



# Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

Mary Stamp, editor  
editor@pncuccnews.org

325 N. 125th St. - Seattle WA 98133 • (206) 725-8383 or (800) 954-8777 or (509) 535-1813

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## Churches organize a Port Toxic Tour

The word “toxic” did not deter 16 members of Fauntleroy and Admiral UCC churches in West Seattle from signing up for the Port Toxic Tour in mid-March.

Lay leaders and pastors worked with Puget Sound Sage to organize this tour of their backyard. In preparation for this event community organizer Samantha Keller of Puget Sound Sage gave presentations in both churches on Sundays in February.

As participants gathered on March 16 at Admiral, Fauntleroy member Lee-Anne Beres of Earth Ministry gave an overview of UCC engagement in environmental justice for 50 years and of religious values that drive our concerns.

The “tourists” then boarded a bus that had been arranged by Puget Sound Sage, and Keller and Genevieve Aguilar of Puget Sound Sage led a three-hour tour through the Port of Seattle and its adjacent areas. *Continued on Page 4*



Puget Sound Sage staff lead 16 from Fauntleroy and Admiral UCC on Port Toxic Tour.

Photo courtesy of Kendall Baker

## Annual Meeting offers decisions on resolutions

The 2013 Pacific Northwest Conference UCC Annual Meeting on “Reflect: We are justice seekers called to embody our faith” will be held Friday through Sunday, April 26 to 28, at the Wenatchee Convention Center, 121 N. Wenatchee Ave.

Along with consideration of resolutions and the budget, and election of leaders during the business meeting, there will be workshops, worship, fellowship and keynote presentations by the Rev. Linda Jaramillo, executive minister of the national UCC Justice and Witness Ministries.

Resolutions coming before the Annual Meeting include Support for Outdoor Ministries of the UCC submitted to General Synod 29, Urging Divestment

**Annual Meeting  
2013  
is April 26 to 28  
in Wenatchee.**

from Fossil Fuel Companies as submitted to GS 29, Support of American Roman Catholic Women Religious, Opposition to Construction of Coal Export Terminals and Transport of Coal via Trains, and a Change in the PNC Fiscal Year.

The support for outdoor ministries calls for recognition of long-term consequences to youth and future church

leaders when considering closing a UCC camp or center.

The call for divestment from fossil fuel companies would stop new investment and end current investment in five years, informing companies and leaders of other religious traditions and organizations. The goal is to reduce use of fossil fuels in order to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

The resolution of witness in support of American Roman Catholic Women Religious is rooted in the desire to support ARCWR in face of “unjust scrutiny by the Vatican.” It offers prayers of support and solidarity that their ministries may continue unimpeded, celebrates their fruitful works and honors their

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# Could we partner to open conversation on guns?

## Conference Comments



By The Rev. Mike Denton  
Conference Minister

*Might the religious community create a table for conversation on guns?*

Since the Newtown shootings, the debate on guns and gun ownership has taken on a new sense of urgency. Arguments most frequently highlighted—although more passionate than usual—have fallen into two predictable, competing liturgies that similar tragedies call forth. Forgive me for these short, if not stereotypical, generalizations of the predictable litanies.

**On one side, some are genuinely certain** the current tragedy was a result of lax laws that allow an easy path towards unregulated gun ownership and that instituting controls over the guns and gun accessories available will help limit gun ownership and gun violence. The limits to gun ownership most frequently emphasized are related to more extensive background checks and limits on what sort of weapons and gun accessories should be sold. Some reciting this litany also add a call for bans on some kinds of weapons currently owned.

On the other side others are genuinely certain gun ownership is a right that should be protected and any attempt to limit gun or gun accessory ownership is an erosion of that right, so any limits need to be resisted. The right to own a gun is often coupled with a sense that this is a vital means of self-protection, as well as concern that because criminals can get a gun illegally, limits would hinder only law abiding citizens. Some reciting this litany also believe unregulated gun ownership and unregulated paths to ownership are important deterrents to government overreach and are tools to resist tyranny.

