



Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

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February/March 2013

UCC Pastor gives invocation for inauguration

Dee Eisenhauer gathered ideas from congregation and interfaith council

Washington Governor Jay Inslee, who has attended Eagle Harbor Congregational UCC on Bainbridge Island where he has lived while serving the U.S. Congress, invited Dee Eisenhauer, the pastor there, to give the invocation at his inauguration in Jan. 16.

Thrilled at the invitation, she asked members of her congregation and the interfaith council if they had that opportunity, how would they pray.

She gathered ideas and phrases she both incorporated and set aside, taking care to distinguish lobbying—many of the ideas were telling him what to do—from praying.

“I thought it was appropriate to pray for people in leadership in the multicultural—
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Dee Eisenhauer offers invocation for inauguration of Washington's Governor Jay Inslee, left.

Photo by Mark Mulligan reprinted with permission from The Everett Herald - HeraldNet.com

Linda Jaramillo will be Annual Meeting keynoter

Linda Jaramillo, executive minister of Justice and Witness Ministries, will be keynote speaker for the 2013 Conference Annual Meeting, Friday to Sunday, April 26 to 28, at the Convention Center, 121 N. Wenatchee Ave., in Wenatchee.

The theme, “Reflect: We are justice seekers called to embody our faith,” will look at what the vision statement from the 2012 Leadership Retreat means for PNC congregations and members.

The conference office is receiving resolutions, workshop ideas and display requests.

Jaramillo, the first Hispanic to serve as a member of the UCC Collegium, guides the UCC's work on human rights, and on social, racial and economic justice. The Justice Witness Ministries vi-

sion is to “speak and act prophetically through community mobilization, leadership training, issues education, public witness and public policy advocacy.”

She served on the UCC's Commission for Racial Justice and Coordinating Center for Women board. She also was a member and committee chair of the Executive Council and assistant moderator of General Synod in 2002.

As a member and moderator of Ainsworth UCC in Portland, Ore, she was also vice-moderator, treasurer and search committee chair in the Central Pacific Conference.

In 1998, she was a UCC delegate to the World Council of Churches Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Jaramillo is a former leader with the

Council for Hispanic Ministries and former co-convenor of the Council of Racial and Ethnic Ministries.

She has more than 30 years experience in management with state, county and federally funded programs in Oregon, including HeadStart, migrant services, child welfare, violence prevention, HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention, and adult community-based education.

Jaramillo earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Portland State University and a master of divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley.

For information, call 206-725-8383 or 800-954-8777 or email pncucc@gmail.com

Transparency, indignation affect conflicts

Conference Comments



By The Rev.
Mike Denton
Conference
Minister

**How do
you work
to increase
transparency?
What antidotes
for indignancy
have you
discovered?**

I've been reading quite a bit about conflict. This work seems to go through seasons where different themes seem to emerge and, recently, conflict has been one of those themes rising to the top.

Admittedly, it's not an unusual theme in any work where there are, well, people but as part of this specific position, I am sometimes invited by local churches in to conflictual situations as a witness, an arbiter and sometimes as a mediator.

In many cases, reframing is all that's needed. The conflict has emerged out of perspectives that differ and, once people are able to hear another's perspective and it's made clear that both parties are hearing each other's perspectives, they can focus on problems solving and negotiating.

Other times, there's a resource that helps them solve their problem that I knew about and they didn't that allows them to go in another direction or have a more realistic view about what solution is realistic.

Sometimes, all that's needed is an encouraging witness to support them emotionally and spiritually sustain their own efforts.

Two of the pieces I've been re-reading recently are both from the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership. One is titled *FACT's on Growth* and the other is titled *Insights in to Congregational Conflict*. According to these documents, the most common congregational conflicts are—in order starting with most common—behavior among members, how money is used, style of worship, questions about leadership style and questions about decision making.

That said, the most disruptive conflicts that cause congregational decline are—starting with most disruptive—related to questions about leadership style, how money is used, style of worship, behavior of members and actions of denominational bodies.

Although there is overlap in the two lists, there's an important difference, here. Not every conflict about, for example, leadership style is one that causes decline but the most *common* conflict that is disruptive is about leadership style.

I've spent a lot of time trying to figure out what makes a conflict more disruptive and there are two elements that seem to make a big difference.

