

Notes from Mike

My reading patterns have changed significantly over the last few years. For a while, I was one of those book-a-week kinda people who would stay up late reading, wake up reading, read on work breaks, etc. Although I read a lot of fiction, I also read a lot of great non-fiction, too. It was partially through reading progressive theology and newer bible scholarship that I started to find my way back in to the church and back in to Christianity after a significant period of non-interest in and distrust of church. I fell in love with the international literature and short stories when I went back to school to finish my undergraduate degree. When I went to seminary, I was challenged to read some tomes that were densely written and, well, boring while finding a new passion for books about church systems and social justice movements. This pattern continued in to my first parish for a time.

Somewhere during my time with the Chicago Metropolitan Association, this changed, again. I started to read many more periodicals and, as more and more news and information moved online, so did my reading. When I was serving a local parish, there were more requests for studying this or that topic with some level of depth. In this sort of work, there aren't as many requests for depth of knowledge (with the exception of church systems understandings) as there are requests for a breadth of understanding that's aware of trends and new ideas. I rarely get the chance to read a whole non-fiction book anymore (although the pile of books I intend to read continues to grow) but I do read an increasing number of periodicals and, when I have internet access, Facebook, Twitter and Google mail are always running in the background.

There are a couple of things I've read recently that I'd like to pass on to you for your consideration. The first is an article that many of you already saw referenced on my Facebook page from the last issue of Christian Century (www.christiancentury.org). Its the article featured on the cover page; "Living with Criticism" by Martin B. Copenhaver. This would be a great article for search committees and churches in the midst of a search to take some time to read together as they consider working with their new pastor but, really, I don't know any church that wouldn't benefit. Its not all that long, gives great insight in to a part of pastor's lives but also has insights that would be helpful for anyone.

Within that same issue, there was a really good, short article by Lee Taft titled "Full Disclosure: When things go wrong." If I had a crystal ball and could tell which churches were likely to call me six months from now because of an intractable local church conflict, this would be what I'd send them. Its some of that common sense stuff that just doesn't seem to be all that common. Unfortunately, this article isn't available through the Christian Century website but some of the most basic information can be found on Taft's website (www.taftsolutions.com/theory.html). Take a look and then consider requesting this article from Christian Century.

One book that I recently re-read is Andra Medea's Conflict Unravelled. When I first read this a couple of years ago, I wanted everyone to read it and re-reading it has had the same effect. This is an outstanding book for thinking about conflict management, de-escalation and resolution. Its a well written, funny, and easy to understand book that looks at conflict psychologically, systemically and even anthropologically. It suggests some ways to deal with deep seated conflict as well as helping keep conversation on a problem solving level. One of the greatest tools in this book is a two page chart that helps you diagnose what kind of kind of conflict you may be in the midst of and what approach will work best. These approaches aren't always easy or simple but they work. I've ordered some copies for the office if you'd like to borrow one but you can also order your own copy through on-line booksellers. Google books will give you lots of price options for new and used copies (www.books.google.com).

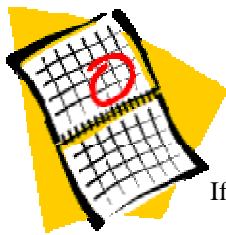
OK, one more resource that I recommend people read at least a part of several times a week and I'd recommend to you? The UCC Manual on Ministry. Seriously (stop rolling your eyes, now. . .). Although each region of the church adapts this to their context and interprets it a little differently, there's really not a more important covenantal document for our denomination. All the basics are in there. Wondering about a local church's part in the In-Care process? Its in there. Wondering about ethical guidelines for a local church's relationship to their pastor? Its in there. Its a great first place to look for a whole bunch of different questions you might have. Although you can purchase one if you choose to, it's also now all available on-line at : www.ucc.org/ministers/manual/ .

While your there, don't stop there. On the left side of the above referenced page are many, many more great resources that you probably didn't even know existed. The Leader's Box is now online. It gives local church structure 101 information including position and committee descriptions. The more recent Manual on Church is also listed there. Currently, this document is a more descriptive than proscriptive description of the expectations/hopes for the local church's relationship with their pastor, other churches and the wider church but that's how the Manual on Ministry started, too. Take a look. . .

