

# WNCA Report to Southern Conference Board of Directors

Sept 16-17, 2016

## Commission on Ministry

- Planning Bi-Vocational Workshop Meeting in Nov. to explore issues around bi-vocational ministry (46 churches in WNCA have bi-vocational / part-time pastors)
- Working on revision / update of policies and guidelines for MID
- Working with 7 candidates for MID / POC
- Working with Sacred Souls Community Church, Charlotte, NC seeking standing in WNCA-UCC
- Holy Covenant UCC planning new church start in South Charlotte or Northern SC
- Working with inactive churches

## WNCA Board of Directors

- Working on Annual Meeting: workshops to help all attendees leave with new skills and ideas to strengthen their church
- Offering is to be designated to Southern Conference to help subsidize staffing for WNCA
- BOD & COM completed the 2 x 2 initiative with 100% contact (positive feedback)
- Financial support of \$25,000 for National Youth Event (over 30 Youth attended from WNCA)
- BOD making effort to contact more churches and pastors to raise awareness of need for financial support, especially for staffing of WNCA office

## Justice and Witness

- Moral Monday participation by clergy and congregations
- Rev. Karen Richardson Dunn elected SOC Environmental Ministry Coordinator
- Creation of Environmental Ministries Justice Network- EMJN
- EMJN mission is bringing congregations together in witnessing to the need for environmental and justice healing actions
- Several workshops throughout conference are being planned
- Pastors and congregations involved in prison ministries and post prison rehabilitation
- Pastors and congregations involved in and providing leadership in Interfaith networks throughout association
- Several programs in local churches dealing with Equality issues
- Southern Equity organization is located in Asheville, NC and staffed by WNCA clergy
- Workshops during past year
  - Domestic Violence
  - Human / Sex Trafficking Issues
  - 2 workshops on Environmental Justice and more planned for future
- This is just a few of the ministries happening in WNCA churches

### Challenges in WNCA

- Decline in church membership and regular church attendance
- Older churches dealing with cost of maintenance and upkeep
- Number of churches gone from full-time to part-time pastoral leadership
- During this past year we had 2 churches close and 2 churches leave the UCC
- Working on a vision for The Church of the Future

### Welcomes, Prayers, Happenings in the Office

- Welcome to Stephanie Leichman as Administrative Assistant and Registrar to the WNCA office  
Office Hours are generally Mon, Wed, Fri  
Leave us a message, text, or email and we will respond as soon as possible
- We ask that your prayers be with Heather Burns and husband Rev. Mark Burns  
Heather resigned due to health issues
- Welcome to Rev. Cheri Lovell who will be working with Search and Call in the WNCA  
and Strategic Development Minister for Southern Conference

### Words from Rev. Jerry Rhyne

*I offer my prayers and thanksgiving for all the pastors and churches of this great association. I look forward to working together with all of you as we strive to be a "Mission Minded, Justice Hearted" conference and association, bringing the gospel of hope for the future.*



Rev. Jerry Rhyne

Minister for Church Affairs

Western North Carolina Association \* Southern Conference \* United Church of Christ