



# Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

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September-October 2013

## Three agencies benefit from UCC interns

**Three interns, two new staff launch second year of Justice Leadership Program**

**By Lauren Cannon**

The 2013-14 Justice Leadership Program, affiliated with the United Church of Christ's Young Adult Service Communities, began its second year in the Pacific Northwest Conference with three new interns and two new staff members.

The interns moved into their apartment at All Pilgrims Christian in Seattle, were commissioned by their supporting congregations—Keystone, All Pilgrims and Plymouth—on Sunday, Sept. 15, and began work on Sept. 16 at their agencies, the Church Council of Greater Seattle, Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light, and the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance.

There will be a Welcome Potluck  
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Margie Quinn, Brianna Frenchmore and Karin Frank complete orientation and are ready to begin internships at social justice agencies in Seattle. They're pictured here outside the office of Earth Ministry, housed at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Photos courtesy of Kathryn Murdock

## *Synod delegates report on actions, people*

With many resolutions, decisions, speeches and worship services online at [ucc.org/synod](http://ucc.org/synod), the General Synod report by Tim Devine, conference moderator and pastor at St. Paul's UCC in Seattle, emphasized PNC people who attended.

Synod events included honoring the work of Carol Stanley of Eastgate UCC in Bellevue on Local Church Ministries, Chris Hanson of Peshastin on the Executive Council and Bing Tso of Plymouth on Wider Church Ministries as those boards end.

David Anderson of University and St. Paul's in Seattle was staff support to the committee process team.

Kevin Peterson of Wayside and Conference Minister Mike Denton were installed to the new UCC Board.

Darrell Goodwin represented Liberation UCC as it was officially welcomed with other new churches into the denomination.

Lisa Horst Clark of Bellevue First was at synod through the Pension Boards "20/30" young clergy program.

Caucusing as delegates were Nick CastroLang of Westminster in Spokane, Sophia Crapson of Ritzville, Dee Eisenharer of Eagle Harbor at Bainbridge Island, Bill Stanley of Eastgate in Bellevue, and Kristine and Leda Zakarison of Community Congregational in Pullman.

Tim participated in a pre-Synod workshop for current conference moderators and consulted with former moderators at Synod, including Kristine and Joanne Shockley of Ritzville.

Kathryn Murdock of University in Seattle shared her passion about being a Young Adult Service Community participant in a speakout.

Meighan Pritchard (Prospect/Seattle) was one of four speakers on the Mission 4/1 Earth initiative.

Megan Lee Osborn Snell, a seminary student introducing the offering to support UCC scholarships at the closing worship, said she is preparing for military chaplaincy and received the Clint Cannon scholarship.

Tim joined in a marriage equality rally with local people who had just learned courts had removed the last questions about overturning Proposition 8 in California and they could marry.

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# One camp season ends, plans for next begin

## Conference Comments



By Mark Boyd  
Managing Director  
N-Sid-Sen Camp &  
Conference Center

**Thank you to  
work campers  
directors,  
counselors,  
campers,  
quilters,  
and  
donors  
of all kinds!**

Well it has happened. By the time you read this all the summer campers will have packed up their belongings and headed for home. They will have brushed the trail dust off their clothes, squeezed the last gasp of air from their floatables and snuck “just one more” cinnamon roll for the road.

**Even as they pulled out of the drive**, we knew it was not possible for them to shake off the impact camp has had for them. The memories will continue long after the sunburns have faded. The relaxed atmosphere that came with every incredible sunrise will come back into focus at just the right time as life becomes real again.

One only needs close his or her eyes and breathe, and let the serenity that is N-Sid-Sen flow again.

**Yes, it’s possible to take a piece** of camp home, because camp is bigger than one person, one age group, one site. N-Sid-Sen is alive and thriving thanks to members of the Pacific Northwest Conference UCC churches.

With that in mind, I want to thank all those who helped make N-Sid-Sen all that it is. There is not space or words enough to be able to thank each and every person who needs to be thanked personally. Most folks who deserve a thank you, would simply shrug it off with “Ah, it was nothing. I didn’t really do anything special.” Or, “It needed to be done.” Or, “I am just doing what anyone else would have done.” My favorite is, “Thank me, no! Thank you for allowing me to come to this incredible piece of God’s greatness and give back a little bit. It is the most important week of my year.”

So, Thank You!

**Thank you to those who came** for Work Camp in June. With your help we remodeled the girls’ old bathhouse, put in trail lights to Syringa, built new picnic tables, installed windows in the craft room and Forrester Lodge fireside rooms, trimmed trails, put new room numbers on Spirit Lodge, sewed new aprons and did many other much needed tasks.

Thank you to those who came for the Director/Counselor retreat in June and built the new giant swing in the cove.

Thank you to those who came for Family Camp 1 and rebuilt and repainted the N-Sid-Sen

Cove sign, created the large Jenga game and built the new table for cabin 6.

Thank you to the quilters for providing new quilts for our beds.

Thank you to two young women from Plymouth Church for sending us a couple of new inner tubes to replace our rapidly depleting old tubes. Thank you to the folks from Plymouth who put the new dock bumpers on and tightened up the chapel benches.

