

A REPORT TO THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION  
2013-2014

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers (and sisters) live together in unity.” Psalm 133:1

It has been a year of working in faith, trust and love throughout the association. I sense this wherever I go amongst the churches and pastors of this large and diversified association. The four ministerial districts are active and doing mission and ministry throughout their communities.

The WNCA Board of Directors has been engaged in a time of discernment of what their mission should be and to organize to best serve the churches and people of this association.

The Commission on Ministry (COM) has reorganized to help extend and effectively fulfill its mission of being responsible for all authorized ministries. They are working with the Commission on Ministry of the other associations in the conference to establish policies and procedures to bring continuity throughout the conference. They are working on integration of the “Marks of Effective and Faithful Ministry” in the discernment process and the authorization of standing and ordination. The ‘Marks of Ministry’ and our code of ethics require us to do life long learning. So the COM and Association have worked together to provide learning opportunities. We have two Communities of Practice (COP) meeting regularly and three more being organized.

If you look at the COM report you will see we have been busy with installations, ordinations, accepting and working with members in discernment (MID) and receiving clergy into the Association and transferring others out.

The office staff, Heather Burns, our Administrative Assistant, and Kelly Schumaker, our intern, have finished updating the association’s and conference data base which helps us know who and where people are. This also helps us to better communicate information and activities of the association and conference on a timely basis especially in this paperless digital age. Our goal this year is to upgrade and keep current our web page. Plans are underway to remodel and reconfigure the office space at 204 Lantz Ave.

The annual clergy retreat this year was held at Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds (BRAG). The theme, taken from a classic song of Bob Dylan, was: “The Times Are A-changin’”. What does this mean for the church I know and love? Whatever it means for us we need to believe that the still speaking God is with us as we live our lives and do ministry in faithful covenant with God and each other working together in faith, trust and love to build a stronger Association and Southern Conference.

Peace for our journey together in unity,

Rev. Jerry Rhyne  
Minister of Church Affairs  
WNCA