>-24,748.79</b>	<b>1,080.00</b>	<b>325.00</b>	<b>22,090.33</b>	<b>105.00</b>	<b>164.34</b>	<b>-18,474.00</b>	<b>-19,458.12</b>	<b>-2,922.00</b>		<b>666%</b>

### Summary

Beginning Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
+ Other Fund Balance Movements	383,772.11	0.00	9,305.10	5,978.80	2,784.45	24,049.07	257,970.20	683,859.73	
+ Net Income / (Loss)	-24,748.79	1,080.00	325.00	22,090.33	105.00	164.34	-18,474.00	-19,458.12	
<b>= Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>359,023.32</b>	<b>1,080.00</b>	<b>9,630.10</b>	<b>28,069.13</b>	<b>2,889.45</b>	<b>24,213.41</b>	<b>239,496.20</b>	<b>664,401.61</b>	



## Church and Ministry Commission Report September 2020

Commission members: Pat Christian (Helena), Rev. Ken Crouch (Billings), Rev. Meg Hatch (Absarokee), Ann Hanson (Billings), Don Kinney (Red Lodge), Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch (Broadus), Tom Sheetz (Sidney), Carol Sparks (Baker), Illa Dee Talcott (Broadus), Rev. Dick Weaver (Helena), Rev. Dwight Welch (Billings), Trudy Whitmore (Fairfield).

According to the Conference Bylaws, the Church and Ministry Commission assists the Conference Minister in the work of pastoral placement, pastoral crisis, and church and ministry matters. The Commission has the responsibility related to authorized ministers and oversees all matters relating to standing and authorization for ministry. All questions of discipline of ministers shall be addressed by the Commission. All actions on congregational standing shall first be considered by the Commission and recommendations for changes in standing be confirmed by the Montana-Northern Wyoming Association and Conference. (*abbreviated list of responsibilities*)

As Chairperson of the Commission, I am grateful for its members for their active participation in our work. We've formed a trusting relationship with each other and our Conference Minister, Rev. Marc Stewart, to do the work of our Commission. And special thanks go to Jennifer Penfield and Patty Martinson for their able and willing assistance to make our work easier. Although members enjoy face-to-face meetings, our use of Zoom has been essential in facilitating a timely response to situations that arise as well as our regular meetings.

### Members in Discernment

Sara MacGilvra Brannon of Great Falls is taking required courses through Chicago Theological Seminary. Working with Clinical Pastoral Training educators in the area, a path has been forged to enable Sara to begin her CPE journey this year.

Laura Keating will be completing her degree from Pacific School of Religion in 2021. She is currently living in Montana and celebrated her wedding on August 22.

### Support for Local Pastors and Transitions

The Commission provides vocational support meetings with pastors on a three-year cycle or on a 'need' basis. Boundary training is available online through the Center for Progressive Renewal.

Rev. Glover Wagner - retired from Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Bozeman  
Rev. Tracy Heilman - resigned as pastor Columbus Community Congregational UCC  
Rev. Michael Mulberry – resigned as co-pastor of First Congregational UCC in Billings  
Rev. Neil Lindorff – retired from Peoples Congregational UCC, Sidney, and First Cong. UCC, Savage

Rev. Pam Peterson – installed as pastor of Red Lodge Community Church, October 19, 2019  
Rev. Amy Carter – installed as pastor of Mayflower Congregational UCC, Billings, November 10, 2019  
Rev. Laura Folkwein – installed as Associate Pastor, University UCC, Missoula, November 10, 2019

### Ecclesiastical Councils

Pastor Lisa Kopanski Harmon – approved for ordination on April 25, 2020. (As far as we know, this was the first Ecclesiastical Council conducted via Zoom in the UCC. Special thank you to Jennifer Penfield and Rev. Lynn Spencer Smith, Moderator.)

Rev. Tom King – ordination by the Evangelical Covenant Church was affirmed, May 2, 2020.

### Search and Call

The Commission has worked closely with Rev. Marc Stewart as he journeys with churches in discernment processes.