**Even with all that amazing work** and gifts, there is still the most important thank you of all.

Thank you to each and every one of you who came to camp. Whether you were coming to camp yourself or dropping someone off, we so greatly appreciate it. Because of you and through you, our camps are here and doing well.

**Our camps are doing well.** They could be better, as could most things. We could use more folks at each camp. We could use more clergy at camps. We have plenty of space to play and plenty of room to relax. So come to camp!

Within the camps themselves there is always the question of how do we increase participation. That can best be done from within. I believe that it is by inviting your friends, neighbors, family members and of course those sitting next to you in the pews.

**Both Deeg Nelson at Pilgrim Firs and I would love to help out.** We can visit your church and talk it up. Just give us a call and say, “Hey come to our church!” Our camps grow when we share our delight and excitement.

**So the next time someone asks you** what you did this summer, tell them.

I mean really tell them. Tell you how much fun you had at camp. Tell them why camp is so important to you. Tell them what camp means to you, to your family and to your church. Tell them with all the excitement that you experienced at camp. Tell them about the laughter, the quiet evenings, the amazing sunsets and, of course, the food.

Then be sure to take your calendar out and check off the dates for next year. We don’t want to miss you.

Come to camp!

## Transitions announced

The new pastor in Richmond Beach UCC in Shoreline is **Paul Ashby**.

**Ken Johnson**, a PNC volunteer and member of The United UCC-Disciples Christian Church in Yakima, died in July. He served on the PNC-UCC Board of Directors as Southeast Area Representative from 2006 to 2013; the Eastside Committee on Ministry, Ministry Resources Committee, the Christian Life Service and Action Committee and as host to global partner delegates from Korea.

## Conference News Briefs

### Plymouth giving recognized

Plymouth Church in Seattle was recently lauded as a “5 for 5” in its basic support of Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) and the denomination’s four special mission offerings. This is a first for Plymouth. OCWM includes Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church and The Christmas Fund, per capita dues and gifts to the Conference, national setting or UCC-related institutions.

### Day of learning is Oct. 17

Seattle Children’s Pastoral and Spiritual Care Department is organizing a day of learning and discussion at Seattle Children’s Hospital on Thursday, Oct. 17, with Daniel Sulmasy, a friar, medical internist and ethicist. He has written books including “A Balm for Gilead” about spirituality in health care. **For information, email [cheryl.clarke@seattlechildrens.org](mailto:cheryl.clarke@seattlechildrens.org).**

### OWL sessions being planned

Two meetings are planned for South Puget Sound area churches interested in having youth join senior high “Our Whole Lives” sessions. The meetings are Monday, Oct. 28, at United Churches of University Place or Monday, Nov. 4, at Normandy Park UCC. The plan is to offer the program to 10th to 12th graders in three monthly weekend retreats beginning in January. **For information, contact Amy Johnson at 253-874-2084 or [amy@diligentjoy.com](mailto:amy@diligentjoy.com).**

### UCC video contest underway

The national UCC invites young adults, ages 18 to 35, to create a short videos, 60 seconds or less, expressing how their faith transforms, connects or touches the world. The deadline is Oct. 31. The creator of the video that earns the most votes on YouTube

will be awarded \$5,000 and national recognition on [ucc.org](http://ucc.org). **For information visit [www.ucc.org/videocontest](http://www.ucc.org/videocontest).**

### Heifer speakers available

Heifer International, which works to build a just and peaceful world, is offering guest speakers for worship, mission groups or Sunday school to tell of Heifer’s work on food security, women’s empowerment and sustainability, said Eliza Penick, community engagement coordinator for Heifer in Seattle and a member of Keystone UCC. She has seen Heifer’s work in Honduras, Nepal and Peru. **For information, call 206-547-5696 or email [eliza.penick@heifer.org](mailto:eliza.penick@heifer.org).**

### Turner Lectures is Oct. 7 to 9

The Turner Memorial Lectures, featuring Bonnie Bowman Thurston, will be presented by the Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Monday to Wednesday, Oct. 7 to 9, at Englewood Christian Church in Yakima. **For information, visit [disciplesnw.org/whats happening/turnerlectures.html](http://disciplesnw.org/whats happening/turnerlectures.html).**

### Lecture Series is Oct. 11 to 12

The Lecture Series of University Congregational UCC presents Gretta Vosper, founder of the Canadian Centre for Progressive Christianity, as its lecturer Friday and Saturday, Oct. 11 and 12. Her bestselling book, *With or Without God: Why the Way We Live Is More Important Than What We Believe*, calls the church to create communities grounded in values that promote the wellbeing of all life on the planet. She will speak on “AMEN—What Prayer Can Mean in a World Beyond Belief,” at 7 p.m., Friday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday. **For information, call 206-524-6255 or [lectureseries@universityucc.org](mailto:lectureseries@universityucc.org).**

### 2014 Festival of Preaching features 12 renowned preachers

The “Festival of Preaching – Northwest 2014,” sponsored by Congregational Leadership Northwest, will be held April 28 to May 1, 2014, at First United Methodist Church of Seattle, 180 Denny Way. Twelve renown preachers will share about “Preaching in a Post-Modern World.”