OK, good enough for now. I'm guessing that some of you have also recently seen or read something that you think is a great resource, too. Please share! Starting with the next Leadership Packet, we're going to add a new page or two just for this purpose. Send your 3-4 sentence reviews and recommendations to pncucc@gmail.com.



Michael Denton
'09 July Monthly Mailing
June 18th, 2009



Conference Calendar - July 2009

If you'd like your Committee or Area Event added to the calendar, please contact Arlene at pncseattle@pnucc.org.

DATE(S)	EVENT;	LOCATION;	AND TIME
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July

3	Conference office closed for Independence Day		
5-11	Jr. Hi Camp; Pilgrim Firs		
8-12	Intermediate Camp; N-Sid-Sen		
8	Stewardship Committee meeting; Location TBA; 10:00am		
9	Westside Committee on Ministry meeting; Richmond Beach Congregational UCC; 10:00am-4:00pm		
12-18	Intermediate Camp; Pilgrim Firs		
13-19	Sr. Hi Aqua Camp; N-Sid-Sen		
19-22	Kids Camp; Pilgrim Firs		
26-Aug. 1	Family Camp 1; N-Sid-Sen		

August

3-9	Jr. Hi Aqua Camp; N-Sid-Sen		
10-16	Family Camp 2; N-Sid-Sen		
12	Annual Meeting 2010 (AM10) Planning Committee meeting; Conference office; 10:00a.m.		
21	Eastside Committee on Ministry meeting; Zion Philadelphia Cong'l UCC, Ritzville; 10:00am-2:00pm		
22	Board of Directors meeting; TBA		
23-27	Family Camp; Pilgrim Firs		
29	Ministry Resources Committee meeting; University Congregational UCC, Seattle; 9:00am-12:00pm		

September

10	Personnel Committee meeting; TBA		
11-12	Church Development Committee meeting; TBA; 5:00-9:00pm on Friday and 9:00am-12:30pm on Saturday		

October

24	Board of Directors meeting; TBA		
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November

6-7	Church Development Committee meeting; TBA; 5:00-9:00pm on Friday and 9:00am-12:30pm on Saturday		
7	PNC Council meeting; TBA		

January 2010

30	Board of Directors meeting; TBA		
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March

6	PNC Council meeting; TBA		
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April

23-25	Annual Meeting; Wenatchee		
23	Board of Directors meeting; Wenatchee; TBA		
25	Board of Directors meeting; Wenatchee; TBA		



July Celebrations

*Here are significant dates for our clergy and their partners.
Best wishes to you on these special days.*

Ordinations

	Jan Skaggs	14 years	18	Amy Hitchens	5 years
1	Jim Halfaker	39 years	20	Dexter Edwards, Jr.	58 years
7	Don Mackenzie	39 years	20	Esther Pfeifer	12 years
8	Judith Bardsley	19 years	22	Tara Leininger	3 years
12	Kenneth Rhoe	49 years	23	Jeffrey Lee Barker	16 years
14	Katy Lloyd	13 years	29	Tara Barber	8 years
15	Niutunu Faiupu	4 years	30	Bob Ingalls	37 years
17	Stephen Luttio	32 years			

Birthdays

2	Ronald Hutchinson	8	Joyce Wyanski	14	Jennifer Russell
3	Sally Balmer	9	Stephen Eriksen	19	David Crum
3	Benjamin Schafer	9	Georgia Nelson	20	Faaulu Faiupu
4	Johan Lysne IV	10	Anne Ganley	22	Phylis Berg
5	Bruce Harrington	11	Thomas Sanford	22	Tracy Colman
5	Robert Rieke	13	Sheila Kammann	25	Angela Ying
5	Kathryn Sharp	14	Ann Eidson	28	Annick Case
5	Sandra Sparks	14	Jennifer Russell	29	Robert Anderson
6	Donald Walter	14	Jan Skaggs		

Anniversaries

2	Paul L. & Kathie Forman	26	Mark & Cheryl Dowdy
3	Donald Schmidt & Don Osmer	28	Robert & Boots Anderson
4	Kendall & Sonia Baker	28	Ernest & Thelma Sprenger
7	Susan Cutshall & Jim Plourde	29	Amy Hitchens & Shannon Thomas
7	Tara Leininger & Donovan Johnson	29	Armin & Evelyn Kroehler
11	Kris & Michael Ostrem	29	Marion Lane & Peggy Jo Skill
21	Brandon & Janelle Duran	29	David & Marcia Royer
21	Del & Mary Jane Elliott	30	Kenneth & Tracy Colman
23	Peter Ilgenfritz & David Shull	31	Patricia Hamilton & Thomas Sanford
23	Max & Jeananne Oliphant		