The first is related to transparency. Problems are frequently transformed in to disruptive conflicts when surprise is involved or where past issues had been hidden. Transparency can, initially, be embarrassing or disappointing but secrets are almost always more destructive in the long run.

Inviting others to witness problem solving processes helps build trust, confidence and also opens systems to resources people might be more than willing to share but not know are needed, otherwise.

The single most common factor that moves a normal conflict into a more disruptive conflict is the point at which people become indignant and, if you take a look at the five most disruptive conflicts, you can see how that might emerge.

Indignancy—can we pretend that's really a word for a bit, here?—moves a conflict from being a problem to be solved to an emotional reaction that needs to be soothed, frequently at the expense of the best solution to the problem.

Indignancy, once it enters a conversation, is frequently infectious and spreads to other's quickly. It leaves a long lasting after taste of bitterness, too.

Although sometimes it is a tool of the powerless, it is all too frequently a tool of those who wish to "win" a conflict for personal satisfaction instead of reaching a mutually agreed upon decision.

The degree to which indignation has infected a situation is usually a marker for how disruptive that situation will be to an organization's long term life.

Within your own congregation, how do you work to increase transparency? What antidotes for indignancy have you discovered for yourself or for situations in which indignancy has emerged?

Transitions announced

Conference Minister **Mike Denton** and **Lauren Cannon** at Keystone UCC welcomed son, Leo, into their family on Dec. 22.

David Krueger-Duncan has been called as the new pastor of Cheney UCC. He begins his ministry on Feb. 10.

Deborah Nelson was ordained at The United Churches of Olympia on Jan. 27. She has been called as minister of children, youth and families at Wallingford United Methodist Church.

Ann Eidson began an interim ministry at Kirkland Congregational Church, UCC on Feb. 1.

David Kratz retired from Fauntleroy UCC. His last day in the pulpit was Jan. 27.

Interfaith Advocacy Day set

Stephen Boyles, a UCC young adult intern with the Faith Action Network, would like to remind you that the Inter-Faith Advocacy Day will be Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the The United Churches of Olympia, 110 11th Avenue SE, Olympia.

It is an opportunity for people of faith to be active citizens within the state of Washington.

For more information please go to bit.ly/IFAD2013.

Treasurers training is Feb. 23

Cheri Lovell, who leads the UCC Cornerstone Fund's education programs, will offer a "Church Numbers for Treasurers" one-day seminar for new and experienced church treasurers from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Saturday, Feb. 23, at Plymouth Church UCC, 1217 6th Ave. in Seattle.

She will discuss how management of church finances differs from businesses and even other nonprofits, helping treasurers understand endowments, investments and best practices. The seminar will also help treasurers understand the importance of telling the story, ensuring transparency, choosing software, and setting policies to protect the treasurer, church and funds.

Participants will also learn about inspiring generosity by connecting people to mission spending.

Lovell, whose early career was in banking, real estate and investments, earned a master of divinity degree at Emory Univer-

sity and was ordained in the UCC in 1998.

For information, call 206-725-8383 or email edie@lackland.com.

Clergy Retreat will be in March

"Putting your Whole Self in...Is that What It's All About?" is the theme for the retreat for authorized ministers of the Pacific Northwest Conference from Sunday evening, March 17 or 10 a.m., Monday, March 18 through pre-lunch, Wednesday, March 20, at Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center in Port Orchard.

Holly MillerShank, team leader for the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Accountability Team in Cleveland, will be the key presenter along with conference leaders facilitating panels and conversations.

The retreat will help clergy look at authenticity, vulnerability and the practice of ministry. Participants will discuss preaching, pastoral care, social media and how their behavior affects their ministry.

For information, call 360-876-2031 or visit www.pilgrimfirs.org.

Young adult mission trip to South Korea set in 2013

The Global Ministries Committee of the PNC and Northwest Region of the Disciples of Christ is seeking participants for a Young Adult Exchange Visit to South Korea from June 17 to 26, 2013. The young adults will learn about their counterparts in the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of South Korea, how the church ministers and serves in that culture.

In addition, a delegation from East Seoul will visit the conference in May. The committee is recruiting host families and congregations who would like to participate in the exchange.

For information, email edevans@aol.com.