Preachers are Debbie Blue, Lillian Daniel, Anna Carter Florence, James

Forbes, Tony Jones, Scott Kisker, Jose Morales, Heidi Neumark, Rodger Nishioka, Flaming Rutledge, Melissa Skelton and Will Willimon. **For information, visit [www.festivalofpreachingnw.org](http://www.festivalofpreachingnw.org).**

### Youth Event will be in Seattle

Western Regional Youth Event 2014 on the theme, “Join the Great Commission! And be Sent Out—Through our Faith Into the City and Into the World!” will be held June 29 to July 3, 2014, at Seattle University. Registration opens this fall. Susan Andresen and Tara Barber are also recruiting a planning committee. **For information, email [susan.andresen@hotmail.com](mailto:susan.andresen@hotmail.com) or [barbertara@hotmail.com](mailto:barbertara@hotmail.com).**

### Women’s Retreat is Nov. 1 to 3

Northwest Regional Women’s Retreat X on “Celebrate the Joyful Journey, 1983 to 2013” will be held Friday through Sunday, Nov. 1 to 3, at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, Warm Springs Ore.

Da Vita McCallister, associate conference minister for Youth and young adults in the Connecticut Conference of the UCC, is keynote speaker. Workshops include spiritual energy, spiritual dance, sexuality, women’s health, geology/environment, liturgical art, finger drawing, memoir writing, spiritual discernment, grace, and Chakra balancing. **For information, visit [nrwr2013.eventbrite.com](http://nrwr2013.eventbrite.com).**

### Global Ministries sets training

To establish Global Ministries connectors in all UCC and Disciples churches, the Global Ministries Committee is holding a training session from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2, at Englewood Christian Church in Yakima. Jon Barnes executive of the national Mission Interpretation and Constituency Relationships, Mission Education and Interpretation in the Indianapolis, will lead the training. Connectors link congregations to the world, help their congregation become a Global Mission Church, share news and facilitate personal connections. **For information, visit <http://globalministries.org/get-involved/ministries-and-mission-interpreters/>.**

### Wayside open house is Sept. 29

Wayside UCC in Federal Way is inviting folks to stop by and see what they did in their “Stepping Ahead” renovation project now that it’s complete. They will hold an open house from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 29, at 2000 SW Dash Point Rd. **For information, call 253-838-0915 or visit [www.waysideucc.org](http://www.waysideucc.org).**

# UCC churches among sponsors of project

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and Celebration at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 25, at Keystone UCC, 5019 Keystone Pl. North in Seattle to welcome the interns and staff.

Following potlucks at 6:30 p.m., Justice Leadership classes begin at 7 p.m., Wednesdays at Keystone on Nov. 6.

“The Justice Leadership Program is ready to expand over the next five years to more congregations, agencies and areas. Next year we can place six to eight interns if we can find housing,” said Lauren Cannon, program director and recently called as associate pastor at Keystone UCC.

**This year’s interns are** Margie Quinn, a graduate of the University of Georgia who will serve at Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and with All Pilgrims; Briana Frenchmore, a Pacific Lutheran University graduate who will serve at the Church Council of Greater Seattle and with Plymouth, and Karin Frank from the PNC, serving at Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light and with Keystone UCC.

**Margie grew up** in Nashville, Tenn., attending Woodmont Christian Church. At the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga., she majored in women’s studies and minored in French. During college, she spent a semester studying development issues and perceptions of beauty in West Africa’s Cameroon. She served this summer as a Disciples Peace Fellowship peace intern, traveling to different U.S. summer camps and talking with youth about biblically-based peace.

She looks forward to explore what it means to “do justice” in a work and church setting.

Just before starting the program, she and her parents traveled to Ireland.



Kathryn Murdock

**Briana majored in** political science and global studies with an emphasis on social justice and development at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. While there, she spent one semester studying in Oaxaca, Mexico, and another semester in Nicaragua.

Growing up in Colorado Springs, Colo., she spent time with Catholic grandparents and served on Lutheran church retreats.

“I am excited to be immersed in a progressive faith community and explore how faith can motivate social and political action,” she said.

She sees this year with the Church Council of Greater Seattle as an opportunity to gain vocational clarity on integrating her interests and a career that addresses social injustice and inequality.

**Karin, a Seattleite** and graduate of the University of Washington, is Jewish, but a regular attendee at University Congregational UCC.

For two years, she studied at Vanderbilt Divinity School and recently returned from six months abroad, primarily in Bangladesh and Turkey, but also in China, Egypt, Greece and Israel/Palestine.

“I look forward to working



Elizabeth Dickinson

with Earth Ministry/Interfaith Power and Light, and the opportunity to engage with different faith communities, especially the Jewish community, on the environment,” she said.

**One new staff member is** Kathryn Murdock, who will serve as outreach organizer, following a year as a YASC intern last year.

Her role will be to inform Pacific Northwest Conference churches, colleges in the region and UCC colleges of this opportunity for young adults.

She is available to speak at congregations about the Justice Leadership Program.

**Elizabeth Dickinson will** serve as program manager and spiritual sojourner.

A member of University Congregational UCC, she has shared her passion for justice and extravagant welcome in many settings, especially UCC congregations and Seattle public schools.