**Over my 45 years, the two litanies** have stayed much the same. There are new things added along the way and occasional compromises that swing one way or the other but, for the most part, they haven't changed. Those seen as liberal are assumed to recite one and those seen as conservative are assumed to recite the other. Voting blocks and funding sources help reinforce the positions. Sometimes, those who want to reinforce their own base cynically pander to either to ensure their position. Those who speak these litanies are lauded as swimming against the current by those who agree or cowardly folding by those who disagree.

**I've hesitated to wade into this conversation.** Arguments on each side are so intense they have their own gravitational pull. That said, I've wondered if the religious community might be able to create a table for conversation on gun ownership to come at it from a different place. Before I suggest anything here, let me say a little bit about my own experiences with guns. The only gun I have is a non-functioning antique that is a family heirloom. I've fired a gun once at a target.

I've had a few friends, parishioners and acquaintances shot, even killed. Not long ago, a close friend shot himself. When I lived in Dayton, Ohio, it was the per capita murder capital of the U.S. off and on. A

community group I was in went to sites of every murder and held services of prayer and healing with and for those affected. I've lived in communities where gunfire is a regular or occasional part of the soundscape. I've worked with youth and young adults who owned guns as an accessory and were willing to use them in a way they believed was practical but also frighteningly casual.

I've also known some responsible gun owners. I have respect for those who have grown up with guns as tools for feeding their families and who deeply understand the responsibility of gun ownership. I have known some who, because of their stance on one issue or another, genuinely and sincerely believed purchasing a weapon was the best way to protect themselves and those they loved. I have known many who are genuinely concerned about government overreach, as well as possible civil upset, and see gun ownership as both a respectable, honorable decision. I have known gun owners who are very cautious about access to guns in their homes and have many safeguards in place to protect others from accidental or rash shootings.

**How might we design a table** to have conversations around guns and gun ownership? Could the religious community help establish a table where we could talk about what it might mean to build a culture of ethical gun stewardship? For some "ethical," "gun ownership" and "stewardship" are concepts that don't mix at all. For some gun owners and some gun advocates, the current gun culture is just fine as it is. Some with those opinions may not want to participate. For many of us, however, this might be just the conversation we've been hoping for.

What if gun owners and gun sellers could share the gravity and responsibility of gun ownership and use with those who are considering gun ownership? What if standards like the Just War Theory were developed and taught to create an ethical framework around when and how guns might be used? What if gun owners and non-gun owners developed partnerships that teach and promote alternatives to violence for solving conflicts so gun use is minimized? Could there be agreement someone's gun ownership should be limited based on past behavior or mental capacity? Could a culture arise when, after the unethical use of a gun, gun owners and non-gun owners could develop common solutions based on concepts of ethical gun stewardship? Could a culture develop so when someone is in mental distress, it would be normal for someone to hold onto the person's guns for a while?

**As the church, we do have, deep in our DNA,** both the responsibility and experience of inviting others to a table. Might this be a place we could partner with our religious sisters and brothers to create a new table and conversation together?

## Transitions announced

**Bob Evans** is concluding his ministry at Wallace/Osborn and beginning a new church in Sand Point, Idaho.

**David Krueger-Duncan** will be installed May 5 at Cheney UCC.

**Mary Jane Elliott**, who retired in 1996 as head nurse in the nursery at Swedish Hospital, died Jan 14. She is survived by her husband Del, a retired minister.

**Don Hanson**, husband of conference moderator Chris, died March 2 in a skiing accident at Scottish Lakes High Camp, which he and Chris have owned and operated.

## Lecture series set

The Lecture Series of University Congregational UCC in Seattle will feature Thomas Reynolds, associate professor of theology at Emmanuel College in the University of Toronto, speaking Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3 and 4, at the church, 4515 16th Ave NE in Seattle, on "Outside Inclusion: A Care-Ful Hospitality in the Church." He will explore Christian engagement with diversity in a global context, promoting hospitality and reconciliation among people.

To prepare for the lectures, UCUC is hosting a discussion group on disabilities and faith communities at 7 p.m., Tuesdays, April 16, 23 and 30, at the church.