Lectures at Shalom Richland consider the future of faith

Stephen Patterson, professor of religious and ethical studies at Willamette University, is presenting a three lecture series on secular faith, at Friday and Saturday, Feb. 22 and 23, at Shalom United Church of Christ in Richland. Registration is \$50 for the series or \$20 per lecture, and \$15 for students.

The lecture at 7 p.m. Friday is on "Does

Faith Have a Future?" The 9:30 a.m. Saturday lecture is "What Do Americans Believe? and at 1 p.m., "Secular Religion."

Patterson is the author of *Beyond the Passion: Rethinking the Death and Life of Jesus* and *The God of Jesus: The Historical Jesus and the Search for Meaning*. He is a frequent contributor to the Discovery Channel and the History Channel, and is featured in the progressive Christianity series *Living the Questions*.

For information, call 509-943-3927.

Application process begins for 2013-14 Young Adult Interns

Applications are now being accepted for young adults, ages 21 to 30, to participate in the 2013-2014 team of social justice volunteers in Seattle or five other sites across the UCC. Applications are due Feb. 15 or March 15. The year of service runs from late August 2013 through early August 2014, said Lauren Cannon of the PNC Justice and Witness Ministries Committee.

For information, contact Rich Gamble at 206-632-60212 or email rich.gamble@keystoneseattle.org.

United Church becomes O&A

Given that United Church in University Place is a UCC and United Methodist congregation, Neil Rader said that members had considered becoming open and affirming several times, but "always decided to agree to disagree," not wanting to split the church over one issue.

In February 2012, they held forums on Referendum #74 on equal marriage and soon decided the issue was too narrow.

Members began studying about "full rights for all our people," given that the congregation was open in the way they worked. The board formed a committee to study becoming a welcoming church. After a year of meetings, they decided to vote at their annual meeting to accept a declaration that United Church in University Place "manifests the spirit of hospitality as taught by Jesus by publicly welcoming all people, including those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender, to participate fully in every aspect of our ministry and life."

Rader said accepting the declaration completed their process of becoming Open and Affirming and Reconciling, the United Methodist term. Both UCC Conference Minister Mike Denton and Bob Ward, a representative of the district superintendent, were gave comments after the vote.

For information, call 253-272-4890.

Conference News Briefs

Pastor describes her approach to advocacy

Continued from page 1

tural multifaith setting of a joint session of the State Legislature,” Eisenhower said.

Eisenhower has been a pastor at Eagle Harbor since 1999, her third call since her ordination in 1985. She has also served Kirkland Congregational Church and United Church in University Place.

Before she began as pastor, Inslee and his wife, Trudi, moved to Bainbridge Island from Yakima.

“People would see him on the ferry and chat about life and government,” she said, adding that he receives her sermons by email each week, at his request.

When his transition team invited her to give the invocation, she invited him to the Christmas pageant. When the Inslees came, they came with their security people.

“About five years ago, when he was campaigning in Bainbridge Island, Jay saw our church flag pole needed to be painted. He had just repainted his father’s flag pole, so he repainted ours,” she said.

Involved in advocacy, recently on marriage equality, Eisenhower said she focused on praying for the new leader. She writes U.S. and state legislators about four times a year, goes to Interfaith Lobby Days of the Faith Action Network in February in Olympia and was among 900 in a Feb. 9 interfaith candlelight march in Seattle against gun violence.

“It’s important for us to have a relationship with our legislators and see them as human beings under pressure,” she said. “It’s also important for us to thank them if they vote the way we consider just and for the common good.”

Beyond writing letters, she recommends developing relationships and friendships that give access to legislators and to let them know “we care about



Daughters Karen and Emma joined Dee and John Eisenhower for the governor’s inauguration.
Photos courtesy of John Eisenhower

them as people, not just as instruments to help us achieve what we want.”

Eisenhower, who related with Inslee at fund raising events and town halls, suggests that’s how to be known by political and government leaders, so “we are not a stranger when we want to discuss an issue.”

She observed that there’s a fine line between respecting someone in office and being in awe of the person as a celebrity.

“The role of legislators is like clergy. We are to serve and lead people,” she said. “As servants, we give people what they want. As their leaders, we give people what they need.”

