



Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

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November-December 2016

Sabbatical explores long-term ministries

Dee Eisenhauer deepens roots where she is, incorporates ideas to serve

In 2015, Eagle Harbor Congregational Church at Bainbridge Island applied for and received a \$44,600 sabbatical grant from the Lilly Foundation's Clergy Renewal Program for the Rev. Dee Eisenhauer's four-month, spring 2016 sabbatical.

The Clergy Renewal grant covered expenses for her travel and study, a sabbatical interim pastor and program expenses for the church.

The focus of the Clergy Renewal grant program is asking clergy was the question: "What makes your heart sing?" and helping them renew their joy.

Dee's sabbatical included spending time with John, her husband of 34 years, enjoying music festivals, a trip to Mariner's spring training and other outings. Continued on Page 4



Dee Eisenhauer "meets" one of many trees as part of learning about the Cascadia region's woodland plants, shorelines, watersheds and aquifers.

Photo courtesy of Dee Eisenhauer

Missionaries from Mozambique will visit churches

Kim and Eric Free, who have spent recent years in central Mozambique on the southeast coast of Africa, will be itinerating in the Pacific Northwest in February 2017. Both Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ churches have supported this young couple from Oregon and will share their time while they are in the region.

Ruth Brandon of the Global Ministries Committee for the PNC-UCC and Northwest Region DOC is recruiting churches to host the missionaries.

The Frees have been working in agriculture, health, empowerment of women and more within the United Church of Christ in Mozambique that invited them.

"They have many interesting learn-

**Global Ministries
Committee is recruiting
churches to host
missionaries and learn.**

ings and stories," said Ruth.

Because of armed action in the area where they were assigned, they are temporarily back in the United States for their own safety. They hope to return when it is safe again.

Congregations may invite them to participate in worship, study groups, clergy gatherings, women's, men's and youth groups, retreats, cross-denomina-

tional events and special events.

From Feb 1 to 14 they can be West of the Cascades and Feb. 15 to 28 they can be East of the Cascades.

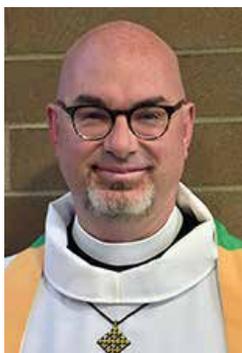
"We further hope that you will reach across the denominational lines and plan cluster events where possible," Ruth said.

"Only four churches will be able to have them preach unless services are not Sunday mornings," she said, reminding that there are many days open between Sundays.

Those interested may contact Ruth, a member of Everett UCC at 425-220-2476 or arembe@mac.com, or contact Janet Larsen of Othello at 509-488-1236 or 509-302-8395 or jlddd145@gmail.com.

UCC Board adopts new purpose, vision, mission

Conference Comments



By The Rev.
Mike Denton
Conference
Minister

*It is
time
for us
to
live
into
the
call
of
love.*

A few years ago, I was sitting with some friends having dinner and we were talking about a group we were part of that seemed to be in perpetual conflict.

As sometimes happens, the group was one that ironically had as its focus on peace-making and conflict resolution. The three of us were just tired of the debates and the posturing and the fact that some people we really respected were acting in ways that were disappointing.

I don't remember exactly what I said but it was something along the lines of "I'm so tired of all the fighting." I do remember what was said back to me, though. My friend shook his head and said, "You fight when you want to win. You struggle with people you love."

It's been one of those ideas that's stuck with me and has become even more acutely clear in this political season.

The stress and rancor between those running for office is both a reflection of our fractured country and, at the same time, amplifies the fractures that exist. Knute Berger, in a recent article for Crosscut, mentioned the idea that our country lifted up the suggestion that we're in a Cold Civil War. Its an idea that I've found particularly haunting.

If we're honest about it, the roots of these fractures are not new ones, at all. They are a reflection of injustices that were too long ignored; dissent that was quashed; discomfort that was avoided; and pain that was diminished.

As the Church, we also have to confess that we've added fuel to this fire. We slip into Crusade Culture and instead of trying to welcome a change in people's hearts and minds we try and win through the force of influence and an insistence on asserting our power in ways that don't line up with Jesus.

Sure, he critiqued some of those who were the leaders of his time pretty harshly. But he also shared meals with those same folks and other folks the religious systems of that time and place had determined were "unworthy."

The reason Jesus has so much power in our

own hearts and minds more than 2000 years after his crucifixion is because his power was love.