The Commission sadly loses two valued members as their terms expire. Thank you, Rev. Dick Weaver and Don Kinney. You will be missed.

Respectfully submitted by Ann L. Hanson, Chair

## Montana - N. Wyoming Conference UCC

### Registrar's Report 2020

Submitted by Jennifer Penfield

#### Churches, Membership

Number of Churches: 26  
Number of Members: 2,564

#### Changes in Churches

Froid Union UCC                      Notified in 2019, but closed September 2017

#### Clergy Arrivals

Rev. Robert Leaverton                      Interim Pastor at Columbus UCC  
Rev. Dwight Welch                      Summer Supply Pastor at Savage UCC and Sidney UCC  
Rev. Jim Smith                      Designated Pastor at Molt UCC  
Rev. Richard Weaver                      Supply Pastor at Bozeman Pilgrim UCC  
Pastor Jeremy Stradley                      Supply Pastor at Colstrip UCC, non-authorized  
Pastor Christian Stradley                      Supply Pastor at Colstrip UCC, non-authorized  
Pastor Tom Saurer                      Supply Pastor at Baker UCC, non-authorized

#### Clergy Departures

Rev. Glover Wagner                      Retired from Bozeman Pilgrim UCC  
Rev. Neil Lindorff                      Retired from Savage UCC and Sidney UCC  
Rev. Mike Mulberry                      Moved from Billings First UCC to search process  
Rev. Tracy Heilman                      Moved from Columbus UCC to Tower Hill Camp in Illinois Conference

#### Members in Discernment

Sara Branom                      Great Falls UCC  
Laura Keating                      Billings First UCC

#### Ordained Ministers - New

Pastor Lisa Harmon                      Billings First UCC, ordained in April 2020  
Pastor Tom King                      Missoula UCC, ordained in April 2020

#### Licensed Ministers - Authorized Lay Persons in Ministry - Renewed

William Briggs                      Hardin UCC  
Phil Maxwell                      Fairfield UCC and Power UCC  
Robert Shy                      Bethlehem Worden UCC

#### Chaplaincy Authorization

Rev. Wendy Brown                      Hospital Chaplain in Bozeman

## Report of the Human Resources Committee

By Amy Carter, Committee Chair

The Human Resources Committee consists of the following people:

Jennifer Jeffries Thompson (of Plymouth Congregational in Helena)

Doxey Hatch (of Community Congregational Church in Absarokee)

Liz Lee (of First Congregational Church in Great Falls)

Peter Eckberg (of Community Congregational Church in Columbus)

Amy Carter (of Mayflower Congregational Church in Billings)

Rev. Marc Stewart attends ex-officio when his presence is needed.

The first task for the Committee was to conduct, upon the request of the Montana Northern Wyoming Conference Board of Directors, an annual review of our Conference Minister, the Rev. Marc Stewart. An evaluation survey was sent to all Ministers with standing in the Conference, Moderators of Churches, the Conference Board of Directors and all people on a Conference Committee along with 5 of Marc's colleagues. The evaluation was conducted, the results were shared with Marc and we made a report to the Board of Directors.

We also spent some time getting familiar with the Conference Personnel Policies, since it is our duty to make sure they are being followed.

At the outbreak of the Coronavirus, we had conversation with Marc about possibilities for reduction in staff hours, should funding to the Conference become scarce due to the virus.

We reviewed a request from Jennifer Penfield to take a class in Church Administration. We approved her request and asked the Board to fund those classes for the next two years.

We worked with Marc to plan his sabbatical, and came to a place of approving his proposal. However due to all the changes going on in the Conference and with Covid-19, Marc has opted to postpone his sabbatical until 2021.

In February we said good-bye to Peter Eckberg who moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Trudi Downer, Chair of COM

Like every part of the Conference, COM has weathered some unprecedented hurdles in doing its job. I hope this finds everyone able to safely enjoy the last of summer and to look forward to what lies ahead in the fall. I want to take this opportunity to update our Conference on what the Committee for Outdoor Ministry (COM) has been doing and what is needed we move forward.