**For information, call 206-524-6555, ext 3447 or visit [www.universityucc.org/events/LectureSeries/lectureintro.html](http://www.universityucc.org/events/LectureSeries/lectureintro.html).**

## UCC Musicians Assn. meets

The national United Church of Christ Musicians Association Conference on "Worship and Music on the Edge" will be held July 14 to 17 at Plymouth Congregational UCC in Seattle. The early registration deadline at [uccma.org](http://uccma.org) is April 15. It's the first time the event for musicians and pastors has been held on the West Coast.

**For information, contact Linda Brindle, conference co-chair at 360-448-7531 or 509-953-3575.**

## Angela Ying speaks at Princeton

The Rev. Angela Ying, senior pastor of Bethany UCC and 1991 graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, will be the preacher and pastor-in-residence for Princeton's Joe Engle Institute of Preaching July 21 to 26. The event is for pastors in ministry three to seven years, to strengthen preaching for pastors in city, suburbs, small towns and rural communities.

**For information, call 609-497-7990 or visit [ptsem.edu/engle](http://ptsem.edu/engle).**

## Young adult mission trip to South Korea set in June

The Global Ministries Committee of the PNC and Northwest Region of the Disciples of Christ welcomes a nine-member delegation from the East Seoul Presbytery May 13 to 17, including a 20th anniversary dinner celebration of the partnership at a 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 15, at Normancy Park UCC.

The committee has three youth delegates and two adults, and is still recruiting for the Youth Exchange Visit to South Korea from June 17 to 26, 2013.

**For information, email [edevans@aol.com](mailto:edevans@aol.com).**

## Camp hosts Environmental Justice Workshop in July

Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center near Port Orchard will be the site of another train-the-trainer national UCC Environmental Justice Workshop from noon, Friday, July 19 to noon Sunday, July 21.

Participants will discuss how people of faith can work for environmental justice and can create Martin Luther King Jr.'s beloved community that is sustainable, healthy and inclusive. Participants explore five themes of a faith approach to environmental justice: gratitude, humility, responsibility, justice and community.

They will tour lower Duwamish River neighborhoods to see how air and water pollution have impact on communities and what steps communities are taking. The workshop is co-sponsored by the PNC and the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries.

**For information, contact Jim Deming at [demingj@ucc.org](mailto:demingj@ucc.org) or Meighan Pritchard at [meighan.pritchard@gmail.com](mailto:meighan.pritchard@gmail.com).**

## Pride marches announced

Jack Johnson, co-chair of the Pride Committee and member of the Conference Justice and Witness Ministries Committee has announced upcoming Pride events.

There will be a benefit for the UCC, Disciples, Metropolitan Community Church Pride Committee at a Cinco de Mayo Lunch at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, May 5, at All Pilgrims in Seattle.

The Capital City Pride Weekend in Olympia is June 22 and 23. The Capitol Hill Pride Saturday is June 30.

Seattle Out and Proud will be held Sun-

day, June 20. Out in the Park Tacoma Pride is July 13.

**For information, call 253-576-6260.**

## Camps gear up for summer

With the "All things New" curriculum for all summer camps, Mark Boyd, managing director at N-Sid-Sen, said campers and counselors will seek God in each moment through new friends and new adventures.

N-Sid-Sen camp dates are Work Camp, June 17 to 22; Director/Counselor Camp, June 21 to 23; Kids Camp,

July 7 to 10; Intermediate Camp, July 7 to 13; Senior High Camp, July 14 to 20, Family Camp 1, July 28 to Aug. 3; Junior High Camp, Aug. 4 to 10, and Family Camp 2, Aug. 11 to 17.

Pilgrim Firs dates are Work Camp, June 10 to 16; GLBTQ Spiritual Retreat, June 1 to 3; Kids Camp, July 21 to 24; Intermediate Camp, July 14 to 20; Senior High Camp, June 30 to July 6; Junior High Camp, July 7 to 13 and Family Camp, Aug. 18 to 22.

Registration is on the UltraCamp Site, available by clicking "register for camp" on the [n-sid-sen.org](http://n-sid-sen.org), [pilgrimfirs.org](http://pilgrimfirs.org) and [pncucc.org](http://pncucc.org) websites. There is an early-bird discount for registering three weeks before a camp. Deeg Nelson, managing director at Pilgrim Firs, is on sabbatical this spring.