Last month at the United Church of Christ Board (UCCB) meeting in Cleveland, we adopted new purpose, vision and mission statements:

Purpose statement from the Gospel of Matthew: To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

Vision statement: United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

Mission statement: United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

Love is at the core of each of these statements in a way that I think it clearer than many statements we have made as a church.

Although love needs to be at the core of all justice work, we don't always say it as explicitly as we need to in order to remind us that this is at the heart of our calling and what called so many of us the loving, liberating heart of Jesus.

Those of you who have been around me in almost any church setting over the weeks since the UCCB board meeting know I'm pretty excited about the clarity and direction of these statements.

"You fight when you want to win. You struggle with people you love." We're all pretty tired of fighting.

This Cold Civil War in our country has gone on too long and many of us who have been warriors in it have lost our lives, souls and minds trying to fight it.

We all too often accepted as collateral damage the lives, souls and minds of those just trying to live through it.

Violence, no matter its form, begets more violence which begets more violence which begets more violence... It is time for us all to live into the call of love.

Transitions announced

Lon Rycraft retired from Normandy Park UCC in Seattle and is now living in Oregon.

Dennis Hollinger Lant is retiring from Wayside UCC in Federal Way.

Dan Berg retired from Deer Park UCC in the summer and now lives in North Spokane.

Amy Johnson was commissioned on Oct. 30., at Wayside UCC in Federal Way as a Minister for Sexuality Education with the national United Church of Christ.

Leah Atkinson Bilinski is being installed at 3 p.m., on Saturday, Nov. 19, as the senior pastor of Fauntleroy UCC in Seattle.

Rebecca Zickur Withington was installed Oct. 9 as pastor at Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Anacortes.

New worship debuts Sundays

Kirkland Congregational UCC is debuting a new worship experience called The Table at 5:30 p.m., on third Sundays. The experience includes a supper, music, interactive liturgy, prayer and communion. Music includes a band led by Luke Kreike-meier, a guitarist and song leader at N-Sid-Sen. For information call 425-822-2811 or visit kccucc.org.

St. Paul's holds fire recovery event

St. Paul's UCC, which had a fire the night after Easter, was back in its building for worship in the social hall in September. The upper level of the building will be unusable for a while. By Christmas they hope to use the whole building, including the sanctuary.

The church held a Fire Recovery Fundraising Fiesta on Oct. 29 to celebrate use of part of the church with a dinner and raised funds through admissions, donations for "Fund-A-Need" and several auction items.

PNC retreat rescheduled

The Conference Annual Fall Retreat on "Moving through Grief and Loss," scheduled for Nov. 11 to 13, will be held the first weekend in Lent, March 3 to 5.

The Clergy Retreat, scheduled Monday, Nov. 14 to Wednesday, Nov. 16, at Pilgrim Firs is still on.

Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, director of the UCC's Center for Analytic, Research and

Data, will use the theme, "Be the Church," to look at how metric churches use can impact their vocations.

For 100 years, churches have used membership, worship attendance and budget numbers to determine their success. Clergy will look at what is the work of the church that is not recognized because it is unmeasured. She will use conversations and interactive exercises.



UCUCC hosts February event

The Worship and Music Ministry of University Congregational UCC will bring Marcia McFee to UCUC the weekend of Feb. 10 to 12.

From 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, February 11, she will lead a workshop, "Creating Worship with Deep Soul," on the craft of worship. She will introduce what she means by "M-M-Good" worship. Other sessions are on learning from filmmakers, on rhythms of liturgy, life and the politics of change, and on worship planning.

She will preach at UCUC on Sunday, Feb. 12.

Drawing on a first career in professional dance and musical theater, and equipped with a master's in theology and a PhD in liturgical studies, Marcia understands the role of any worship artist in the church as that of creating extraordinary portals through which communities journey with the Spirit. The task is both theological and artistic.

She has designed and led worship for regional, national and international gatherings of several denominations for the last 20 years. She is the creator and visionary of the Worship Design Studio (www.worship-designstudio.com), an online experience of coaching, education, inspiration and a design application. Her new book, *Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship Design for Unforgettable Messages* came out in June 2016.

Disabilities Ministries seeks nominees to serve on its board

The UCC Disabilities Ministries (UCCDM) seeks nominees for its board, which includes people with disabilities, professionals in the disability field and family members.

Kelli Parrish Lucas, chair of that board, said the mission is "to encourage our de-

nomination to create worship and meeting places, programs and leadership that are accessible to all, welcoming and inclusive of all persons with disabilities.