Eisenhower and her family attended the inauguration in the morning. Then she went to lobby her legislators on: 1) reducing gun violence and 2) amending the U.S. Constitution to end corporate personhood. She met with one.

The stole she wore, she said, was made by Deborah Rose of Spokane and includes a rendition of the UCC “God is still speaking” comma as part of sharing the story of creation.

She shared her invocation:

“Holy One whom we call by many names, out of our separate paths we have converged in this place on this day of new beginnings. Call us out of our separateness, our parties and

caucuses, our interest groups and districts, help us for this moment to transcend all that divides us. Give us in these moments of prayer a spirit of true unity as we attune our souls to a Higher Power.”

Her prayer spoke of “celebrating the hard work, deep convictions and good intentions that brought all those who have run for public office into this temple of democracy.”

She expressed gratitude for government leaders’ “will to serve” and “call to service.”

Her invocation recognized the excitement and trepidation people feel, mindful of the difficult tasks, complex problems to solve and heart-wrenching choices for those in public office. It also prayed for them as imperfect beings, juggling competing interests while “struggling to discern greater goods and lesser evils.”

“Creator, you know us to be creatures with speckled hearts,” Eisenhower prayed. “We long to do good and relish being right,” “proud of our skills and accomplishments, and often blind to our own faults and weaknesses.”

She prayed that leaders be vigilant against powers and temptations that “corrupt the heart and cripple democracy.”

She continued, “We need your aid to see beyond our nar-

row interests to a broad vision of the common good”—championing the poor and vulnerable, and keeping voices of the voiceless heard.

“Kindle compassion for those whose ability to take care of themselves is compromised by unemployment, disability, illness, injury or age,” she prayed.

“Especially we ask you to keep the future of our children and youth in minds and hearts as we strive to leave them a better world.

“You have blessed Governor Inslee with a passion for preserving this green earth. Use his passion and vision to advance our state’s stewardship of the magnificent natural resources entrusted to us, that present and future generations might benefit from this term of leadership,” she prayed.

Eisenhower prayed that in the midst of conflict, those elected would provoke peace, seek common ground “that welcomes both conviction and compromise,” find the “dynamic balance between continuity and change.”

“Where we cannot reach unanimity, steer us away from futile dissonance and stir us instead to creative harmony.”

She asked for Inslee to have wisdom, courage, strength and patience, to listen as well as speak, learn as well as teach, follow as well as lead. She prayed for guarding his health, protecting him from harm and strengthening his marriage.

“May the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, the fruits of our labor, the effects of our policies, the legacy of our laws, the dynamics of our decisions be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen,” Eisenhower concluded.

For information, call 206-842-4657 or email dee.eisenhower@gmail.com.

Young adult justice intern serves Faith Action Network

Stephen Boyles, one of the UCC young adult justice interns in the conference this year, has found his time working with the Faith Action Network (FAN) of Washington eye opening in several ways.

"I didn't know it was so easy to call a state legislator and make an appointment," he said of his experience in preparing for FAN's Interfaith Advocacy Day on Feb. 20 in Olympia.

As he has registers people, he has finds their legislative district and called their legislators' offices to set appointments.

"It's exciting to talk with legislators on the phone," Boyles said. "It has improved my interpersonal skills."

Preparing for that day, he has also emailed information to those who register to help them know more about issues the Faith Action Network is working on so they can be informed and raise them in their meetings with the legislators.

"I am coming to understand behind-the-scenes activities involved in social justice organization," he said.

Stephen has been helping with the Wage Theft campaign FAN is doing with the Stop Wage Theft Coalition.

In the fall, he helped plan a Fall Summit in at First Baptist Church in Seattle, drawing together people who are in the Faith Action Network as "advocating congregations."

"We trained members of congregations on what it means to be an advocate," he said.

Stephen is pleased FAN surpassed its goal of having 60 advocating congregations as they begin 2013 with 63.

He chose to participate in the UCC's Young Adult Internship after graduating from Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, in 2012 with a major in political science and a minor in religion, because it involved building leadership skills and



Stephen Boyles, second from left, joins FAN staff Paul Benz, Jackie O'Ryan and Kelle Rose carrying the FAN sign in a Walmart protest.
Photos courtesy of the Faith Action Network

living in community with three other interns.

He values the opportunity to share and reflect. He also values attending Keystone UCC, where social justice is integral to its life.