Along with her work with the program, she helps teachers in a K-8 public school integrate social justice and earth care into curricula, service learning and classroom communities.

**For information, call 206-622-4865 or email kathryn.jlp@gmail.com.**



Margie Quinn



Briana Frenchmore



Karin Frank

## Dayton UCC becomes DSHS assisting agency

In June, First Congregational Church-United Church of Christ in Dayton, one of the Touchet Valley's oldest churches, became an assisting agency for people accessing Washington Connection, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) online benefit portal.

Following a site visit in June, the DSHS provided a grant to purchase portable computers and a portable scanner volunteers can use at the church or take to other sites in Columbia County.

"It's a slow process to re-educate people who are used to going to a DSHS office and applying in person," said the Rev. Marj Johnston, pastor, who is training volunteers to accompany people to apply online for food, cash and medical assistance; drug and alcohol treatment services; childcare services; changes of circumstances, and eligibility reviews.

"Applying online can be challenging and daunting, so church members and community members are learning the application process and what the website allows," she said. "We started slow over the summer to work out the quirks of the system."

Marj said she and the church are doing what they believe they can and should do to help people in need access the services they need.

Dayton, a community of 2,600 and the county seat, is one of two incorporated towns in the county.

The mobile computer/scanner will be available to go to different locations

in the county, but those who can are encouraged to come to the church, where volunteers are available to assist people from 1 to 4 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and by appointment 509-382-2471.

In summer, the demand has been slow, giving time for relearning the program. New volunteers are being recruited and trained.

"It doesn't take many people or much time to help remove barriers," Marj said.

The local Community Services Office for DSHS was closed in the summer of 2012. Since then, people have accessed services through a monthly visit of the DSHS Mobile Community Services unit, which will now come just quarterly, and through driving 30 miles to the DSHS

office in Walla Walla. That may be hard for someone holding two or three part-time jobs and no money for gas.

They can also use toll-free numbers, or go online on their own at home or at the library in Dayton, which has the icon for access set up on its computers.

First Congregational Church-UCC received a \$2,000 grant from the DSHS, out of \$450,000 available in Washington, to buy equipment to set-up a workstation to provide support for those who want or need assistance in the process.

The Washington Connection online benefit portal begins the process for individuals and families needing services. As state agencies are streamlined, the DSHS expects online access will be

the primary means for conducting their work in the future.

When the Affordable Care Act is implemented on Jan. 1, 2014, the DSHS will not handle Medicaid, so people will apply online for that through another online access point.

First Congregational UCC, with 100 members and 55 attending Sundays, has a tradition of being active in the community as a congregation and as individual members.

Marj, who began as pastor there in November 2011, has a background in human services that lends support to these kinds of opportunities.

"Most churches may be hands off based on separation of church and state, but this is a natural part of what I've done much of my career. It also fits in with the UCC approach of justice, inclusivity and accessibility," she said.

Marj worked with the Spokane Neighborhood Action Program and Shalom Ministries in Spokane, where she helped people access assistance. She also did that at a soup kitchen on the South Side of Chicago, while in seminary, and as a church administrative assistant in Silver Spring, Md. She also previously served meals to homeless people downtown while associate pastor at Westminster Congregational UCC.

First Congregational also hosts three AA groups, a new NA group and a grief support group for people who have lost jobs, health or loved ones.

"We are a welcoming place in the building and the community," she said.

She is present from 9 to 11 a.m., Thursdays, at a local bakery, where she has a discussion group on the issues of the day—Syria, gun control, children's safety and more. About six to 12 come.

**For information, call 509-382-2471 or email [pastormarj@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarj@gmail.com).**

**Laptop,  
portable scanner  
and volunteers  
open access  
to online  
applications  
for DSHS aid.**

## John Indermark collaborates on a resource for daily Advent activities

John Indermark, a writer and UCC minister living in Naselle, has teamed up with Sharon Harding, a Christian educator and writer who has worked in churches in Quebec and Alberta, to write *Advent A to Z*, a resource with daily ac-

tivities for families, individuals and groups.

They explore characters, themes and symbols that cast slightly different perspectives on Jesus' birth and God's promised realm. For each day from Dec. 1 to 26, they explore an

Advent-related word that begins with a successive letter of the alphabet with suggestions for activities from games to discussions, crafts to outreach projects, journaling to devotions.

John is the author of sev-

eral books, most recently *Way Words*, *The Greatest of These* and *Gospeled Lives*. He has written on a number of curriculum projects.

**For information, call 360-484-7291 or visit [www.abingdonpress.com](http://www.abingdonpress.com).**

# Pastors in London lend insights into life there

By Ed Evans

Almost 60 people gathered on Labor Day weekend at Fauntleroy UCC in West Seattle to share English afternoon High Tea with Ana and Tod Gobledale, mission associates with Global Ministries.

They are serving two congregations in London, England—St. Andrew's United Reformed Church Brockley and St. Michael's New Cross, a small congregation shared with St. James, a local Church of England congregation. St. Michael's meets in a community center on a housing estate.

They have been serving in London since 2010.

"Mission associate" is a designation given to a UCC or Disciple person who has been hired by and serves a church, ecumenical institution or project outside the United States in a ministry that is in accordance with the mission principles of Global Ministries.