Sharing in Our Life Together

Prayers for our Conference

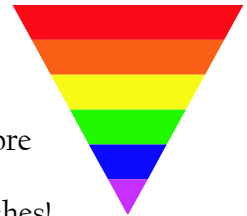
The spiritual directors of the Pacific NW Conference invite you to join us in intentional prayer for our conference. Each month, we will choose different churches and groups to hold in prayer. **For the month of July, please pray for the wonderful staff and volunteers leading camp at N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs and for the following churches: Samoan Cong Christian Church (3#), Samoan UCC (#4), St Paul's UCC, Taiwanese Christian Church UCC, University Congregational UCC, Richmond Beach Congregational UCC, Shalom UCC, Westminster Congregational UCC, and Veradale UCC.** Thank you for joining us in prayer. Have a blessed month.

This year we are planning on only producing an electronic version of the Conference Directory to cut down on copying and mailing costs. We hope that it will be easier for you to keep updated as well. We will not publish it on the internet but we will be sending it out via e-mail. Please review your current listing. If there is anything in your information that you do not want included in the directory, please contact Arlene at pncucc@gmail.com or 206-725-8383 or 800-954-8777. Hard copies will be produced only at your special request.

Pride Parades

Is your church participating in the Pride Events and Parades? Think about doing so! Let's celebrate the welcome of LGBT folks in our churches! The Spokane parade has already happened, but there are more to come!

- Olympia on June 21st. Parade starts at noon with a festival afterwards in Sylvester Park
- Seattle on June 28th – parade beginning at 11 on 4th Avenue; Festival at the Seattle Center from 11-7; Country Western Dance at the Seattle Center House from 6-9. Contact Jack Johnson, at New Heart MCC/UCC for more information.
- Tacoma has an "Out in the Park" event on July 11th at Wright Park
- Bellingham's parade is on July 12th.
- Bremerton has an even in Evergreen Park in Bremerton on July 18th
- Moscow, ID on August 15th. Contact Marj Johnston at Westminster for more information.



This is a great opportunity to let people know that all are welcome in our churches!

New Resource for Churches

Building an Inclusive Church is a toolkit that has just been published by the Institute for Welcoming Resources. It's available free as a download from their website, www.welcomingresources.org/welcomingtoolkit.pdf. This Toolkit is a step-by-step guide to help facilitate a Welcoming Process in your local congregation. Biblically and theologically based, it uses tools of relational organizing, congregational assessment, conflict management and change theory.

Welcome to our newest ONA Church

New Heart MCC/UCC is now officially listed as an ONA church! Congratulations and welcome to the New Heart congregation.

The Rev. Canon Naim Ateek, founder and director of Sabeel, will make four public appearances in Seattle and Everett in a brief July visit to Western Washington. He will speak and sign copies of his new book, “A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation,” at a fundraising supper with catered Middle Eastern food, to begin at 6:30 pm Saturday, **July 18, at Ascension Episcopal Church**, (2330 Viewmont Way West, in Seattle’s Magnolia neighborhood). The supper is \$50. Reservations: (800) 838-3006. The event is co-sponsored by the Palestine Concerns Task Force of the Church Council of Greater Seattle; the Episcopal Bishop’s Committee for Israel/Palestine, and by the Mideast Focus Initiative of Saint Mark’s Cathedral. On Sunday, July 19, Canon Ateek will be the homilist at the **9 am and 11 am services at Saint Mark’s Cathedral** (1245 Tenth Avenue East). The Cathedral Shop will have copies of his book available for signing after each service. Ateek also will speak at a luncheon at the **First Presbyterian Church in downtown Everett at noon on Monday, July 20**. The luncheon is free; donations to Sabeel’s mission are encouraged. A former canon of St. George’s Cathedral, Jerusalem, Ateek holds a divinity degree from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and a doctorate from San Francisco Theological Seminary. The Episcopal Theological School of Cambridge, MA., and CDSP both have bestowed honorary degrees on Ateek.