Short term goals include increasing the number of accessible to all congregations in the UCC; providing guidance to associations, conferences, camps and other UCC settings about how they can live out their commitment to being accessible to all; creating a UCCDM presence at Synod 2017, and raising funds to support this ministry.

The board seeks UCC members who use email and can give 10 hours a month to this week, make a financial commitment and serve on a subcommittee. They seek to fill two terms that end in September 2017 with people would be eligible to be renewed, and two seats for the 2017 to 2023 term

Those interested visit the website at uccdm.org. Nominations are due Dec. 9.

Jim Spraker offers program

Jim Spraker has a program to share about his visit to South Korea last May with the Global Ministries Committee's partnership with the East Seoul Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea.

The focus of the trip was to learn about seeking peace on the Korean Peninsula, visiting people working for peace with push back from their government and threats from North Korean missile and nuclear tests. The group participated in a protests at a new naval base about its construction and at the Japanese Embassy about compensation for comfort women.

Jim's presentation is 45 minutes of photos and stories. He is available to come to churches to share it now he is back from a fall trip to Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

For information, call 206-935-3214 or email jim@spraker.net.

Men's Retreat is Feb. 3-5

PNC Conference Minister Mike Denton will be the program speaker for the 26th Annual Men's Retreat Friday to Sunday, Feb. 3 to 5 at Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center. He will discuss eldering, sharing wisdom, speaking into a culture that yearns for wise thoughts and actions. There will be a Silent Day Thursday to Friday, Feb. 2 to 3.

For information, call 206-999-6968 or email myrtos@comcast.net or visit pilgrim-firs.org.

Pastors offer insights from stable ministries

Continued from page 1

It also included time traveling with her siblings and grown daughters exploring the Cascadia bio-region.

Having grown up in South Dakota, Montana and Alaska, she and John, who grew up in the PNC, married in 1982

In addition to her 6,000 miles of travel in the Cascadia landscapes, Dee dug deeper roots on Bainbridge Island, studying woodland plants, shorelines, watersheds and aquifers. An experienced arborist introduced her to the island's oldest trees.

Her sabbatical project was conversing with 30 other long-term clergy around the region, pastors serving a church 10 years or more—an average of 15 to 20 years.

After graduating from Claremont School of Theology in 1985, Dee was associate pastor at Kirkland UCC for four years, then 10 years at United Church in University Place. In 1999, she began as pastor of Eagle Harbor UCC.

Her interest in how to keep a long-term pastorate green and growing led her to visit ministries to ask what made their long pastorates fruitful.

She interviewed face-to-face men and women in different denominations—more women than men and more UCC than other denominations. All but two were in the region.

About half of the ministers were UCC; the rest were Episcopal, Lutheran, Disciples of Christ, United Methodist, Unitarian Universalist, United Church of Canada, Church of God and Assembly of God.

Dee worshiped in as many of the churches as she could manage, enjoying worship in 18 different churches.

She asked each minister the same 12 questions to learn about their ministry careers; when they realized they were



Long road trips introduce Dee Eisenhauer to sights of region.

Photos courtesy of Dee Eisenhauer

in a long-term pastorate; how they and their congregation are formed in each other's image; how the community shapes the church, and the church the community; what energizes and drains them; what their greatest challenges have been and what helped them through it; what they feared; what sustains them spiritually; if their ministry is thriving; what scripture guides them; what are watchwords for their ministry, and what metaphor or image portrays their ministry.

"I came home and put my notes on the computer and then returned my notes for the clergy to review for accuracy," Dee said.

"The trust that can develop in a pastoral relationship of longer duration makes it possible for both congregation and clergy to see each other through change while remaining in place," she said. "Performing weddings, burials and baptisms over the long haul, built trust that helped a pastor in times of conflict."

Many ministers experienced a period of conflict often around the third, seventh or 13th year—in their ministry and worked through it successfully.

"Learnings from such periods of upheaval often strengthened the bond between the minister and faith community," Dee said, engendering a spirit of collaboration and curiosity.

Dee asked they learned from conflicts—how the conflicts arose and closed, and if

there was intervention.

Most were grateful to have overcome the conflicts. Clergy found conflicts gave them a clearer sense of what is important and a sense of hope they can get through a conflict without people quitting the church.

When churches feel beleaguered, which is common in these days, she said, clergy may be an easy target when conflict arises. "It's uncomfortable and some clergy quit too easily," she said.

