



2026

**Annual Meeting
Report Booklet**

Pacific Northwest Conference
of the United Church of Christ

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Churches of Our Conference

Alaska

Anchorage	EFKAS First LMS Congregational Church Fa'avae Fou (New Foundation) Feagaiga Fou (New Testament) Christian Worship Center UCC	Rev. Iotamo Falealili Rev. Edwin Galeai Rev. Niutunu Faiupu Rev. Faatauva'a I. Alaelua
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Idaho

Lewiston	Congregational-Presbyterian Church	Rev. Adam Ogg
Wallace	United Church of Christ-Congregational	Rev. Alice Ling

Washington

Algona	Emanuelu CCCS in America	Rev. Elder Siva Topelangi
Auburn	First Samoan Congregational UCC (#1)	Rev. Ili Tuiasasopo
Bainbridge Isl.	Eagle Harbor Congregational	Rev. Mark Travis
Bellevue	First Congregational Church	Rev. Lisa Horst Clark Rev. Stevi Hamill Rev. Sharon Benton Rev. Sandy Wisecarver Rev. Stephen Haddan Rev. Christine Tata Rev. Michael Birnbaum Rev. Christine Tata In transition Rev. Esther Sanders Rev. Andy Zacherias Rev. Davi Weasley Rev. Jennifer Bannerman, Designated Rev. Joel Aosved Rev. Warren Johnson Rev. Naomi Schulz
Bellingham	First Congregational Church	
Blaine	United Church of Christ (Cong.)	
Carnation	Tolt Congregational UCC	
Chewelah	Chewelah United Church of Christ	
Colfax	Affirmational UCC - Plymouth Cong.	
Colville	First Congregational Church	
Dayton	First Congregational Church	
Eltopia	Eltopia United Church of Christ	
Everett	Everett Marshallese UCC JRD Everett United Church of Christ	
Federal Way	Wayside United Church of Christ	
Ferndale	The United Church	
Forks	First Congregational Church	
Fox Island	Fox Island United Church of Christ	
Guemes Island	Guemes Isl. Community Church, UCC	
Issaquah	Spirit of Peace UCC	
Kent	Samoan Congregational Church #6 (Savali O Le Malamalama)	Rev. Jenn Hagedorn Rev. Aunuua Vasega Rev. Talosaga Patea Rev. Ryan Lambert Rev. Jamie Kepros Rev. Jennifer Castle
Kirkland	Kirkland Congregational Church, UCC	
Lummi Island	Lummi Island Congregational	
Mercer Island	Congregational Church on Mercer Island (UCC)	
Metaline Falls	Metaline Falls Congregational UCC	Rev. Tara Leininger
Monroe	First Congregational Church of Monroe	Rev. Jane Sorenson
Olympia	Community for Interfaith Celebration	Rev. Corey Passons
Olympia	The United Churches of Olympia	Rev. Lara Crutsinger-Perry
Pullman	Community Congregational UCC	Rev. Mike Bass
Renton	United Christian Church	Rev. Kara Markell
Richland	Shalom United Church of Christ	Rev. Melanie Childers
Ritzville	Zion Philadelphia Congregational UCC	In Transition
Seattle	Admiral Congregational Church (UCC) Ala Ile Ola Church #5 Alki United Church of Christ All Pilgrims Christian Church Bethany UCC	Rev. Allysa De Wolf, Bridge Pastor Rev. Fili Togi Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel Rev. Greg Turk Rev. Angela Ying

	Fauntleroy Church UCC	Rev. Leah Atkinson Bilinski
	First Samoan Cong. UCC (#1)	Rev. Karyn Frazier, Associate Pastor
	First Samoan Cong. Christian Church #1	Rev. Topelagi Siva
	Japanese Congregational Church	Rev. Etele Toilolo Ma'aele
	Keystone Congregational UCC	Rev. Tim Johnson
	Liberation UCC	Rev. Adina Meyer, Designated Minister
	Magnolia United Church of Christ	Rev. Jermell Witherspoon
	Normandy Park Cong. Church	Rev. Marci Scott-Weis
	Plymouth Church, UCC	Rev. Amy Hitchens
	Prospect United Church of Christ (Cong.)	Rev. Kelle Brown, Lead Pastor
	St. Paul's United Church of Christ	Rev. Meighan Pritchard
	Samoan Cong. Christian Church (#2)	Kerri Berlin, Lay Minister
	Samoan United Church of Christ (#4)	Rev. Kelekolio Koloï
	Taiwanese Christian Church (UCC)	Rev. Nofoniga Moi
	University Congregational UCC	In Transition
		Rev. Michael Ellick
		Rev. Steve Jerbi
		Rev. Debra Jarvis
Shoreline	Richmond Beach Congregational UCC	Rev. Kevin Bechtold
		Rev. Dan Stern, Spiritual Director
Spokane	Shalom United Church of Christ	Lay Leadership
	Westminster Congregational UCC	Rev. Robert Feeny
Spokane Valley	Veradale United Church of Christ (Cong.)	Rev. Genavieve Heywood
Suquamish	Suquamish United Church of Christ	Rev. Amara Oden
Tacoma	First Samoan Congregational Christian Church of Tacoma	Rev. Ulisese Sala
Tonasket	Tonasket Community Church, UCC	In Transition
University Place	United Church in University Place	In Transition
Walla Walla	First Congregational Church	Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley
Wenatchee	Sunnyslope Church	Rev. Dane Breslin
Woodinville	Northshore United Church of Christ	Rev. Margo Richardson, Interim
		Rev. Paul Forman, Pastor Emeritus
Yakima	United Christian Church	Rev. Stephen Best