"I thought faith and social justice were related, but living it this year, it's more than

a belief now," he said, adding that living simply on a stipend of \$400 a month has been challenging. Next year he hopes to do an internship in direct service, painting a house or serving in a soup kitchen.

For information, call 206-625-9790 or email stephen-aboyles@gmail.com.

PNC pastor works with national UCC on earth care

Meighan Pritchard began working on contract with the national UCC in January as the Mission 4/1 Earth Care Campaign coordinator. She learned about the opportunity from work with national UCC staff involved at the Environmental Justice Center at Pilgrim Firs.

The campaign from April 1 through Pentecost on May 19, has three goals: green up, power down and shout out.

The specific goals are in the 50 days to have UCC members and clergy spend one million hours doing earth care activities, plant 100,000 trees worldwide and write 100,000 advocacy letters to elected officials and letters to the editor.

Specific suggestions are online at ucc.org/earth.

Pritchard, who has been working half-time as interim at Prospect UCC in Seattle since



Meighan Pritchard

March 2012, has long been interested in environmental issues since her childhood growing up in University Congregational UCC in Seattle. During studies at Pacific School of Religion in 2007 she spent two weeks on a seminary immersion trip to the border of El Paso and Ciudad

Juarez, where she connected environmental issues with justice and the frequent siting of toxic waste dumps near communities of color.

Since returning after earning her master's of divinity in 2010, she became involved with the conference Justice and Witness Ministries Committee.

With that committee submitting a resolution for the Annual Meeting challenging the siting of ports to ship coal from Montana and Wyoming to Asia, she said that activity around that resolution will be included in the 1 million hours of work for earth care.

Pritchard believes that the new ways of extracting coal from mines, transporting it by rail and ship to Asia will have a devastating impact on climate change and health.

"As people of faith, we

are called to care for creation and to find sustainable alternatives," said Pritchard, who was impressed by the voices of thousands who wore red and testified against the ports, mining and coal trains as hearings of the U.S. Corps of Engineers about the scope of the environmental impact statements for each of five proposed ports in the Northwest.

Pritchard pointed to testimony of doctors concerned about the health of people along the tracks, farmers and ranchers concerned about pollution in streams and on land, the Lummi concerned about fishing, and industries concerned that the number of jobs at the ports will be fewer than the jobs that may be undermined.

For information, call 206-370-4142 or email meighan.pritchard@gmail.com.

Jeffrey Mensendiek sees end of missionary era in Japan

New avenues of global connection may open

By Ed Evans – co-chair of Global Ministries Committee

Long-time missionary Jeffrey Mensendiek sees himself and sister Martha as the last of a long, historic tradition of missionaries, serving the United Church of Christ in Japan. The son of missionary parents, Barbara and Bill Mensendiek, Jeffrey has lived in Japan, since he was two years old.

For more than 20 years he served as the director of youth activities at the Emmaus Center in Sendai, appointed by the Common Global Mission Board, a shared ministry of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Jeffrey was one of seven missionaries to recently visit churches in and around the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC and Northwest Region of the Disciples. He met with 11 churches and faith communities from Sequim to Richland and Yakima the first two weeks of December. During those visits, he shared pictures of the church's historic work in Japan along with heartbreaking stories about the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown disaster that devastated the northeast coast of Japan in March 2011.

He saw disaster relief open the non-Christian nation.

When the earthquake struck in the Sendai region, Jeffrey was meeting with young adults at the Emmaus Center, which was quickly converted to a disaster relief center where volunteers came to be sent out to coastal communities devastated by the earthquake and tsunami. The tragedy became an opportunity for Japan's minority Christian community to witness to their faith, he said.

"The people we served were 100 percent not Chris-



Jeffrey Mensendiek with Ed Evans at Sequim. Photo courtesy of Ed Evans

tian," he said. "The first man we met, who became the contact person, Mr. Sugawara, said 'we don't like Christians.'" The reason he said that was from negative opinions about the arrogance of some Christians that somehow, Christians are better than anybody else.

"Their opinion changed, and their attitude about Emmaus Center changed," Jeffrey said. "That's the reality I live in. The minute you say you are Christian, shutters go down, and they back off and are a little distrustful."