If they endure the discomfort, people often discover they can disagree and come to a resolution. Clergy she interviewed who overcame conflicts were grateful for the renewed hopefulness and clarity it gave both the church and clergy about what is important. If the conflict is intractable, pastors sometimes discern it's time to move on.

"A common thread that emerged was that the 'churn' in many congregations in this day and age meant that a minister might be in the same place for 20 years but feel as though she or he was on a third or fourth congregation," Dee said.

All experienced turnover in the years in ministry. These days the average tenure of church membership in this region is about three years. The shorter-term members share pews with those who have been there for decades, and some whose families have been in the church several generations. People leave because they are unhappy, because of death, a

new job or transfer.

The Eagle Harbor congregation has a stable core group, there for many years. There is slow turnover with work and family changes. Dee has watched many families grow up and grow old.

Several ministers also noted that they had gone through personal change or evolution while in the same location.

Dee appreciated the vitality that comes from churches and pastors discovering their identity and mission together over years of collaboration.

"Inquiring about how the community shapes the church and the church shapes the community in each unique locale was stimulating," she said.

Dee found that churches with lively, sharply defined mission and ministry to the community were doing well. Ministries grew by a process of mutual discernment of the pastor and lay leadership.

One church, which had a ministry with homeless people, releases their senior pastor to work half-time with the church and half-time with a housing nonprofit.

Several churches have food related ministries. One leases nearby farmland and grows tons of produce for food banks while learning to care for soil. Another has a weekly community meal, raises money for global hunger relief missions and supports summer lunch programs for children.

Another church responded

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Jerry Chang brings Taiwanese culture, language

Jerry Chang, who grew up Presbyterian in Taiwan, came to the United States to study and work in computer information systems. Since January 2016, he has served as the pastor of Seattle Taiwanese Christian Church (UCC), which meets at Keystone UCC, 599 Keystone Place North.

He graduated from Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis in 2002 and worked three years with a computer company. His many years of involvement with Presbyterian churches led his into ministry and studies at Eden Seminary.

After graduating with a master of divinity degree in 2009, he worked at the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church of Greater St. Louis and was youth and children's minister for three years with Woodlawn Chapel.

In January he came to Seattle with his wife, Charlene, and two teenagers.

Jerry said the church is one of five Taiwanese churches in the Seattle area. The others are the Seattle Formosan Christian Church, First Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, Taiwanese Lutheran Church and Bellevue Taiwanese Christian Church.

The members of the five churches know each other, gathering at a funeral or for a regular get-together, such as a picnic and outdoor worship in the summer and a Christmas worship service.

"We have close relationships and each has its own pastor," he said.

Only Seattle Formosan and



Jerry Chang has served as pastor of the Seattle Taiwanese Christian Church since January.

Seattle Taiwanese, formed in 1989, churches have full-time pastors. The others are part-time.

While about a third of the members live near the Keystone UCC, the rest of the members live around the Seattle area, coming from Issaquah, Bellevue, Edmonds and Renton.

Jerry lives in Renton.

Sundays, about 30 to 35 on average gather at the Keystone UCC, where they have met for many years. They meet for Sunday school, Bible Study, a children's message, worship

with preaching in Taiwanese, and singing Taiwanese songs.

There is translation from Taiwanese into Mandarin, but there is not yet an English translator, so Jerry translates a summary of his sermon in English. There are just three English-speaking people

Because the service is primarily in Taiwanese, members are older, in their 70s and have been involved with the church for 40 years. A small portion are younger families with children.

"We are working to build

the participation of young families," he said.

There are also several fellowship groups.

Seniors meet for a morning Bible study, potluck and games such as table tennis, bridge and mahjong at 11 a.m., Thursdays, at the house of a member in Renton. About 10 come to that.

Friday evenings, all ages—with many younger families—meet the home of a member in Magnolia for younger families with children. They have a Bible study and educational classes, plus a children's program and dinner. About 15 come.

Jerry has also joined the secular group, American Citizens from Taiwan which introduces Taiwanese culture and food to the public and promotes education about Taiwan such as videos and programs. About 30 come.

Jerry also gathers ecumenically with a pastor's group in the Reformed Church tradition.

"I follow the lectionary in my preaching," he said.

Jerry also gives presentations in the community on the Reformed tradition, history and culture, and on UCC polity and theology.

"Taiwan wants to be recognized as an independent country," he said. "I also preach and teach on human rights or on issues like the election. Taiwanese language is not easy to learn."