### **What was supposed to happen in 2020?**

2020 has indeed been a very unusual year- a year where we are learning to be flexible and learning to do the things we have always done in quite different ways. It has been at the same time difficult, different, and inventive and has come with some questionable and some rewarding outcomes. 2020 was to be a transition between our 89 years of Outdoor Ministry at Camp Mimanagish where we enjoyed a successful 2019 season, the last as stewards of the Camp, and 2021 where through partnership with others Camps we could create a new direction in Outdoor Ministry programming without the financial burden of managing and maintaining our own site and recognizing the transformative power of the camp experience.

The task assigned to COM in 2020 has been to work with Churches and folks throughout the Conference to define the Outdoor Ministry mission, to plan and implement outdoor ministry opportunities, to promote participation by campers of all ages throughout the Conference and to maintain a break-even budget. The task is not a small one even without the advent of a global pandemic. Very quickly, the task became a matter of offering what we could in 2020 and switching focus to 2021 and beyond.

### **What was accomplished in 2020?**

For the transition year, COM set a priority of making sure that our Conference youth had camp opportunities and to offer as many of our other adult and & Me camps as we could dependent upon venue availability and interest. Even with a late start in terms of seeking opportunities at busy and established sites, we were able to partner with three Camps. Christikon which is up the valley from Mimanagish offered to incorporate our youth in their youth camps on a first come-first served basis. In addition, UCC camps N-Sid-Sen in Idaho and Placerville in South Dakota offered to serve our youth as well as others interested in their full slate of offerings. We worked out registration protocols and promoted these camp opportunities. Late in the fall, we began work to recruit leaders and find sites to offer our other camps. Once the pandemic began, we made the difficult decision to discontinue working on those camps and concentrate on getting our youth to camp if they happened and move our focus to getting an early start on 2021. Very soon, N-Sid-Sen and Placerville announced that they would not be able to offer their scheduled camps. Christikon worked extremely hard to set up safety protocols for the camp, the staff and the campers and were able to offer a delayed season. The MNWCUCC was represented at Christikon by six young men at the Grades 9-12 Camp. Many campers expressed an interest but were concerned with the safety and the cost of sending campers in 2020. The six who attended enjoyed their experience and expressed interest in continuing this partnership.

### **What is COM considering for 2021 and beyond?**

COM spent much time brainstorming and working through the change in the committee focus following the move away from Camp Mimanagish. Below is a brief summary:

#### Mission of Outdoor Ministry

- Even though numbers are not as they have been in the past, the camp experience continues to be important to youth.
- Intergenerational and adult camp experiences are popular and have been growing.
- The unwired wilderness experience is important in our Conference.
- Outdoor Ministry must operate under a break-even budget.

#### Programming for Outdoor Ministry

- Ideally we would like to partner with a venue which would allow us to use the site and site staff for the venue while being able to offer our own programming with our own leaders and counselors.

- We realize that the venue and staff need for youth camps is different than the needs for adult and & Me Camps. We may be looking at offering camps at more than one venue until we have firm partnerships.
- While we are searching for venues, we must plan programming that can be offered anywhere and tailored later to a specific venue.
- We are hoping to be able to offer a good selection of experiences for all ages in 2021.
- We are also hoping to be able to develop opportunities outside the traditional summer camp season and eventually be able to have offerings in different parts of the Conference.

#### Realities

- Due to COVID-19, 2021 may have to be another transition year where we offer what we are able to.
- We will again be competing for venues as we try to maneuver through the pandemic.
- The economic outlook will bring about the need for more scholarships.
- Because focus on Outdoor Ministry has waned during the pandemic, we will need to rebuild our relationship with Churches and will need to rebuild interest in Outdoor Ministry.