Conference Transitions

Memorials

Nancy Edquist April 12, 1943 – June 5, 2025



Nancy Edquist served as our conference moderator in 1994. She had two sons, Pete and John, with her husband. Nancy worked in the congregations of University and Magnolia and organized women's retreats and family camps at Pilgrim Firs, Seabeck, and N-Sid-Sen. She earned her M.Ed. in Counseling at UW before starting work at Horizon House in 1981 where she worked for 14 years. She served on their Board and also as interim CEO. There she became a founding member of the Center for Creative Aging. After amicably parting with Bob, Nancy went on to earn a Master's in nonprofit management from Seattle U. In 1998, Nancy reconnected with and was married to the Rev. Ted Edquist for many years before Ted passed away.

Rev. Randall Mullins October 23, 1948 – June 22, 2025



Rev. Randall Mullins was born in rural Tennessee near Essary Springs. He was deeply influenced by Dr. ML King's work in Memphis. He attended the Memphis Theological Seminary, then earned his M.Div. from PSR (1977). He was the Minister of Christian Education at University UCC from 1997-1982 and the Minister of Outreach and Adult Education in 1986 also at UCUC. He served a two-year term in Honduras under the United Church Board for World Ministries from 1986-1988. He served as pastor of what was then, Pilgrim Congregational Church (on Broadway) beginning in 1990. Randall was one of the founders and leaders of the Lynching Sites Project of Memphis and the Spiritual guide and teacher of the Center for Contemplation and Nonviolence which he started in 2001, in covenant with Keystone UCC. He is survived by his wife, Sharon Pavelda.

Rev. Carson Hawks October 25, 1963 – September, 2025



Rev. Hawks was the Covenant Minister of Spiritual Growth and Healing with Magnolia UCC in Seattle WA since 2017 and an Interfaith Spiritual Director with Carson Hawks LLC, where they created and lead spiritual retreats and provided other services. They earned a M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion, a Master of Education degree from Old Dominion University (VA) and a BS-Physical Education/Recreation from the University of South Carolina. They were also a graduate of Old Dominion University in Virginia. In 2016, Carson was awarded the Koinonia Award which is presented to students who have strengthened Pacific School of Religion through outstanding contributions of spirit, insight, and intellect. Carson was ordained in the UCC in July 2022.

Shirley Hutchinson January 8, 1935 – December 27, 2025



Shirley Hutchinson was the wife of Rev. Ronald Hutchinson, who served Kirkland Congregational Church for over 25 years. They were married in 1956. She attended Wayne University and the University of Chicago. They had three children, Lyn, Susan, and John.

Ruth Wiechmann Flucke March 27, 1937 – January 6, 2026



Ruth Flucke died surrounded by the love of her family. Ruth had recently moved from her longtime home in Bellingham to Wisconsin to be closer to family and was able to meet 5 great grandchildren. Her husband, the Rev. Rod MacKenzie preceded her in death a year ago.

Rev. Chris Morton October 7, 1940 – January 7, 2026



Rev. Morton died at Hospice House with her beloved spouse, Rev. Dr. Megan Crouse, at her side. Chris and Megan have shared how meaningful their ministries have been over the years, including how Chris was one of the first women ordained in the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC. She leaves a legacy that will endure.

Chris Morton graduated from The County School in Enfield, Middlesex, England in 1958. She received a Teaching Degree (like a B.A) from the College of St Matthais, Bristol, England. She also graduated from Berkeley Baptist Divinity

School with an M.R.E. She was ordained on October 15, 1972.

She was a co-operate Board member of the Board for Homeland Minorities from 1976 to 1981 and was a Board member of WNI Conference in the 1970's.