Many second-generation Taiwanese live in two cultures

For information, call 425-891-7704 or email jcstcc@gmail.com.

Eagle Harbor UCC's ministries are evolving, as other churches

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to changing neighborhood demographics by welcoming Chinese families moving into their neighborhood. They started an intercultural ministry with ESL classes at the church.

Dee and Eagle Harbor are

in a discernment process on ministry.

Like many mainline Protestant churches, Eagle Harbor does a little of this and a little of that, serving meals at homeless shelters in Seattle and Bremerton, building homes with Habi-

tat for Humanity, offering an active youth program, opening the church building as a center for use by community groups, and being involved in ecumenical and interfaith work.

Dee hopes to draw on the sabbatical experience to inspire

her own spiritual practice and sharpen the local church's identity and mission in its distinctive location.

For information, call 206-842-4657, email dee.eisenhauer@gmail.com or visit eagleharborchurch.org.

Wayside UCC leader on national UCC OWL staff

Through her work as youth director at Wayside UCC in Federal Way, Amy Johnson heard about the Our Whole Lives faith-based sexuality training for all ages. She started using it at church and found it “transforming.”

“Youth and parents were excited to have sex education from trusted adults with faith values,” she said. “It brings together youth and families, has a social justice component, as well as the faith piece.”

She and Eric, her husband of 30 years, have been teaching it at Wayside since 2006. Amy and Eric have two sons, one works in Seattle with an online company and one is in Belize with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

Amy grew up primarily in Illinois, daughter and granddaughter of progressive Presbyterian pastors. After earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology in 1982 and a master’s in social work in 1984 at the University of Illinois Champlain-Urbana, she moved to Seattle.

She worked with a youth agency, a mental health agency and as a school social worker. She owns Vigilant Joy, her own business on sexuality education and consulting.

She and Eric, who grew up in Eagle Harbor UCC on Bainbridge Island, tried several Presbyterian churches and began attending Wayside in 1988.

In 2014, she began working on contract with the UCC to provide leadership for OWL trainings. OWL comes under the national Justice and Witness Ministries Team. She has been a part-time employee for a year promoting OWL at General Synod, the National Youth Event and throughout the United States and Canada.

She was recently commissioned to that role at Wayside.

Her job is to help oversee trainings in the U.S. and Canada, making sure trainers are eligible and have had background



Amy Johnson commissioned at Wayside as minister for sexuality education with the UCC.

Photo courtesy of Amy Johnson

checks.

She works with her counterpart in the Unitarian Universalist Association to promote the program, oversee changes in the curricula, which offers six levels of Our Whole Lives training.

The UCC and Unitarian Universalist Association established an official partnership in the summer. They have 120 trainers in North America.

“The curriculum is the gold standard in sexuality training in the U.S., with age appropriate courses from kindergarten to adults older adults.

In sync with the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States, OWL offers guidelines on hu-

man sexuality appropriate for different ages.

In grade school, values are respect, relationship and responsibility. Children ages four to six learn about their bodies, families, safety and birth.

Fourth to sixth graders learn about puberty, gender, orientation, lovemaking, reproduction, health, safety, decision-making and communication.

Values for seventh graders through adults are self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice and inclusivity.

Seventh to ninth graders focus on language, body image, gender, attraction, decision-making, consent, contraception and risk reduction; 10th and 12th graders learn about power,

harassment, sexuality and social issues, parenting, disabilities and relationships.

Young adult sessions focus on mind, body, pleasure, health, gender, orientation, communication, relationships, family and advocacy.

Older adults learn about values, communication, health, relationships, diversity, family and aging.

Amy said the curricula, rather than being an “information dump” encourages doing activities to process learnings. Students look at scenarios, reflect on consequences of actions and think about them.

“OWL looks at sexuality so it can be a healthy, sacred and positive aspect of life,” she said. “We talk about abstinence as well as how to be safe if they are sexually active.

“It’s an amazing ministry that is life saving and life giving, relevant for all ages, and understanding of what Scriptures say,” she said.

It helps participants address bullying, media messages, pornography, healthy relationships, ending relationships and life skills.

The UCC’s guiding principles on sexuality education include understanding that regardless of sexual orientation, gender or age, and regardless of whether people are partnered, single, celibate, widowed, divorced, able-bodied or physically disabled, sexual responses begin in the womb, include sexual feelings and are part of human experiences until death, said Amy.