Volunteers from the Emmaus Center, Jeffrey said, were able to create mutual respect. Of the volunteers, 80 percent were non-Christian. So the center became a place for dialogue between Christians and non-Christians doing the same thing: helping survivors.

"Not only did it offer a wonderful experience for the church to grow," he said, "but it also offered those who came in touch with the church a chance to gain a deeper understanding of what the church is about. In many instances, I was the recipient of the people's gratitude. They were saying, 'Thank you, Emmaus Center, for being here.' It was clear they had been touched in a way they had never been touched before."

He hopes the nuclear melt-

down at Fukushima may open dialogue on nuclear power with people in the United States.

Reflecting on the meltdown of the nearby Fukushima nuclear plant, he said, "It just can't go back to the way it was."

Many people have been uprooted from their homes in areas considered unsafe because of high radioactivity. In areas people still live, children cannot play outdoors because of the high radioactivity.

There is fear the suicide rate will increase in Fukushima because people have lost hope for the future. Jeffrey said the implications of the meltdown are "like the loss of your homeland." He equates that disaster with the Native Americans' loss of their homeland or people of the South Pacific whose islands may sink under climate change.

"It's shocking and sad," he said.

Following the Fukushima meltdown, more than 50 nuclear power generating plants in Japan were shut down because of safety concerns of the public.

As they slowly come back on line, a national grass roots movement has grown to call the government to accountability and protest nuclear power.

Every Friday there is a rally in front of the Prime Minister's residence in Tokyo to protest the restart of the nuclear indus-

try. About 15,000 people participate weekly in Tokyo along with similar protest rallies in cities throughout Japan.

Concerns of the anti-nuclear movement have been offset by recent elections, which gave gains to the pro-nuclear party.

After his visits with churches in the Northwest, Jeffrey said, despite small numbers, he felt "a genuine spirit of presence and sharing in God's mission wherever we live."

He and his sister Martha may be the last missionaries to serve in Japan unless the church sends new missionaries.

Martha teaches social welfare at Doshisha University in Kyoto. Jeffrey, his Japanese wife and three children are living in seminary housing at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania until they return to Japan in the fall.

He will begin serving a four-year term as a chaplain of Kwansai Gakuin University in Kobe, more than 500 miles from Sendai.

While visiting in Richland, he discussed the nuclear issue and hopes to find ways the Northwest can move into a relationship with Japanese people on the nuclear issue. He hopes to start a blog to do that.

He recently attended a Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience program sponsored by the Evangelical Mennonite Seminary in Virginia designed to help disaster and trauma survivors build awareness of trauma and how trauma leads to violence. The goal is for people to break free of the cycle of violence and learn resilience so they can work as peace builders.

Mensendiek expect that this training will help him as he returns to Japan.

For information, call 360-683-4704 or email edevans@aol.com

Inviting congregations to covenant as Global Ministries Churches

Global Ministries Committee contacts churches

Each Global Ministries missionary serves not only in another country, but also returns to serve in the United States and Canada at the end of his/her term of service. Typically, a missionary who serves four years spends six months on home assignment. During home assignment missionaries are scheduled for four months itineration and interpretation in specific UCC Conferences and Disciples Regions where they have missionary relationships.

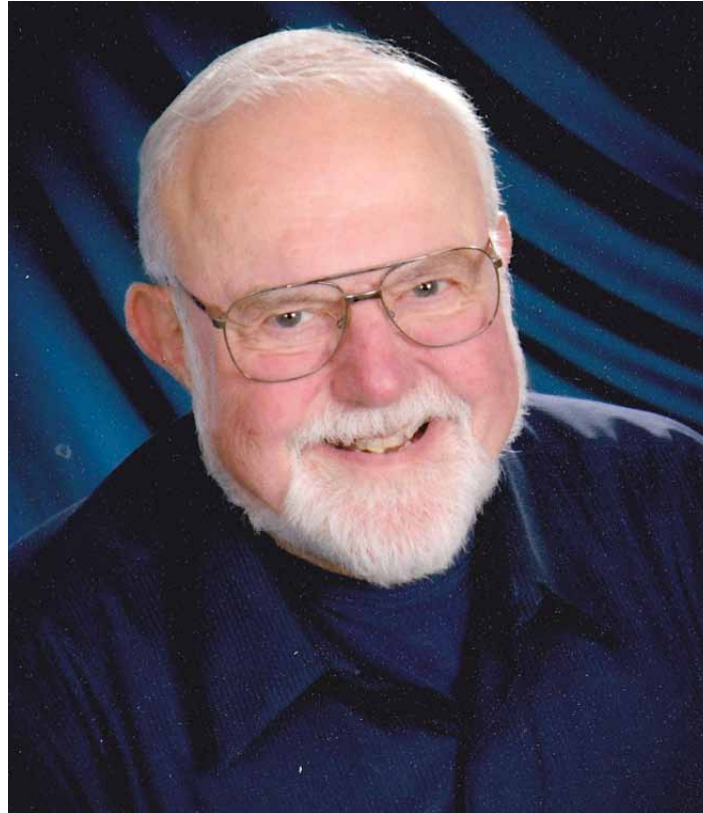
Community shares how to be Global Mission Church