She was the pastor of Broadview Community Church from 1980 to 1998. After leaving her position, she worked at Multifaith Works and MS Association of King County and the VA Puget Sound Health Care System. She had many hobbies including kayaking and visiting with friends.

Rev. Roger Ridgway September 23, 1938 – January 19, 2026

Roger Ridgway attended Cal Poly where he was an engineering student. He then earned an B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1961 and an M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion in 1965 and was ordained by the Disciples of Christ. His first call was to The Christian Church in Sweet Springs, Missouri. He also served churches and regional organizations in California. He moved to Washington State in 1991 and became a member at Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Anacortes and retired in March 2003.

Clergy New to Our Conference

May 2025-January 2026

Rev. Iotamo Falealili has dual standing. He is serving at the First LMS Samoan Congregational Christian Church in Anchorage, AK.

Rev. Phil Hodson transferred to our conference in July 2025.

Rev. Kelekolio Koloi has dual standing. He is serving at First Samoan Congregational Christian Church #2, Seattle.

Rev. Etele Ma'aele has dual standing and is serving at First Samoan Congregational Christian Church #1, Seattle.

Rev. Kara Markell, Disciples of Christ minister, was called to United Christian Church (UCC and DOC) in Renton.

Rev. Adina Meyer is the designated pastor at Keystone Church, UCC in Seattle.

Rev. Nofoaiga Moi has dual standing. He is serving at EFKAS Seattle #4

Rev. Talosaga Patea was approved for dual standing. He is serving at Savali O Le Malamalama, in Kent.

Rev. Margo Richardson is serving as the interim at Northshore UCC in Woodinville.

Jessica Star Rockers was approved for Privilege of Call.

Rev. Naomi Shulz is serving at Fox Island UCC.

Rev. Elder Siva Topelangi has dual standing and is serving the Emanuel Church in Algona.

Rev. Savali Talemotou was approved for dual standing and is serving at the Samoan Congregational Christian Church #2, in Seattle.

Rev. Fili Togi has dual standing. He is serving the Ala I Le Ola Church #5 in Seattle.

Rev. Tavita Tolo, has dual standing. He is serving Live in Salvation Church, Tacoma.

Rev. Aunu'ua Vasega has dual standing and is serving Savali O Le Malamalama, in Kent.

Specialized Ministers

Rev. Faatauva'a (Va'a) Alaelua works at Providence Alaska Medical Center, and is serving at the Christian Worship Center UCC in Anchorage, AK.

Rev. Trina Banks is a chaplain at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, in covenant with United Christian Church in Renton.

Rev. Tara Barber, a member at Liberation UCC, currently works as the Minister of Ministerial Accountability at the national office.

Rev. Gregg Brekke is the Executive Director of the Associated Church Press in Bellingham, and a member of First Congregational Church in Bellingham.

Rev. Jennifer Butner is a member at University Congregational UCC.

Rev. Kevin Carr is a specialized minister serving Evergreen Health Care.

Rev. Susan Cutshall, a member of Wayside UCC, is a chaplain at Virginia Mason Franciscan Hospice and Palliative Care.

Rev. Bonnie Dalious, is a chaplain at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage. She is a member of Fa'avae Fou in Anchorage.

Rev. Matt Emery is a specialized minister serving at Cloverdale United Church in Surrey BC, Canada and is a member of First Congregational UCC in Bellevue.

Rev. Candace Frawley is serving as a chaplain for PeaceHealth in Bellingham, in covenant with the United Church of Ferndale.

Rev. Elizabeth Gordon is a Clinical Spiritual Care Provider with University of Washington Medical Center. She is a member of Plymouth Congregational Church of Seattle.

Rev. Michael Haven is the Traveling Minister of the Arts, in covenant with Magnolia UCC.

Rev. Debra Jarvis is a chaplain at the UW Medical Center hospital. She is a member at University Congregational UCC.

Rev. Elyse Jauregui serves as Chaplain with Envision Hospice of Washington. She is a member at Eagle Harbor Congregational.

Rev. Beverly Jenden-Riedlinger is a member of The United Churches of Olympia.

Rev. Amy Johnson, a member at Wayside UCC, serves as Minister for Sexuality Education and Justice, at the national setting.

Rev. Jill Komura is a member at The United Churches of Olympia. She has a private practice of pastoral counseling and spiritual direction.

Rev. Maureen McLain is a member of Magnolia UCC in Seattle. She is as a covenanted minister with a primary focus on adult spiritual and faith formation

Rev. Sophie Morse is a member at Suquamish UCC. She has 5-way covenant, working as a Conflict Resolution Trainer, Facilitator, Consultant.