“Sexuality is a God-given gift to enhance human wholeness and fulfillment, to express love, commitment, delight and pleasure, to bring new life into the world and to give glory to God,” she quoted the guidelines.

For information, call 253-653-2786 or email amy@diligentjoy.com.

Five Justice Jubilee Program participants begin

The PNC's Justice Leadership Jubilee (JLJ) project with adults seeks build leadership within churches, examine systems, strengthen relationships and work across generations to build a justice movement, said Claire West, program manager.

Five adult associates will do 15 hours a week of justice training and leadership development, working for 10 months with social justice agencies and their congregations.

The associates are Lin Hagedorn of Northshore UCC in Woodinville; Christine Hanson of Extravagance UCC online; and Ginger Warfield of University Congregational UCC, Jim Little of Keystone UCC, and Linda Gasparovic of Liberation UCC in Seattle.

The goals of the JLJ and the Justice Leadership Program (JLP) are to empower and support social justice leaders, extend efforts of local and regional social justice programs, and increase the participation of UCC congregations in the work for justice.

Claire, who began with the JLJ in August, has also been spiritual sojourner and outreach coordinator for the JLP since August 2015.

Claire, who attends St. Peter's Episcopal in Seattle, earned a bachelor's in community and environmental planning in 2005 at the University of Washington and a master of divinity in 2013 at Union Theological Seminary in New York. She served with the Episcopal Service Corps Young Adult program in New York and with Americorps Vista at Solid Ground in Seattle.

As spiritual sojourner she meets weekly with the young adult interns to help them find meaning in their work, and build community.

"Churches have more capacity when laity are empowered to do the work of the church," said Claire.



Christine Hanson



Lin Hagedorn

Lin, who is working with 350 Seattle, an environmental nonprofit focusing on justice for the environment, decided to take a sabbatical year—or gap year—from one part-time job to make space for the year of learning, spiritual growth and deepening commitment to systemic justice change work. She recently served as chair of the PNC Justice and Witness Ministries Committee.

Chris, a former member of Northshore and former PNC moderator, owns and operates a back-country resort in the Cascades for skiing and hiking.

"As a result I live in the middle of nowhere! Faith community is hard to come by, so I have connected myself with Extravagance UCC, an online church, I am part of an interfaith book group, and I have a spiritual director," said Chris. "Four granddaughters fill me with joy, as does the support of my family. I love life's journey as I hold my faith lightly, allowing it to grow and change and guide me."

Ginger retired from teach-



Ginger Warfield



Linda Gasparovic



Jim Little

ing mathematics at the University of Washington to have time for other things, such as being with grandchildren.

"As the dust settled, I realized there was room and a need for more in my life," she said.

Ginger said University Congregational UCC will take on the issue of racial justice.

"Amplified by Ferguson and my beloved two-year-old black grandson, the call to participate resounded deeply. Jubilee Justice is a way to deepen my knowledge and expand my contribution," said Ginger, who will work with the Greater Seattle Church Council, whose workshop, "Racial Justice as a

Spiritual Imperative," inspired UCUCC's current work.

Jim Little volunteers with the Meaningful Movies Project, a social justice documentary film program. Since retiring he has been doing social justice work with Keystone UCC, including its Green Team to help the congregation be involved in climate change. In retirement he has also been learning to cook and be a master gardener, along with spending time with his 11-year-old granddaughter.

He said the structured mentoring and self-reflection in the first JLJ weeks have already brought growth in his faith and commitment to justice.

Linda, who is drawn to multicultural connections and inclusive community, works with Puget Sound Sage, where she volunteers to support their mission to build communities where all families thrive.

From Sept. 2013 through Feb. 2014, Linda, who earned a degree in art from Southern Illinois University in 1976, participated through the School of Theology and Ministry (STM) in graduate studies with the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Institute near Geneva, Switzerland. She earned a master's in transformational spirituality from the STM.

Linda, who has worked in advertising, art and as a creative director for several companies, began attending Bethany UCC and are at Liberation UCC.

"Jubilee" signifies "the liberation and healing that emerge from re-structuring a community toward greater social, economic and environmental justice," Elizabeth Dickinson, JLP program manager, said.

The training includes legislative advocacy with the Children's Alliance and undoing racism with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond.

For information, call 206-909-8758 or email justiceleadership@gmail.com.

PNC pastor among 524 pastors at Standing Rock

By Gen Heywood

The morning of Thursday, Nov. 3, 524 clergy from across the country gathered with the water protectors at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation prayerfully, peacefully, nonviolently and lawfully to stand in solidarity.

