

**Western North Carolina Association
Minister for Church Affairs Report
October 2014 – October 2015**

Building a stronger conference and association through faith, trust and love has been our mantra during this last year. As we attended the 50th Anniversary of the Southern Conference the theme was “Let It Shine”. I am happy to report the clergy and laity of the WNCA have been growing in faith, trust and love and this light is shining throughout the Association. This has come about through lots of dialogue beginning with the WNCA Board of Directors, the program districts, our spring workshop, and the clergy retreat. The dialogue was around the issue of finding unity in our diversity. We have more work to do around understanding our UCC ethos and commitment to our covenantal relationship. There are plans and programs in the works to help us in this process.

I commend to you the report of the WNCA Board President Elizabeth Schiemann. She has highlighted the many activities of the board and committees as they fulfilled their duties as leaders of the Association to bring faith, trust and love. I am happy and proud to work with and support these fine leaders. I also refer you to the Commission on Ministry Statistical Report that lifts up the activities of this past year.

My thanks to those congregations and individuals who support the budget, which helps us provide the many ministries of the Western North Carolina Association and Southern Conference.

I lift up my gratitude and thanks to Heather Burns, our office administrator and Registrar who has worked hard to provide service to the association during this year while receiving chemotherapy and undergoing radical surgery in April that was successful. She is back in the office. Thanks be to God for this wonderful servant. We also welcome our new Intern, Abi Kennett, a senior at Catawba College.

As we begin a new year in the life of the WNCA, may we go forth following the leading of the Holy Spirit and not our personal plans and ideologies. With the leading of the Holy Spirit may we be guided by the words of Paul in Ephesians 4:1-6 . . . “I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”

Peace for the journey, to God be the Glory!

Rev. Jerry L. Rhyne
Minister of Church Affairs
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