**For information, call Boyd at 800-844-3489.**

## Leadership Retreat is May 17-19

The Leadership Retreat, which is free for people on conference committees, is from 1 p.m., Friday, May 17 to Sunday breakfast, May 19 at N-Sid-Sen.

**To register, visit <https://ultracamp.com/clientlogin.aspx?idCamp=367&campCode=nss>.**

## UCC seeks scarves for GS29

Scarves knit, crocheted or woven in rainbow colors to symbolize opposition to bullying—especially against those of lesbian, gay, bisexual or other sexual orientations—will be brought to the UCC General Synod 29 to be given to people who promise to do something to stop bullying.

PNC members can bring scarves to the Annual Meeting in Wenatchee to be taken to Long Beach to help meet the goal of 3,000 scarves for the UCC Scarf Project.

## Conference News Briefs



# A few tweaks can improve remote meetings

Last spring, the Pacific Northwest Conference purchased a video camera and laptop used at the 2012 Annual Meeting and to be used again this year to communicate with those present and who cannot come through blogging, live streaming video and live feeds.

“We don’t yet have mechanisms in place to use the equipment as we would like to use it for video conference and live streaming other events,” said Jim CastroLang, pastor at First Congregational UCC in Colville and a volunteer assisting with PNC technological communication.

He, John Eisenhauer of Eagle Harbor in Bainbridge Island and others covered the 2012 Annual Meeting with the equipment.

“**Effective use** of PNC’s equipment to involve people in remote sites requires more staff and planning,” CastroLang said.

PNC committees now use a combination of Skype, Go-to-Meeting and conference calls to include people unable to be at meetings. The quality of those connections varies with the quality of internet connections.

Video quality on Skype can range from clear to blurry.

“We need people trained to share using these technologies and to facilitate meetings with some in a room and some remote,” CastroLang said.

He said if people participating in committee meetings on conference calls sit quietly and listen, no one knows they are there, CastroLang said, because no one sees them.

“**We are in the midst** of cultural transition in using this technology,” he said. “Some day, video conferencing will work as well as if people are in the same room.”

CastroLang said the national UCC purchased video-conferencing equipment to connect people at the Justice and Witness Ministries Office in Washington, D.C., at Franklin Center and at the national office in Cleveland, Ohio.

“Its sophisticated video camera senses motion and voice, and moves to focus it,” he said, adding that staff need to know how to operate it.

“Most businesses use Go-to-Meeting software and train users in different sites,” he explained. “Still, 90 percent



John Eisenhauer used PNC’s new video camera at the 2012 Annual Meeting where it was to live stream the program.

## Port tour stirs members to act to promote environmental justice

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ing neighborhoods. The area straddles Seattle’s only river, the Duwamish, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Superfund site.

“We were challenged to see the human cost of distributing material goods,” said Kendall Baker, member of Admiral who helped to organize this event.

“We saw justice issues on pollution from diesel fumes emitted by idling semi-trucks and from storm water flowing through scrap metal yards into the river. We learned about

exploitation of immigrant contract workers whose low-pay, high-risk work is to haul shipping containers from the port to trains or warehouses.”

West Seattle neighbors of the port, one of the largest in the nation, experience the impact of environmental injustices. Church members will follow up with advocacy on “the close-to-home environmental issues,” Baker said, “giving new meaning to Not in My Back Yard.”

**For information, call 206-568-5000 or email [kcbseb@earthlink.net](mailto:kcbseb@earthlink.net).**

of communication is one-way, with a leader presenting in a lecture style. It works best if those watching turn their mikes on and off, when they are speaking or not.”

**CastroLang participates** in a Tuesday lectionary study of an Ohio Disciples minister who has college or seminary professors share biblical expertise.

“When we want to talk, we use the chat function and write in our comments or questions,” he said. “The software lets there be 16 on the video.”

He explained that there’s need for a cultural shift, because people do not act the same as they would if everyone was in the same room.

With most people in one room and the rest elsewhere, there may be issues of inclusion and exclusion, he pointed out.

**He offers suggestions** to help committees improve their experience at meetings where some people connect remotely:

- In using a speaker phone, it’s important for those who are not talking to mute their microphones, so extraneous noises—washing dishes, a dog barking, someone talking in the back-

ground—do not interrupt and distort the sound.