On Oct. 25, the Rev. John Floberg, Episcopal priest at St. James Church in the Sioux Nation, put out a call for clergy to come to Standing Rock. He knew it was short notice. He wrote of how the situation was turning dangerous for the Water Protectors. He asked that clergy arrive Nov. 2 to have a training. On Thursday, November 3, clergy would stand with the people of Standing Rock.

The call was made at the request of Chairman Dave Archambault II and other leaders.

Anyone who wanted to take control, act in anyway outside of these agreements was told not to come.

Fr. John hoped 100 clergy might come. The number kept rising. On Nov. 3, he declared that we had 524 leaders of 20 faith traditions. This number was one person for every year since the Pope issued the Doctrine of Discovery. The doctrine has been used to abuse indigenous peoples, their cultures and their land.

On the morning of Nov. 3, we gathered around the sacred fire. Representatives of faiths that have repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery read aloud the World Council of Churches' document, calling all faiths to repudiate the doctrine.

A cheer went up from the clergy as the reading finished, highlighting that we support indigenous peoples of every land, ensuring their right to exist, live their culture, speak their own languages and practice their own sacred rites.

Then each church representative passed a copy of the



Gen Heyward, pastor at Veradale UCC in Spokane Valley represented PNC at Standing Rock.
Photos courtesy of Gen Heywood

Latin Doctrine of Discovery to a tribal elder who burned it before people of the faiths and the tribal nations who were gathered in that place. After this act of repentance, the clergy made the walk to the Water Protectors frontline.

The pipeline helicopter circled us all the time we were at the sacred fire. As we headed toward the front, the helicopter made smaller and smaller circles around us. One of the clergy asked a person from the camp if the helicopters were there all night.

“All day and all night,” was the answer. The clergy person responded that it must be very stressful. The answer was, “Very.”

When we reached the flatbed, which became the place from which many spoke, the helicopter began making smaller and smaller circles until it was over the speakers making it impossible to hear.

That’s when I noticed the drone. It flew close enough for the camera lens to be seen clearly from the ground. We seemed to have gained the concern of the police and the oil company, but not the attention

of the press.

There, at the frontline, we heard powerful testimonies, as well as prayers and scripture put to song. We confirmed that while we came from different faith traditions, we are one in our common support of the Sioux people and their right to their sacred sites, their water and their lives.

Atheists, Baha’i, Baptist, Buddhist, Catholics, Disciples of Christ, Druids, Episcopal, Jewish, Lutherans, Methodist, Muslim, Orthodox, Presbyterian, Unitarian, United Church of Christ, Wiccan and three more joined together on that day.

At one point, as we were singing, one of the Water Protectors started yelling words shaming the police for what they were doing. Another person from the tribe went to him and talked him down from his anger.

Hot heads exist in every group and the request was that if someone was not able to keep peaceful, prayerful, non-violent and lawful, others were to step in to cool down the situation.

There are even hotheads among the clergy.

Some wanted to take the

actions of civil disobedience. Fr. John told them that was their right but not on Sioux land. They were to remember that we were there by invitation only as long as we kept prayerful, peaceful, non-violent and lawful.

This group of clergy left after our gathering and went to the Capital in Bismarck. There, they demanded to talk with Governor Jack Dalrymple. When he would not come out of his office, 14 of them sat down in the entrance praying and singing and promising to stay until he would speak with them. The Governor closed the capital, calling this a dangerous situation even though the clergy had no weapons and were sitting in prayer and song. Exaggeration of situations is common in North Dakota.

Indeed, those 14 clergy in the building were arrested. This made the news. The 524 peaceful clergy, the elders burning the Doctrine of Discovery, the gathering under the surveillance of a drone and helicopter were given no coverage by the common press. Only denominational newspapers under-

Continued on next page

People can support water protectors by a visit

Continued from page 8

stood the significance and historic value of this day.

As we prepared to leave the camp, the question was asked how to be of most support going forward.

The answer was first, to pray, and second, to send money to the Standing Rock Tribe, which spends more than \$1,500 a day for the camp port-a-potties and trash removal, plus preparations for winter. Checks may be sent to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Attention: Donations, PO Box D, Building #1, North Standing Rock Ave., Fort Yates, N.D. 58538 or at standwithstandingrock.net/don.

Third, people can support the water protectors by going to visit, checking in upon arriving at the camp and letting people know why they are coming—to bring a donation, be an observer or join in prayers. The BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) police will escort away anyone who is not peaceful, prayerful, nonviolent and lawful.