Marvin Eckfeldt, who retired from First Christian Church in Kent, urges each congregation to respond to the call to be a Global Mission Church as the next step after the Conference and Region each voted two years ago at their annual gatherings to "be a Global Mission Conference/Region."

The goal, he said, is by June 30 to recruit as many congregations as possible to join in partnerships with the joint UCC-Disciples of Christ Global Ministries Outreach.

Eckfeldt explained that a global mission church agrees to pray regularly for partners, missionaries and the world, to educate members on global issues, to seek justice for "the least of these" in the global community, to receive the gifts of the global church, to give to global mission, to send members into the world to share the Good News of Jesus and to share the story of God's mission.

Global Ministries Committee members are assigned to contact UCC and DOC congregations by email and phone from February through June to explain the programs, find names of outreach and mission leaders, and provide resources for congregations to enter into covenant with the committee.



Marvin Eckfeldt, co-chair of the PNC-UCC/Disciples Region Global Ministries Committee shares a report on recent itineration visits by missionaries.

Photo courtesy of Marvin Eckfeldt

Mission interpreters training set in fall of 2013

The committee will also provide training in fall 2013 at three locations in the region for people to become "Mission and Ministry Interpreters."

On Sunday, Oct. 6, the plan is to launch the global ministries covenants on World Communion Sunday.

Seven missionaries visit

In 15 months during 2011 and 2012, seven missionary guests spoke to nearly 3,000 people in 44 congregational settings, 30 clusters of churches, 10 other settings and three summer church camps, said Marvin Eckfeldt, co-chair of the UCC Conference's Global Ministries Committee, which is a joint committee with the Northwest Region of the Disciples of Christ.

The total offering for Global Ministries from those gatherings was \$8,390, he reported.

The recent visitors on itineration were:

- **Liz and Doug Searles**, who served with Global Ministries and with the Presbyterian Church USA in Poland. They visited from October to December 2011. A report of their visit is at thefigtree.org/nov11/110111searlespoland.html.

- **Monica and Tom Liddle**, Hannah and Simon, who served in East Timor visited the Pacific Northwest in August 2012. A report on their recent visit is at pncuccnews.org/pncnews/sept12pnc/091412liddles.html.

- **Lynnea and Tom Morse** reported on their experiences serving in China while on itineration in the area in October 2012. Tom, who worked in the

Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital is now in the Global Ministries office, and Lynnea, who taught English, is taking classes at Christian Theological Seminary. A video clip from their recent visit in Seattle is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZF2yKDyB0U&feature=youtu.be>.

- **Jeffrey Mensendiek**, who has served at Emmaus Center in Sendai, Japan, reported on his ministry during December 2012, telling especially of disaster relief work out of the center. A report is on page 6.

The conference/region Global Ministries Committee also connects with **Alison Stendahl** of Seattle, who serves in Turkey, **Ana and Tod Gobledeale**, who serve with the United Reformed Church in London. Ana is visiting family in Bellingham.

Committee arranges visits with global partners

The Global Ministries Committee grew out of partnership task forces with the Berlin-Brandenburg Synod of the Evangelical United Church in Germany and the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, East Seoul Presbytery.

The partnerships grew and involved members of Disciples churches.

The PNC formed the Global Ministries Committee to do the work of the partnerships and to host itinerating missionaries.