- Distortion can also be prevented by those connecting remotely using headphones.

- A good internet connection also makes a difference.

- To improve the quality of video, the camera or computer with a video needs to be placed so people are in good lighting with no back lighting or people’s faces are not clear.

- Those connecting remotely should sit two to three feet back from the computer video to give some space for background content and depth.

- Wide-angle lenses can be added to the computer’s video lens, plugged in to the USB connection, so everyone at a meeting is visible.

“**Many little things add up** to build a better experience for meeting-goers,” CastroLang explained. “Every year improvements in technology make it easier.”

Limited staff and turnover on committees make it hard to implement the full communication plan, he explained.

For information, call 509-998-7203.

## Spirit of Peace UCC children will soon plant P-Patch

In early and mid-May, children of Spirit of Peace UCC in Sammamish will turn over the cover crop on two 4 x 16 foot plots that are in the Flatlands Community Garden in Issaquah and will plant their P-Patch for the fourth year.

The children are already asking when they will start planting. The parents appreciate watching their children be involved.

Other gardeners in the Flatlands Community Garden rent their plots, but Spirit of Peace uses the land for no charge, because they donate their produce to the Issaquah Food Bank.

Last year, Wally Prestbo, a church member and master gardener who oversees the project, said they donated 226 pounds of food.

**“The garden educates** the children about what happens when they put seeds in the ground and later harvest it to give to the food bank,” he said.

From the 60-member congregation, about 12 to 15 children, aged five to 15 years old, help with planting, tending and harvesting.

The garden is in downtown Issaquah nearly four miles from the Pike Lake Community Center where Spirit of Peace meets for worship. Members are from both Issaquah and Sammamish.

For 18 years, Prestbo has been a master gardener with the King County Master Gardeners. He volunteers in Bellevue at a demonstration garden



Wally and Marilyn Prestbo with the Spirit of Peace UCC's P-Patchers David Kutas, Isabella Mohn, Josh Wentzien, Mason Averill, Luke Wentzien, Mackenzie Avrill, Hanna Kutas, Alexandra Mohn and Juliana Koepping.

Photo courtesy of Wally Prestbo

where he is in charge of growing tomatoes.

He also has his own two-acre garden for his wife and him, for other family and for sharing food with the food bank. He grows vegetables, ornamental trees and berries.

Prestbo grew up on a five-acre farm in Spokane Valley, and helped his father grow tomatoes and corn. He eventually settled in Sammamish 21 years ago and eventually became involved with Spirit of Peace.

**“The P-Patch is one** of our missions. Because of my experience gardening, I took it on as an educational opportunity and as a mission to support the food bank,” Prestbo said.

The garden produces let-

tuce, spinach, sugar snap peas, tomatoes, radishes, broccoli, cabbage, zucchini, cucumbers, kale, beans and potatoes, the last grown in a garbage can.

**He teaches the children** how to plant the seeds, stake tomatoes, weed and water. They go about two times a month on Sunday afternoons from May to August. When the food ripens, they go every week to harvest.

Prestbo said that the church's garden and his own are “strictly organic.”

As a master-gardener, he is aware of the detrimental effects of chemical pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

**“I use just organic** fertilizer and water. It's the way we grew food in the Spokane Val-

ley. It's the better way to farm and grow food,” he said.

“In some cases, chemicals get into the food source and also leach into the ground water, into wells, streams and nearby lakes from people who fertilize their lawns and gardens,” he said. “There is no need for home gardeners to use chemicals used by agri-business growers.

**“There is no need** to use chemicals to kill insects. There are few insects in the area, and insecticides affect bees, which we absolutely need to have to pollinate fruit and crops,” he explained.

**For information, call 425-391-6599 or email [tomatoplanter@comcast.net](mailto:tomatoplanter@comcast.net).**

## Resolutions, workshops cover variety of issues

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ministries “just as they are.”

The call to oppose coal export terminals and coal trains from Montana and Wyoming to the terminals puts the PNC on record with requesting a comprehensive environmental impact statement for all five proposed terminals. It calls congregations to work with

elected officials, Earth Ministry, Sierra Club and others to pursue cleaner energy, and to help members examine their energy consumption and to join in education, advocacy and action.