#### **Where do we go from here?**

COM's last meeting is August 17, 2020. Through July and until that meeting the individual work teams worked to develop strategies and ideas for 2021. Final implementation will be dependent on Conference direction, budget and the selection of venues.

- Facilities team is working on a proposal letter to be sent to foster partnerships with existing camps to find venues for our camps.
- Added Programming team is working on a proposal to find venues for fall and winter experiences and are working on a memorial intergenerational retreat. They hope to be able to offer the first experience in winter 2021.
- Promotions is working on ways to update the website and Facebook and to cultivate future interest in Outdoor Ministry.
- Fundraising is working on ideas for raising additional funds for scholarships.
- Recruitment is strategizing ideas for recruiting program leaders and campers for camps we hope to offer.
- Programming will work with Faith Formation to develop curriculum which can be used throughout the year for camp, retreats, and by Churches for their education needs.
- COM is working to develop discussion opportunities to seek, ideas, manpower and support from folks throughout the Conference,

#### **What do we need from folks around the Conference (YOU)?**

- COM has two youth members, Axel Blodgett and Claire Hatch. Claire will be leaving COM to pursue studies abroad. We would like to find one or two youth to replace Claire. We would also like an additional young adult member on the team. Is there someone in your Church who would like to join the team?
- We will be working to reorganize and strengthen COM after the Conference Annual Meeting. Are there folks in your Church who would like to help COM move forward?
- COM meets one time each month by Zoom. COM is made up of the Chair who is elected at CAM and volunteers who lead the work teams. The Conference Minister, Moderator, Vice Moderator and Treasurer are ex-officio members. We would like to develop a list of folks who would like to help with the work team tasks. These folks would not be obligated to attend the monthly COM meeting but would provide manpower in carrying out the tasks of our work teams. Are there folks in your Church who would like to help COM move forward?
- This is the beginning of Outdoor Ministry for the future. COM is excited to hear ideas about all aspects of this ministry. Will you help us out?

## Faith Formation 2020

The Faith Formation committee began as a desire to create resources and programming for all of our churches in the Montana Northern Wyoming Conference. There was a strong desire to collaborate on various programming including outdoor ministry opportunities, National and International Mission trips, Conference retreats and an electronic library of resources for Sunday School, and Bible Studies. This year we looked at bringing more Our Whole Lives (OWL) trainings and teachings to the conference and began researching how to best represent mental health issues and advocacy for our conference. We are looking at online resources for churches to explore as they perform services during the Covid-19 Pandemic. We are also exploring programming on various Social Justice issues.

We had approved and began a search for a National Youth Event coordinator however we realized that the need for that position did not come to fruition. The Faith Formation Committee also provided financial support for a need for counseling for church staff and church members in a confidential matter. Going into 2021 the committee looks forward to streamlining their mission. As with all ministries of our conference, volunteers to serve on our committee are needed!

August 10, 2019  
134<sup>th</sup> Conference Annual Meeting  
Montana-N. Wyoming Conference, UCC  
Camp Mimanagish, McLeod Montana

*+All reports referenced are contained in the published CAM booklet*

Moderator Rev. Tracy Heilman called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Quorum declared, 15 voting churches represented, approximately 50 souls in attendance.

+Motion to approve 2018-2019 business meeting minutes

Moved and second; approved

Rev. Tracy Heilman, director, opened the meeting with prayer

+Rev. Marc Stewart, Conference Minister presented the State of Conference address

Brief remarks by Tracy Heilman, thanking Marc Stewart for his leadership and guidance

+Terri Goodsell, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report, 2020 budget and Financial Task Force Report. Motion to accept (Susan Watterson) and second; approved.