The hiring church pays salaries of mission associates. Ana and Tod were not sent by Global Ministries, but were selected through the search process of the United Reformed Church of Great Britain, which Ana said strives to have a social witness in a predominantly secular society.

St. Andrew's is a diverse and global community. On a recent Sunday, 32 countries were identified as countries of origin for worshippers, the majority from the West Indies, mainly Jamaica. Members of the Board of Elders hail from Jamaica, Ghana, Nigeria and Malawi, and some are British born. She said the congregation celebrated the 50th anniversary of Jamaica's Independence in a big way last year.

It serves Brockley in various ways. Members recently organized a health fair in the church hall. The St. Andrew's Community Centre and Pre-



Ana and Tod Gobledale meet with about 60 gathered at Fauntleroy UCC to tell of work in England.

school serves as many as 1,000 people each week. The congregation is active with Citizen-sUK, an interfaith citizens action group representing unions, schools and faith groups.

Ana and Tod have found expression for their faith through political action events, such as protesting the announced closure of part of the local hospital. The protest started with about 500 people and swelled to more than 10,000. A year later, the hospital remained funded and functional.

Ana was the only Christian minister, to their knowledge, donning a cleric at this year's London Pride Day parade.

Since their arrival three

years ago, the Gobledales have celebrated 120 baptisms and more are lined up for monthly services through next March.

Before being called as co-pastors at St. Andrew's Church, Ana and Tod served as Global Ministries missionaries in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Australia. They also were interim co-pastors of Kirkland Congregational United Church of Christ east of Seattle.

"Mission in urban London looks different from mission in rural South Africa or Zimbabwe," said Ana. "Whether we are in rural Zululand, the plains of Eastern Washington, the heart of London or Seattle, it is our responsibility to hear

the cry of God's people and to witness to God's presence."

The Afternoon High Tea was hosted by the Global Ministries Committee, a combined team from the Pacific Northwest Conference UCC and the Northwest Region of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Tea hosts were the Fellowship Committee of the Fauntleroy United Church of Christ in West Seattle.

The Gobledales were briefly in the states to attend the ordination to the Christian ministry of their daughter, Thandiwe, on August 25 at First Christian Church in Greensboro, N.C.

**For information, visit [www.standrewsbrockley.co.uk/](http://www.standrewsbrockley.co.uk/)**

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## Carlos Madrazo retires from global service

Carlos Madrazo, Jr., received expressions of appreciation from Global Ministries Committee co-chair, Marvin Eckfeldt at a recent gathering in Seattle.

That committee of the PNC of the United Church of Christ and the Northwest Region of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) acknowledged and gave thanks for Carlos' life-long ministry as he returned from his recent Global

Missions assignment with the Protestant Church of East Timor and retired. While in the states, he was hospitalized with a heart condition, which required open-heart surgery.

Carlos began his service in 1958 and has done work in agricultural outreach, community development, served as a university professor and as consultant for church resource and management.

His 55 years of service

have taken him to Nepal, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Indonesia and East Timor.

He and his late wife, Silvercity, who died while he was in East Timor, also served a term as interim directors of the Yakama Indian Mission (Disciples of Christ) in Washington.

Carlos, a member at Bethany UCC in Seattle, has been a Global Mission Partner of the Northwest conference and region for 11 years.

## For semester of study at the Ecumenical Institute *Seattle University UCC student heads to Bossey*

By Marvin Edkfeldt

Linda Gasparovic, a fourth year student in the master of divinity program at the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University, has been awarded the Loren Arnett Ecumenical Bossey Scholarship for fall study at the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Institute at the Chateau de Bossey near Geneva, Switzerland. She left Sept. 8.

At Bossey, she will study ecumenical theological formation and education in a holistic program that combines academic research, cross-cultural learning through life in community, spiritual experience, and exposure to and encounter with people of different faith communities.

The ecumenical and inter-faith faculty at Bossey comes from various parts of the world. At the completion of her four months of study, she will receive the complementary certificate in ecumenical studies.

That program includes



**Carol Scott-Kassner, Mark Markuly, Monica Corsaro, Tim Devine, Linda, Michael Kinnamon, Marvin Eckfeldt, Loren Arnett and Sharon Nichols joined in a laying on of hands on Sept. 5.**

study of the history of the ecumenical movement, intercultural biblical studies, practical ecumenical theology and ecumenical study visits to the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy, Switzerland, the Vatican and Rome Italy, the Taizé Community in France and local Reformed Protestant parishes in Switzerland.

Professors include a Romanian Orthodox priest, a Presby-

terian professor of ecumenical missiology from North India, a social ethics and ecumenical theology professors from the Evangelical Church of Germany, a Roman Catholic priest from Nigeria, and an Independent Presbyterian from Brazil.

Linda, a UCC member, has served on the music ministry staff of Rainier Beach United Methodist Church. She has previously been a creative consultant and artist in marketing.

She and her husband, Paul Binneboese, live in Seattle, where they are members of Seattle's Liberation United Church of Christ.

