

Rev. William M. Sowers
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Dear Friends of the WNCA,

It's been an exciting year for the Western North Carolina Association. Many things are the same in the Association, but we are also welcoming some new faces. Churches are ever changing beings, but the gospel is still alive and dwelling with us each and every day.

I have been serving as your President since February when I was appointed to fill the remainder of the term after Elizabeth Schiemann vacated the position for an out of state job. She did a remarkable job while serving as President, and I want to thank her for all the hard work she has put into serving earlier in the year.

I wanted to tell you just a little about me. I have served as the pastor of Hedrick's Grove UCC in Lexington since 2008 after graduating from Lancaster Theological Seminary. I served churches in Pennsylvania while going to seminary. Originally from Lexington, where I grew up attending Mt. Tabor UCC, I actually grew up in the Western North Carolina Association, as well. As you can see, this association is my home and I love the people of this group.

I have been trying to visit with different clergy groups to get to know people better. I have found that we are people of much diversity, yet a group who genuinely has much respect and love for each other. Another thing that I have noticed is that there is a lot of ministry currently happening in WNCA. Times are tough in many churches right now, and we are struggling with funds and membership being smaller than they once were. Yet, even in these lean times, the Holy Spirit is among us and we are people with lots of hope. So, I would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to the Clergy and also to the Lay people who are working hard at ministry together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. William M. Sowers". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

The Reverend William M. Sowers