One resolution calls for changing the PNC fiscal year from January to December, to June to May, beginning June

1, 2014, to align the budgetary cycle with Annual Meeting.

There will be workshops on environmental justice, funding ministry, small churches, civic responsibility and faith, music as a wake-up call, multiplying UCC faith communities, integrating art in worship, tools for youth and young adult ministries, wellness in ministry,

coal exports, relationships in church, transitioning seminarians, global mission in four areas, UCC 101, embodying faith and young-adult justice interns.

The Affinity Group time is 7:45 to 10 p.m., Saturday, and may be arranged with Arlene Hobson.

**For information, call 206-725-8383 or visit [pnucc.org](http://pnucc.org).**



## Magnolia earns Energy Star rating, educates neighbors

Magnolia UCC's Facilities Committee has helped the church gain an Energy Star rating by making more than 80 percent of recommended energy-efficiency upgrades to its facility.

A few years ago, the Seattle church voted to be a "greening congregation" with Earth Ministry, but did little to live into that commitment.

Four years ago, the church went through a period of re-evaluation about "who we were as a church," said community life director Scott Ward, who has worked with committee chairs Virginia Mason and Roger Seeman on the upgrades.

Then the 140-member church rewrote its mission and vision statements, deciding to live into being a greening congregation and starting community education programs.

**"We redid** our insulation, rebuilt our roof, and retrofitted our lighting after evaluating our energy use," he said. "We upgraded the sprinkler system in our front yard and installed low-volume toilets."

The church made the improvements over several years. Because the City of Seattle has different programs, they applied for various rebates and paid only \$3,000 of an \$8,000 bid to redo the lighting. The roof had a leak, so insurance covered rebuilding it.

**"We are starting to see** savings in our electric bills from the upgrades," Ward said. "The new lighting will pay for itself over two years."

The church decided to upgrade the furnace blowers but keep its old furnace, maintaining it until it wears out. The building was created in two sections—the sanctuary and offices, built in 1946, and the community hall and classrooms, built in 1965, which are heated separately.

**The education programs—**



Magnolia UCC has redone its roof, insulation and lighting, qualifying for rebates. Photo courtesy of Magnolia UCC

first monthly and now quarterly—bring speakers, films and panel discussions to draw members of the church and community into conversations on issues of society and life, from stopping gun violence to child-rearing being pushed to achieve.

**Sometimes 40 come,** sometimes 300. Usually about 20 percent are church members and 80 percent community members—depending on the topic.

Other recent topics have included bullying, human trafficking, domestic abuse and

homelessness. Two recent films and discussions have been on "Food, Inc.," about processed food, on "Vanishing of the Bees," and on the impact of coal trains.

**"Church is not just** about what happens on Sunday mornings, but also about two hours on Friday evenings engaging with the community," he said.

Although Magnolia is a small congregation, Ward, a member for nine years, said he is overwhelmed with the dedication of members who support

the church financially and who regularly share in doing the work on the building.

After leaving the Catholic, in which he grew up, he didn't expect to be involved in a church until he met the UCC and joined Magnolia nine years ago. He has served two years in his part-time position. Ward, who has lived in Seattle 23 years, worked many years as an contemporary oil painter.

**For information, call 206-283-1788 or email [scott@magnoliaucc.org](mailto:scott@magnoliaucc.org).**

## Monroe UCC changes lighting in sanctuary and fellowship hall

Sue Bell, a member of Monroe UCC, upgraded all the lights in her farm home about three years ago and suggested the church do the same.

Snohomish County Public Utility District said that if the church upgraded, rebates would help pay for a third to half of the cost.

**"We changed all the lighting** in the sanctuary, which had many eight-foot fluorescent fixtures. We replaced them with four-foot fixtures that use less electricity and do not become as hot," Bell said.

Fluorescent lights along the sides of the ceiling backlight the ceiling and wall.

Looking at the electrical bill, they also decided they could receive a rebate for the old refrigerator and buy a new one that uses less electricity.