The Arnett Ecumenical Scholarship honors the life and ministry of Loren Arnett, life-long Disciple whose commitments to the ecumenical vision and social justice reflect the heritage and values of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

He served as executive minister for Washington Association of Churches for 14 years. He also served five years as legislative director of Washington State Council of Churches, two years as general secretary of the council and as associate executive for the Christian Churches of Washington and North Idaho, as well as a congregational pastor.

Members of the PNC can follow Linda's experiences on her blog, "Service of Sending Forth" professor at [www.lis-tening4god.org/mysticmuse](http://www.lis-tening4god.org/mysticmuse).

## Clint Cannon's global ministries legacy carries on through gift

Ruth Cannon of Tacoma, has given \$100,000 to Wider Church Ministries (WCM) in memory of her late husband, Clint Cannon, who died on April 7, 2013.

The gift will form part of the Haystack Society, recently established by the outgoing board of WCM to support current and future ministries of WCM and Global Ministries. Clint would automatically have become a member of the Haystack Society, because he was a member of its predecessor, the Samuel J. Mills Society, and was an active advocate and generous donor to UCC global mission over many decades.

Growing up in Wisconsin, he remembered missionaries visiting his childhood home and

inspiring him with their mission stories. He enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II and made the military his career for 32 years. Tours of duty took him all over the world, from Germany and France, to Korea and Vietnam, with his last overseas assignment in Taiwan.

A graduate of the University of Illinois, he later earned two master's degrees and a doctorate. After his military career, he taught at several universities and retired in 1989 from the University of Puget Sound.

He was active in the national, conference and local UCC. In the Pacific Northwest, he served on the United Church Board of World Ministries, the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors and the Common

Global Ministries Board in the 1990s and 2000s. He was did mission interpretation in the UCC Western Region, serving as coordinator for a time. He participated in the PNC's UCC-Disciple Global Ministries Committee until the late 2000s.

Moved by the witness of military chaplains he knew over his career, Clint established the Cannon Endowment Fund with UCC Local Church Ministries in support of UCC members studying to be chaplains. He also endowed a scholarship with the PNC for clergy wishing to study for a doctorate. Clint gave to WCM/Global Ministries generously for many years, especially to emergency response through One Great Hour of Sharing, and global

mission through Global Ministries.

Clint had a vast knowledge and love of history, which led his wife Ruth and him to participate as re-enactors at Fort Nisqually Living History Museum in Tacoma, where Clint was "Chief Factor John Work" for many years. He also served on the boards of Tacoma Opera, Tacoma Philharmonic and Associated Ministries.

The Rev. James Moos, executive minister of WCM and co-executive of Global Ministries, appreciated Clint's deep commitment to God's mission and is grateful to his wife, Ruth, for providing this lasting legacy of Clint's faithful service and care through the Haystack Society.

## Lay leader emerges as pastor at Forks UCC church

For three years, Warren Johnson, who grew up in Forks and has been in First Congregational UCC since 1980, has been lay pastor of the church. Now he is working to be a licensed minister.

"The church was falling apart, needing a new roof, heat pump, windows, sheet rock, floors and more. All our money was going to keep a pastor, and that money was going fast," Warren said. "God called us to run the church ourselves."

Since then, those repairs have been made, a new sound system was installed, and "we're not done yet," he said.

Warren and two other parishioners started sharing pulpit duties. Since the others dropped off, Warren leads Sunday worship and does pastor duties 90 percent of the time. People in town know him and that he represents the church.

With 16 churches in Forks, a town of 3500, with 7,000 in a 15-mile range, he said, more churches are going to part-time ministers who hold other jobs.

Warren is a corrections officer at the Olympic Correctional Center 25 miles south of Forks. Before that, he worked in the woods industry, meat cutting, as teachers aide in basic skills classes and teaching computer classes at Peninsula College. He does maintenance, paints houses and loves to cook in his spare time.



Warren Johnson works on credentials for licensed ministry.

He is one of 27 members in a nondenominational men's fellowship called "Men in Action." They clean lots, paint buildings and do other chores for people. His goal is to have 100 involved in the group.

Like other congregations, Forks UCC serves more than its members—about 400 people—through Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Soroptimists, a preschool, Forks Grange, 12-step groups and Alcoholics Anonymous. Some with no church af-

filiation come to the church for their weddings and funerals.

The church, which started in 1902, built its present building in the center of town in 1955 when 75 men raised \$100,000 in a day to build it.

Members are involved in community volunteer work and are leaders in most organizations, he said. About 85 percent are involved in the food bank, clothing bank, senior luncheons, animal shelter and Sarge's Place.

Sarge's houses 16 families who come and go. Many come in from the woods now there is a shelter. About 10 stay in the common area, plus there are four units of transitional housing for families. Mentally ill stay there while they go back.

For the 79th year, the church will hold a Harvest Dinner on Oct. 18, serving 350 to 400 people for a period of more than three hours before the homecoming game.

"I subscribe to three websites to help me plan worship and sermons. God guides me and our church," he said. "Our covenant is to be God's church and to serve the community."

He said he has support from fellow ministers, Con and Judi Edwards, and Mark Miller.

"I have been called by the church to be a minister," he said, telling of applying to be licensed through the Church and Ministry Committee, writing why he feels called to ministry and what he believes about the sacraments.

