

**A REPORT TO THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
FROM THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION
2013 – 2014**



It has been my privilege and blessing to serve as Minister for Church Affairs in the Western North Carolina Association (WNCA) since July 1, 2012. Under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Davis, Conference Minister, I have worked to fulfill the goal of building a stronger Southern Conference (SOC) by working together in faith, trust, and love. Today I can say we are feeling much love and trust throughout the association. I am getting positive feedback from clergy and laity as I travel throughout the association visiting churches and leadership teams, providing services and resources. They are pleased that the association office is open and someone is there to hear them and provide services they need even on a part-time basis.

The next step was to begin providing educational and training opportunities. During the past year, we have completed three major training events with more planned in the future. An association meeting is planned for Spring 2014 for education and training. I also meet regularly with District Ministerial groups to bring updates and provide programs.

During the year I have participated in an order of reception of a local church into the UCC, two installations of a Pastor Emeritus, two farewell services, seven installation services, one ordination service, two pastoral anniversary services, three funeral services, and represented the WNCA at the Inauguration Service of the President of Catawba College.

Currently we are processing eleven Members in Discernment (MID), who will be graduating this year and seeking ordination. Seven are seminary graduates and four are PLD graduates.

Heather Burns, the Administrative Assistant and Registrar, has updated our current database and is updating the new SOC database, as well as a new UCC database. The office has more frequent and comprehensive e-blasts of WNCA opportunities, events and announcements.

Kelly Schumaker, a Catawba student, has been serving as an intern. She updates the WNCA website and has set up the office with the ability to do online surveys and track responses. She is our Information Technology Specialist.

In July, 2013, the process of selling the Association office property at 204 Lantz Ave. to Catawba College was completed.

All that we are and do is to provide service and staffing for the pastors and churches of the WNCA efficiently and effectively.

The staffing model of the WNCA and Ministry Specialists is working well and helps meet the objectives of the staffing model of the SOC Board of Directors.

The WNCA Board of Directors approved a policy that all in authorized ministry are required to complete boundary training by the end of 2014 and recommended that all churches implement a safe church policy.

I pray that God will continue to bless our covenant relationship as we seek to be the Body of Christ, the church in the SOC and WNCA.

Rev. Jerry L. Rhyne
Minister for Church Affairs
Western North Carolina Association