+Tracy Heilman presented Moderator's Report

+Lynne Spencer-Smith presented nominations report

Board of Directors additions/changes, all other as presented

Correction to title from Faith Development to Faith Formation

Central – Lay – At Large Nominee for Nell Game Counter Ebby, 1<sup>st</sup> Congregation UCC, Billings

Committee on Ministry additions/changes, all other as presented

Tom Scheetz corrected spelling

Explanation given for Dwight Welch as he lives out of the western region

Intermountain Children's Home board needs on representative from our conference

+Tracy Heilman presented Wholiness Project

+Lynn Spencer-Smith Stewardship Report (58:55)

+Trudi Downer, Committee for Outdoor Ministry Report

Axel Blodgett and Clair Hatch will be youth members on COM

Tawni Lehman– Human Resources Report; explanation of role of moderator of HR and the work completed over the past year.

+CMC – Marc Stewart presented report in Rick Thompson's absence



+Pam Peterson – Faith Formation, report as presented

Motion to accept reports, moved (Roger Lynn) and second, passed

+Additional Reports: Anniversaries recognized as presented in report

General Synod Report given by Nick Knoblauch; printed report by Lynne Spencer-Smith is available for distribution and on file.

Carol Shively presented greetings from the United Church Funds board and Global Ministries; honored Doug McClellum for his service on the board.

+Dwight Welch and Kim Woerste presented reports on Campus Ministry

Marc Stewart presented guest Rev. Dr. Felix Villanueva to coach a discussion on what the future holds for the conference.

Take the things we do well and expand them. Center for the development of Rural Ministry. Infiltrated in our leadership are many Native peoples. Progressive religious presence in every four- year university in Montana. New Church starts in rural Montana. ONA conference and 100% ONA churches. Statewide implementation of OWL curriculum. Sanctuary centers for anyone seeking refuge. Congregations will model what it is to be center of conversation on dialogue of differences. Safe place for children to evolve and be encouraged. Honor our diversity of all of God's children. Developed a model for open and respectful dialogue. Reach out to hate-groups to call them in. Vibrant Youth Ministry program that offers exploration in Faith Development that produces clergy and other church leaders. Community of leaders in the Stewardship of all creation.

What will our roles be? Show up and take part. Seek partners. Walk the walk and talk the talk – lead by example. Support and advocate for OCWM. Coach for compassion. Believe it is possible. Tell our stories. We are a people of the story.

\*Become the center for the development for Rural Ministry

Know needs of local communities, use local resources, surveys, pilot project in 3 churches, what makes RM unique? What are the challenges, not just white communities.

Bring together ecumenical partners into the conversation. What brings us together and what are the road blocks? How do we work over, around, through them? Why are our smaller population bases affecting this? What revitalization programs are there? How can we use them?

People object to the "Rural" label. Is "Small church development" more appropriate? What is the YOUTH interested in? Climate change? Find projects that can be done in a small rural area that affect climate change – preservation, recycling, cleaner air – directly affect all of MT-Wy; find things that youth and church can be together.

Define Rural Churches w/survey. Do you consider yourself a RC and why? Looking at the work that has already been done w/viable congregation work, begin to work on what work from that work applies to these congregations?

Have the stories at the crossroads define the local space. Walk into the offices and have conversations. Coordinate time w/social organizations to create story telling space. How can the small town then go forward? Together in the struggle.

Ask Nick Knoblauch, what will keep him in Broadus?

Define Rural; gather people for a meeting (impossible?); establish 3 meeting areas instead of just one; focus on the positive and on what things are working already?

Be aware of our language – truth tellers to help us understand our privilege and how that affects ministry in other parts of the state.

Define Rural.

Mission of the Conference. What resources do we have? How can we share them? Web based?

Exercise: What is one thing that we can do right now that can make this happen?

“If I only have an hour, I will spend the first 55 minutes determining what the right question is to ask.”

Feedback: Excitement! Engagement in mission! Creative energy! Unifying! Common themes are amazing! We need to challenge and be challenged. Establish deadlines. Focus on ONE thing. Majority rule worked; sometimes consensus is needed. All of the topics that didn't win can come under 3 major themes, especially RM.

Point of information

Michael Obbenhour correction, added as active retired clergy from Illinois

Election and installation of slate of officers, committee members and CMC.