He said he has been learning everything from piety to church history.

"I have never been happier or more faithful. I put God first in my life," Warren said. "I experience being a medium for God for the people. What a life of blessing after blessing it is."

**For information, call 360-374-9382 or 640-8239 or email [wrfork@hotmail.com](mailto:wrfork@hotmail.com).**

## Shared leadership leads Liberation, Eastgate to worship together

Eastgate Congregational UCC in Bellevue and Liberation UCC in Seattle shared in joint Sunday worship service during August.

Liberation UCC, one of the newest congregations to join the Pacific Northwest conference and Eastgate Congregational in Bellevue crossed racial, cultural and geographic boundaries to share together in worship and fellowship.

The congregations were

drawn together by the common thread that the Rev. Marsha Williams, who currently serves as the transitional pastor at Eastgate and is also part of the music ministry at Liberation.

"I jockey between the churches Sundays, so I thought it would be a great idea to bring them together," she said.

The Eastgate family hosted the gathering in their building. Liberation members, who normally worship at 1:30 p.m. in

Seattle, thought nothing of a morning commute to Bellevue to share with their UCC brothers and sisters, Marsha said.

"Smiles, hugs and hand-clapping were the order of the day as Eastgate members and musician provided the classical and more traditional aspects of worship, while the Liberation choir added its rousing gospel music style to the mix," she described.

The Rev. Darrell Goodwin-

Moultry, pastor of Liberation UCC, brought the morning message.

"We saw an opportunity to bring these two diverse church communities together, so we took it," said Marsha. "Everyone had a great time." The two churches plan to worship together again soon.

**For information, call 425-746-2411 or 317-332-3644 or email [mcwill007@yahoo.com](mailto:mcwill007@yahoo.com), [eastgateucc@hotmail.com](mailto:eastgateucc@hotmail.com).**

## Meighan Pritchard begins serving with national UCC

As of August, Meighan Pritchard was appointed for a term as the minister for environmental justice with the national office of the UCC. While continuing to reside in Seattle, she will travel around the country to speak and teach about environmental justice.

Meighan, who grew up at University Congregational UCC in Seattle and earned a master of divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion, serves as half-time interim at Prospect UCC in Seattle.

Among her tasks will be helping the UCC implement four General Synod 29 resolutions that relate to the environment: a call to support Outdoor Ministries; to stand against mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia—in the Pacific Northwest address coal exports; to make UCC church buildings more carbon neutral, and to address climate change by divestment and other strategies to challenge fossil fuel companies.

She canceled the summer Environmental Justice Retreat for lack of sign-ups. Another will be scheduled early in 2014.

Commenting on a major environmental concern in the Northwest, she reported that the Lummi Indian Nation in 2012 came out against coal trains and the proposed Gateway Pacific coal export terminal at Cherry Point in Bellingham.

The terminal would be built on the bay the Lummi Tribe has traditionally used for fishing and on land containing sacred burial grounds.

She added that changes in the demand for coal by China, the main market for coal exports, have also affected the plans. China is looking for cleaner sources of energy.

She encourages people to join the Totem Pole Journey.

“It’s important that the UCC support this effort,” said Meighan. “The environmental damage the coal trains and ex-



**Meighan Pritchard continues commitment to environment.**

port terminals would cause to our local environment would be significant. Damage to the world coal emissions cause is a prime cause of climate change.

“We need to support the Lummi Nation in opposing a coal export terminal on their sacred ground and sacred water of the Salish Sea (Puget Sound),” she said.

In 1987, leaders in Pacific

Northwest faith communities wrote an apology to the tribes for historical abuses by the churches, including forcing Indians to send their children to mission schools, forbidding children to speak their native languages, forbidding the practice of native religions and more. Former conference minister, the Rev. Jim Halfaker, was one of the signatories to

this apology.

“Having experienced so many broken promises from churches, the Indians wondered whether this apology was just pretty words or actually means something,” Meighan said. “If we stand with the Lummi in opposing the coal trains and coal export terminals, we show that we honor our words. We also pledged to do that when we passed a resolution at our 2013 annual meeting.”

The Army Corps of Engineers’ comment period on a proposed coal export terminal at Longview is part of the fight to keep coal in the ground. The period runs through Nov. 18, 2013, with hearings Sept. 17 in Longview; 7 p.m., Sept. 25, at the Spokane Convention Center, Oct. 2, at the Trac Center in Pasco, Oct. 9 at Clark County Fairgrounds in Ridgefield; Oct. 17 in Tacoma Convention Center and Oct. 19 in Vancouver. Comments may be submitted at [millenniumbulkeiswa.gov/](http://millenniumbulkeiswa.gov/).

**For information, call 206-370-4142, email [pritchardm@ucc.org](mailto:pritchardm@ucc.org) or visit [coaltrainfacts.org](http://coaltrainfacts.org).**

### Lummi invite others to join Totem Pole Journey

The Lummi Nation has carved a totem pole called Kwel’hoy—“we draw the line”—expressing their opposition to the proposed coal terminal at Cherry Point near Bellingham on the sacred land they call Xwe’chi’eXen.