Because the work nationally is in conjunction with the Disciples, the committee now includes DOC members. There are now 11 UCC members and eight Disciples on the committee, nine of whom have participated in partnership visits to Seoul or Berlin.

For information, call 253-852-2957 or email marveck@comcast.net.

PNC camps gear up for 2013 spring, summer camps

Mark Boyd, managing director of N-Sid-Sen, is keeping the camp and conference center visible through regular entries on Facebook.

Deeg Nelson, managing director at Pilgrim Firs, begins plan for a sabbatical from March through May. His goal during that time is to study how camping is changing and how to keep “ahead of the curve.”

He will be interviewing people in the conference on their perspectives and will visit UCC camps involved with incorporating “green” elements in Minnesota and Wisconsin, plus one in Texas.

With the Outdoor Ministries Committee, both have recruited camp directors for the 2013 season and begin plans with them for content under the theme, “All Things New.”



N-Sid Sen has a new dock.

Photo courtesy of Mark Boyd

Boyd said the focus will be on “new experiences to enjoy” and coming with a “clean slate upon which to begin with new and old friends” and bring “new perspectives into their lives.”

“As they join other campers and their counselors in seeking God, they will discover or be reminded that God is with them in each moment,” Boyd said.

“They will also learn that new friends and new adventures can offer a different perspective and God will continue to do a new thing in all of us, both individually and collectively,” he said.

Nelson said work began last summer at Pilgrim Firs for developing its “Peace Garden,” which will go from an 80-foot-diameter peace sign above

Huckleberry House Lodge. At first, the garden will provide low-maintenance root vegetables with fruit trees along the edges for food to use for camps and for local hunger programs.

“**It is a cooperative venture** with Sidney Glenn Elementary School a few blocks away and the Kitsap Food Bank,” Nelson said.

The project underway now is to build a fence to keep out rabbits and deer.

Nelson said that the garden will include a sundial and benches so it can be a place people can come to meditate.

Most of the “construction phase” for the garden will be done by campers, beginning with junior and senior high camps last summer and running

through summer 2013.

Long-time counselors and campers Jason Wilkes-Sikkel and Boone Davidson are the site coordinators for the project.

Nelson anticipates the garden space should be cleared and ready to plant in spring 2014. As groups and camps come in between now and then, they will work on the garden as a service project.

Out of three trainings of the Environmental Justice Center at Pilgrim Firs, there are trainings scheduled in Connecticut, Wisconsin, Florida and Ohio, he reported.

“We anticipate that now we will do one training each year,” he said.

Pilgrim Firs continues with the building insulation projects, and Nelson hopes to gain ideas for new technologies during his sabbatical.

2013 camps & retreats at N-Sid-Sen:

**Junior & Senior High
Midwinter Retreat**
March 8-10

Women’s Retreat - May 3-5

Lynn Nelson and Kaye Hult

Leadership Retreat - May 17-19

Work Camp - June 17-22

Young Adult Camp - June 21-23

Intermediate Camp - July 7-13

Bob Watrous and Kim Schulz

Kid’s Camp - July 7-10

Trudy Lambert and Gale Peterson

Senior High Aqua Camp

July 14-20

Lyn Stultz and Sam Yeaw

Family Camp #1

July 28 to Aug. 3

Amy Johnson and Ryan Lambert

Junior High Aqua Camp

Aug. 4-10

Dana Sprengle and John Hubbe

Family Camp #2 - Aug. 11-17

Esther Pfeiffer

For information, call 208-689-3489 or visit n-sid-sen.org.

2013 camps and retreat at Pilgrim Firs

GLBT Spiritual Renewal Retreat

May 31 to June 2

Sue Paules

Work Camp June 12-16

The summer schedule is:

Senior High Camp

June 30 to July 6

Colin and Andrea McCormick

Junior High Camp

July 7 to 13

Kristen Almgren and Richard Porter

Intermediate Camp

July 14 to 20

Bobbi Virta and Ken Coleman

Kids Camp July 21 to 24 and

to be announced

Family Camp Aug. 18-21

Environmental Justice Retreats

July 18-20

For information, call 360-876-2031 or visit pilgrimfirs.org.



Kendall Crane from Admiral UCC stands in the peace sign at the top of the Peace GArden at Pilgri Firs.

Photo courtesy of Deeg Nelson