Upgrades were made in the fellowship hall beginning three years ago and in the sanctuary last year. Outside lighting has also been changed from incandescent and floodlights to fluorescent.

The large, old-fashioned lamps in the sanctuary remain, but Bell said trustees have talked of newer lights with fans to move hot air when it's hot, and to transfer hot air from the ceiling when it's cool.

**For information, call 360-794-7601.**

## New lights, timers save energy at Prospect UCC

Qualifying for small business energy rebates of Seattle City Light, Prospect UCC last summer had a representative survey the building to suggest lights to upgrade or replace.

Bob Bakke, a trustee, the church's sexton and a retired electrical engineer, walked through the building with him. Trustees received three bids and accepted the lowest.

Meighan Pritchard, pastor, is pleased her congregation has done the retrofits to increase efficiency. She expects upgrades should pay for themselves in a year and a half.

Looking at the budget when she started as pastor part-time, she knew the church could save by doing retrofits, as University Congregational UCC had done, when she attended there.

She connected Bakke with UCUC member and lighting specialist Stephen Jones. They made a spreadsheet of all Prospect's lights, showing wattage, estimating hours of usage and charting potential savings in electricity and money.



**Bob Bakke shows lighting options.** Photo courtesy of Meighan Pritchard

Then it took two weeks to receive approval of their application for a rebate for the \$3,000 cost of new lighting. The city paid 80 percent, so Prospect UCC paid just \$600.

Most fixtures were two- to four-lamp fluorescent lights. The magnetic ballasts in them were replaced with electronic ballasts, and T-12 lamps replaced with smaller, more effi-

cient T-8 lamps, Bakke said.

In the fellowship hall, lights were converted from four-lamp to two-lamp fixtures with new reflectors to produce the same amount of light. They added two four-foot, two-lamp fixtures and installed fluorescent outdoor lighting on the porch.

Bakke, who designed many lighting systems before retiring in 1990, has been involved at Prospect UCC for 20 years. Commuting from Seattle to Auburn for work, he said he was unable to be involved in a church until retiring.

Living a block from Prospect, he's the first responder if something goes wrong at the church.

Bakke has also installed timers on some of the lighting systems, including photo controls on two outdoor post lamps. He has installed compact fluorescent lights in fixtures around the church.

"We have eliminated all but a few incandescent lights," he said.

He also helped the church change to its heating system of six furnaces with each heating different areas of the church. He programmed the furnaces so members can turn them on when they come, and they automatically turn off, saving use in frequently used areas.

Bakke has also set up some lights on timers to turn off automatically in case people forget.

"I want to contribute as I can, so can work on the electrical system and feel I can accomplish something," he said.

As part of Prospect's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, the church recently raised \$1,100 for two environmental groups—350.org and Earth Ministry—with an April 5 "Climate Change Blues and Jazz" Concert.

**For information, call 206-325-5583 or email [bobbakke@juno.com](mailto:bobbakke@juno.com).**

## University UCC continues to save energy

Before Mike O'Donnell started as facilities manager five years ago at University Congregational UCC in Seattle, the church had already replaced all of its lighting as part of a major renovation in 2005. The church used most of its energy rebates at that time.

Having served as facilities manager with a business and state government, so was familiar with the requirements.

"The system is set up with an automatic computer-programmed sensor, so if someone leaves the room, the lights go out, he said.

Similarly, there is an automated system that regulates when burners of the two furnaces are on and off. With

them trading off, the furnaces will last longer.

"We work hard to watch where the gas is going and watch energy use," he said. "We can now just heat the chapel, not the whole end of the building."

Recently University church changed all lights in the sanctuary to LED lights, at a cost of \$1,800.

He said that the lights will last 40 to 50 years, using less energy and reducing the number of trips to the attic to change lights.

"The conversion to LED was easy," O'Donnell said. "I'm retired military, so I was able to use a 15 percent discount I have."

He has also been weather stripping through the building, particularly around eight glass doors on the north end.

"It blocks the cold air out and keeps the warm air in," he said, adding that utility companies come and do energy screenings to suggest changes and estimate the savings.

As part of a \$2 million capital campaign, University church has included \$45,000 to replace 1950s style windows to help with saving energy.