Beginning Sept. 18 on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana, leaders from the Lummi Nation and other tribes affected by coal mining and export will travel 1,500 miles on a Totem Pole Journey, a journey of blessing and protection along the rail line from the coal fields of Wyoming and Montana to Southwest British Columbia, where the totem pole will stand guard over sacred lands.

Faith, environmental, and civic leaders are joining them in ceremonies at stops along the way. There are ceremonies at 10 a.m., Sept. 18 at Otter Creek; at 3 p.m., Sept. 19 in Missoula, at 11 a.m., Friday, Sept. 20, at Havermale Point 507 N. Howard in Spokane; at 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 23, in Portland; at noon,

Tuesday, Sept. 24, at Tivoli Fountain, Capitol Campus in Olympia; at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 25, at St. Leo Church in Tacoma; at 5 p.m., Friday, Sept. 27, at Xwe’chi’eXen, and on Sunday, Sept. 29, at Tsleil-Waututh in British Columbia.

The Lummi have a tradition of carving and delivering totem poles to areas struck by disaster or in need of hope and healing.

“It is our turn to repay a tiny portion of the debt we owe,” said Jessie Dye, program and outreach director of Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light, encouraging the faith community to participate.

The largest coal export terminal in North America, proposed at Xwe’chi’eXen, would destroy Lummi burial grounds, holy sites, treaty rights, fisheries and—with fishing the basis of Lummi life—the spirit of the people.

**For information, call 206-632-2426 or visit [www.totempolejourney.com](http://www.totempolejourney.com).**

## PNC people visible among 3,000 at General Synod

Continued from page 1

Bill Stanley, fourth-time attendee and first-time delegate, appreciated pondering issues behind the 17 resolutions.

“I could support some without hesitation, but some made me pause to consider the ramifications of where they would lead,” he said.

Resolutions included divesting from fossil fuel companies, protesting mountaintop removal coal mining, opposing bullying in any setting, repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery that led to genocide of Native Americans, resisting efforts to undermine the status of women, supporting Outdoor Ministries, supporting church buildings being carbon neutral, restructuring conference boundaries, addressing drug-related gang violence in Honduras, supporting compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform, advocating tax reform, providing care and healing to veterans, advocating funds to build quality and affordable housing, recognizing Samoans as a Historically Underrepresented Group and a member of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries, and calling for an all-church offering to support educational expenses of a member in discernment preparing for authorized ministry in the UCC. Texts are at [ucc/org/synod/resolutions](http://ucc/org/synod/resolutions).

Milling around 3,000 UCC members Bill said he felt a “sense of the power and faithful determination of this denomination, listening to our still-speaking God.”

Dee Eisenhauer, synod delegate and pastor at Eagle Harbor UCC on Bainbridge Island, found theological reflections by Rita Nakashima Brock and Quin Caldwell “stimulating, prophetic and encouraging” and the artistry in worship services “stunning” with the interplay of light, photos, dancers and technology.



**Conference Minister Mike Denton is sitting with the Pacific Northwest delegates at Synod, top.**

**Bing Tso, who just finished a term with Wider Church Ministries, speaks before Synod, right.**



“It was inspiring to experience a 21st century vibe in worship,” she said.

She found Synod had a family reunion feeling as she encountered people who served in the PNC in the past, and speakers and leaders at PNC conferences and events.

Dee was moved by the passion of young adults from

Montana concerned about the impact of divestment from fossil fuel on miners in their state.

“While I didn’t agree with their viewpoint, I was impressed by their courage and faithfulness at such a young age,” she said. “I’m proud of a church whose ethic so often supports going against the tide of popular opinion.”



**Darrell Goodwin of Liberation UCC holds center ‘A’ in theme.**

Photos courtesy of United Church of Christ Photos - [flickr.com/photos/7724093@N05/](http://flickr.com/photos/7724093@N05/)

Bing Tso, a member of Plymouth Seattle and former chair of the Wider Church Ministries Board, joined a pre-synod consultation with religious leaders from around the world discussing global migration at Centro Romero near the U.S.-Mexican border.

“We are not alone among nations, unfortunately, in the injustice and militarization of our borders,” he observed.

His wife, Janet Gwilym, met with others active in immigration issues and wants to set up a UCC-wide network of support and information-sharing—[janetgw@uw.edu](mailto:janetgw@uw.edu).

Bing participated in the last steps to put unified governance—with one board, rather than several—in place at the national setting. He hopes a more nimble, coordinated board will serve the UCC better.

He was pleased to see funding mechanisms spring forth—such as the Testimony Fund for new and renewing churches, and the Haystack Society for wider mission globally and locally.

As his term with WCM ended, he savored conversations with UCC friends, new and old, from around the country and the world, aware he will miss this extended family.

This General Synod was Nick CastroLang’s third one, second as a delegate. He found it less stressful than the last one, when delegates voted to change the national UCC structure.

He enjoyed renewing contact with people.

Nick, a member of Westminster UCC in Spokane, said that part of the reason he is majoring in political science at the University of Idaho in Moscow is because the UCC cares about social justice.

“The church gave me direction when I was unsure what I wanted to do,” he said.

**For information, call 206-725-8383.**