Motion to accept the slate of officers, committee members and CMC as proposed by the nominating committee. Trudi Downer made the motion, second, approved.

Installation of those present by Marc Stewart.

Correction made to spelling of Rev. Susan Watterson's (retired) name in reports. So noted.

Meeting adjourned

4:20 pm

## Quick Guide to Zoom

Zoom is an online video conferencing application. It allows groups of people to gather for meetings using a computer, a tablet, or a smartphone. It also allows people to call in with any kind of phone and participate in gatherings.

Zoom meetings need to be hosted by someone, usually the meeting's organizer. Your pastor, or other church leader, would sign up for an account and then schedule or start a meeting. They are considered the "host" and have control over the meeting, such as sending out invitations, assigning breakout sessions or recording.

### Ways to join a Zoom Meeting

1. Computer -- You can join using a link provided in an email. Click the link and your computer's browser will automatically prompt you to download the Zoom app. You must allow this to join the meeting.

In order to participate in a Zoom meeting, your computer must have a microphone and speakers. To allow others to see you, you will need a webcam, which most laptops have. External webcams connected to a computer work as well. You don't need a camera to use Zoom and see what is on the screen, but it allows others to see you.

2. Smartphone App -- You can join with a smartphone. It is similar to joining with a computer; but you need to download the Zoom app to join.
3. Phone -- You can dial into the conversation with a phone by dialing a location number. Then when prompted, enter the Meeting ID number followed by the # sign. The Meeting ID is on the meeting invite.

When entering as a phone participant, your video is off and your sound is usually on. It is helpful to know that \*6 mutes and unmutes your phone. Select \*6 to talk and \*6 again to mute. Phones create a lot of background noise in a Zoom meeting so it's helpful if phone users are muted when not speaking.

### Joining a Zoom Meeting on the Computer

Start by clicking the link in the meeting invitation. Your computer's default browser will automatically try to launch the Zoom software.

- ❖ If the software is not already on your computer, the browser will automatically download the app.
- ❖ Follow all the prompts to install it, and if it asks you to "Run" a file, click yes or run.
- ❖ You will join the meeting as soon as the software installs. This should only take a few seconds.
- ❖ If the software is already on the computer, you will be asked to "launch" the Zoom app.
- ❖ Before entering the meeting you will be asked to join audio. Click "Join with Computer Audio."

Montana-N. Wyoming Conference is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Committee Meeting  
Time: Sep 12, 2020 02:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84547328055?pwd=dVVlOHhyWG8xSVFOU0FIQjNQRUp6UT09>

Meeting ID: 845 4732 8055  
Passcode: 249558  
One tap mobile  
+12532158782,,84547328055#,,,,,0#,,249558# US (Tacoma)  
+13462487799,,84547328055#,,,,,0#,,249558# US (Houston)

Dial by your location  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 845 4732 8055

Passcode: 249558

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84547328055>

## Meeting Controls on a Computer

At the bottom of your screen, you should see the control bar. If not, move your cursor on the screen and it should appear. The control bar contains all the functions for your participation in the meeting.



### Mute / Unmute

This toggles your computer's microphone on and off. If you have a red line through the button, it will read "unmute" meaning you are currently muted. It is very helpful to all if participants are muted at all times except when to speak. We recommend that users wear earbuds or earphones to hear the meeting as your microphone will pick up the sound from your speakers and start feedback (high pitched sound).

### Start Video / End Video

This turns your computer's camera on or off. If you don't have a webcam, others will only see a generic icon representing you on the screen. But you can still participate through audio. You will need to hit START VIDEO to see all the participants.

### Invite

This allows you or the host to invite others to participate. The host may shut this off to participants.

### Participants

This brings up a list of those in the meeting on the right side of your screen.

### Share

This allows the "host" or you to share what is on your screen. It gives you or the host the ability to share from other applications open on your computer. The host may shut this off to participants.

### Chat

This allows you to type a message either to the entire group or privately to an individual by clicking the recipient under "To:" in the message box. The host may shut this off for participants.