The capital campaign includes some other energy saving options

**For information, call 206-524-2322, email [modonnell@universityucc.org](mailto:modonnell@universityucc.org) or visit [universityucc.org](http://universityucc.org).**

## Intern immersed in social justice with Church Council

Immersion in different areas of work for social justice through the Church Council of Greater Seattle, has deepened Jenn Hagedorn's awareness of the connection between faith and social justice.

Involved with the council and with Plymouth Congregational UCC in Seattle as one of four young adult justice interns this year, she currently has three emphases in researching and organizing efforts to educate people on a living wage, gun control and immigration reform. She believes research is important for developing effective action.

**"Much education is needed** around issues before action or marches are done," she said.

The church council is engaged in a campaign with workers at the SeaTac Airport for jobs to offer dignity, respect and enough money to live on.

Participating in actions at the airport and spreading the word, she has been impressed with involvement of faith leaders who join 50 to hundreds.

**Hagedorn has learned** the process for social justice is long, but she has seen results.

A delegation of faith leaders is meeting with the CEO of Alaska Airlines, the largest airline at the airport, to build a relationship. On March 26, four Alaska subcontractors involved in passenger, baggage, wheelchair and other services voted to unionize, as a result of the Church Council of Greater Seattle (CCGS) forging collaboration between different communities of faith, labor and community groups.

"It has been amazing to see how people have responded and how the faith community has been able to open doors others cannot open," she said, noting that state and federal representatives have previously tried to meet with the CEO, but the faith community succeeded.

"Mike Ramos, the CCGS



Jenn Hagedorn meets with Senator Patty Murray after a meeting on comprehensive immigration reform. Photo courtesy of Jenn Hagedorn

executive director, said that the community cares to hear the voices of faith," she said.

Hagedorn is most engaged by her work on the living wage, because she is interested in going into public health.

**"Income inequality creates** inequality in access to health care," she said.

In mid March, she met with 30 people from 19 faith communities who have been working for a living wage for many years. She is impressed with their passion for a living wage.

"We discussed what form a living wage would take in the future," she said. "The church council convenes people, to build bridges and tell stories that facilitate moving forward."

**Hagedorn and others** at the church council recently met with Senator Patty Murray to promote immigration reform that combines recognition that all people deserve dignity and respect, families deserve to be together and immigrants need

to be able to find jobs so they can live full, productive lives. We need to value all individuals who live and work in the United States.

"That's what all God's children deserve," she said. "Legal status should not affect a person's value."

Hagedorn believes the time is critical for comprehensive change.

Plymouth, which has been involved with the church council many years, also helps her see how her faith and justice are interconnected.

**"Growing up** in the United Church of Christ, I've always understood that faith and justice are connected, but being with the church council and Plymouth, I am connecting how UCC theology allows me to serve in this way.

"At Plymouth, people have been working tirelessly for decades," she said. "It gives me as a young person some historical perspective about what has

been tried and about the rich history of inspiring people. I see that the root of justice work is in faith and I see how others are living out that connection."

Hagedorn, who graduated in 2011 from Western Washington University with a bachelor's degree in human services and rehabilitation, organized an urban plunge on March 2 for eight high school youth at Plymouth.

To do that, she had to build relationships with different agencies so the youth could learn about people who experience homelessness.

**"The youth challenged** themselves by going outside their comfort zones," she said.

They attended a service at Mary's Place, a shelter and drop in center for homeless women. The youth served meals there and met people. After visiting the agencies, they discussed and debriefed.

Hagedorn saw that youth grew from an experience she organized.

In June, she will organize a larger, two-day urban plunge for 15 to 20 youth from different churches. They will learn about Operation Nightwatch, Compass, Housing programs, Mary's place and a new emergency family shelter being developed by Mary's Place and Union Gospel Mission, Urban Rest Shop.

**In January, Hagedorn** participated in the One-Day Homeless Count, helping a young adult justice team colleague who works with the Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless.

"They asked me to organize churches and run the one-night count in Woodinville," she said. It was an amazing experience to be in my home city, where few think there is homelessness.

**For information, call 206-525-1213 or email jennifer-lin44@hotmail.com. CCGS email.**