No matter what happens next, tribes from all over the world have joined in support of the people at Standing Rock.

Indigenous nations that were enemies are now allies. This will not be turned back. Tribal people are finding their



Flags, banners, cars, teepees, and people are silhouetted by the rising sun.

Photos courtesy of Gen Heywood

strength in solidarity.

Through that unity, their voice is being heard around the world even when it is barely heard at home.

One day, I can imagine my grandchildren visiting the site of the camps and a tour guide

pointing out over the field and saying that this is where it all began.

For information, call 509-926-7173.

Ed Evans of Sequim joined clergy, people of faith and members of the Lower Elwha Klal-

lam tribe to gather on the banks of the Elwha River west of Port Angeles in solidarity with the Standing Rock water protectors. He reported a story for KSQM 91.5 FM radio in Sequim at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcAuqVgoHSM>.



Standing Rock Sioux have established a camp for water protectors to come to be in solidarity with their effort to stop pipeline.

N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs retreat and camp dates scheduled

Midwinter retreats are open for registrations. Junior High Midwinter at Pilgrim Firs will be Jan 6 to 8. Senior High Midwinter at Pilgrim Firs will be Jan. 13 to 15. These retreat will examine the intersection of faith and justice.

Bryan Sirchio, a nationally recognized songwriter, storyteller, author and UCC minister from Madison, Wis., is leading worship at the Pilgrim Firs Midwinter Retreats. He is a popular presenter at UCC youth events around the country, including National Youth Event and Regional Youth Events. He also leads mission trips to Haiti.

Bryan's music ministry has

been unfolding since he first had a Christian "conversion of sorts" at 17 and started writing songs expressing the insights and joy he experienced. His songs share about his experiences taking "the life and teachings of Christ to heart." He also incorporates biblical content pastors and parents want children and teens to learn.

He served two small UCC churches in northern Wisconsin for four years. He grew up in New Jersey and earned a degree in religion and psychology in 1980 at Duke and his master of divinity at Princeton in 1984.

For information, call 360-876-2031 or visit pilgrim-firs.org.



2017 N-Sid-Sen camp & retreat schedule:

Junior & Senior High Midwinter Retreat

March 10 to 12 - grades 6 to 12

April Clergy Post Easter Retreat

April 17 to 19

Women's Retreat - May 19 to 21

Work Camp - June 13 to 18

Young Adult - June 17 to 19

Kid's Camp - July 9 to 12

Rainbow Retreat

July 14 to 16

Intermediate Camp

July 30 to Aug 5

Senior High Aqua Camp

June 25 to July 1

Family Camp #1

July 23 to 29

Junior High Aqua Camp

July 30 to Aug 5

LIT Camp

July 30 to Aug 5

Family Camp #2

Aug. 7 to 13

For information, call 208-689-3489 email mark@n-sid-sen.org register at n-sid-sen.org

2017 Pilgrim Firs camp & retreat schedule:

Junior High Midwinter Retreat

Jan 6 to 8- grades 7-9

Senior High Midwinter Retreat

Jan 13 to 15 - grades 10-12

Men's Retreat - Jan 28 to 31

Work Camp - May 5 to 8

Young Adult Retreat

June 23 to 25

Kids Camp - June 25 to 28

Leaders in Training Retreat - July 16 to 22

Intermediate Camp

July 16 to 19

Junior High Camp

July 16 to 19

Work Camp June 16 to 19

Senior High Camp

June 25 to July 1

Kids Camp - July 10 to 13

Intermediate Camp

July 10 to 16

For information, call 360-876-2031 email wadezick.pf@gmail.com register at pilgrim-firs.org

It begins again. A new day. A new way.
The path awaits you. Calls you. Invites you.
And you hesitate. You pause a bit.
The early morning forest noises abound. That fresh day smell fills your lungs. Sunlight bounces off birds wings
In that moment you know the path is ready.
Ready for you to enter and immerse.
That first step is taken before you are aware
It begins at that moment.
A new day. Your day.
A new way. Your way.
You are on the path. Your path.
You invite others along.
The forest, the path and your life come alive.
It is good. You are good.

With photographs taken around N-Sid-Sen grounds on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Mark Boyd, managing director of that camp and conference center, reminds campers and those who come for retreats about this place of inspiration during the summer and year round. He also shares a sense of the spiritual value of the setting as a place to reflect, build relationships with creation, God and people.