

Presidents Report

Western North Carolina Association of the United Church of Christ - 2013

This year started on a very positive note with Land of the Sky Church in Asheville being received at a special service in January as the newest church in our Association. They received standing at our 2012 Annual meeting. The service was held at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church where Land of the Sky Church holds their worship services. The Kenilworth congregation joined with the service and the festivities of the day.

Dr. Edward Davis, Designated Conference Minister (now Conference Minister) started a reorganization of the Associations with new titles and duties for the staff. Rev. Jerry Rhyne is now our Minister for Church Affairs, Rev. Curly Stumb is our Minister of Technology / Communications. We have three Ministry Specialists in our Association: Rev. Jim Luck, Rev. William Vanderburg and Rev. Barbara Rathbun.

At the February Board meeting, the Board received two recommendations for consideration:

1. The WNCA Board of Directors approve a policy requiring that all authorized ministers with standing in the WNCA, to include retired ministers doing supply ministries, complete an approved boundary training program by the end of 2014. The fulfillment of this requirement is a minister's responsibility to hold standing in the Association.
2. The WNCA Board of Directors approve a policy recommending that all churches in the Association implement a "Safe Church Policy." Both recommendations were approved unanimously.

At the August Board meeting, a recommendation was made, and approved, to have an Association meeting on March 1, 2014 for education and training. More details will follow in the near future.

On June 28th, delegates and staff from our Association flew to Long Beach, California for the 29th General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Attending from our Association as visitors and delegates were Rev. Jerry Rhyne, Shuford Abernathy, Rev. Colleen Samson, myself, Tyler Smith, Rev. Julie Peebles, Rev. Paul Davis, David Samson, Janelle Bunn, Rev. Bob Thompson, and Rev. Nancy Allison. The meeting was well attended and the worship services were awesome. There were over 4,000 attendees at the Sunday afternoon worship service. After five full days of business and worship, we returned home on July 3rd.

Presiding at this Annual Meeting is my last official duty as President of the Board of Directors, and I want to thank all of the members of the Board of the past three years for your attendance and support. It has indeed been a privilege to serve the Association in this capacity.

Serving you in Christ,

Doug Sink
President
Western North Carolina Association Board of Directors