Rev. Lindalee Purdy is the Director of Spiritual Care at Horizon House. She is in covenant with All Pilgrims Christian Church.

Rev. Sam Rennebohn is a member of Prospect Congregational UCC and his ministry is serving as faculty of Swedish Family Medicine Residency.

Rev. Terry Rice is a member of First Congregational Church in Walla Walla.

Rev. Jennifer Rupp is a hospice chaplain with CHI Franciscan Hospice and Palliative Care and a member of Fox Island UCC.

Rev. Esther Sanders serving as a hospice chaplain at PeaceHealth Southwest Hospice as well as pastor at Eltopia UCC.

Rev. Jeannette Solimine is a member at Community Congregational Church in Pullman.

Rev. Courtney Stange-Tregear is a member at St. Paul's UCC in Seattle. She is serving as the Chief Relationship Officer at The Cornerstone Fund.

Rev. Amanda Sullivan-Kersey is a Health Services Manager at the Department of Corrections. She is a member of The United Churches of Olympia.

Rev. Bruce Wilson, a member of, and in covenant with University Congregational UCC, is a chaplain at Braxton Institute.

Rev. Tara Young-Brown is a member of Community for Interfaith Celebration in Olympia.

Licensed/Lay Ministers

Kerri Berlin is serving St. Paul's UCC in Seattle as their Lay minister.

Members In Discernment

Mafu (May) Alaelua is a member of the Christian Worship Center UCC in Anchorage, AK.

Micah Buff is a member of the United Churches of Olympia. They have been approved for ordination pending call.

Cydne Cochran is a member of the United Church of Ferndale.

Elizabeth Maupin is a member of Spirit of Peace UCC and has been approved for ordination pending a call.

Kenn Robinson is a member of United Church of Ferndale.

Dana Sprenkle is a member of Shalom UCC in Richland.

Reports from the Conference Staff

Rev. Phil Hodson, Designated Conference Minister

I am excited to share some of the projects your incredible Conference staff have completed in the past year of our journey together! In 2025 we closed the Conference office located at Broadview UCC and transitioned to a 100% virtual office setting. We are grateful to the Broadview community, both for their faithful participation in Conference life and the use of the office space for many years, and for the generous gift they made to the Conference for future development as they completed their ministry in 2025. To facilitate the sharing of information and a centralized location for data storage, we completed digitization of all Conference records and built a database system through Salesforce to house and easily update clergy, congregational, and Conference records. This will allow for digital AIR forms and all data collected to be seamlessly integrated and easily updated for years to come.

Thanks to the talented Andy Warren, we have been blessed to work with a number of congregations on financial matters. The Conference's ability to offer consultation at no cost to our congregations is a tremendous gift made available because of Andy's knowledge and commitment to the Church. We are grateful for this way to serve as partners to the ministries of the local church.

We're also pleased to have Beth Astarte, our new Conference Registrar on the staff team! If you haven't had the opportunity to engage with Beth yet, I am confident you will appreciate her warmth, good humor, and the knowledge she brings in assisting our clergy, committees, and congregations in her work. She has worked in partnership with Arlene these past months to get acclimated, and has also been a principal leader in our digitization and the implementation of the new database system. Beth brings years of experience in local church leadership, as a volunteer and staff member, to the team.

As we entered 2026, we said goodbye to Arlene Hobson, who has served on the Conference staff for 27 years as a welcoming presence, source of wisdom, and capable organizational leader. We are grateful for her years of service, the many gifts she has shared with all of us, for her friendship, and for the knowledge that she will continue to be in our midst as a member of the Keystone UCC congregation. We wish her all the best in retirement!

It has been an absolute joy to serve alongside these incredible people, along with Mark Boyd and the staff and volunteers at both retreat centers these past few years. I am delighted to report that the next Conference minister will be the beneficiary of the many gifts of this dedicated team.

Since my last report I have had the opportunity to share a word and worship with many of our congregations, averaging 2-3 Sundays each month visiting in-person. Additionally, faithful search committees have been trained and have sought to hear God's voice speaking as they worked to call pastors. We presently have five search committees in the process of completing local church profiles for upcoming searches, and I am pleased to report that, as of this writing, all active searches have been completed successfully!

Traveling throughout the Conference, I have seen firsthand the power of each local congregation's ministry lived vitally each day. From being part of the celebration to see ten Samoan pastors receive dual standing to celebrating installations and ordinations, these are each important indicators of the new things God is up to in our midst in the Pacific Northwest Conference!

I have tried to be consistent with Wednesday morning "office hours" via Zoom, an opportunity for congregants and clergy to come and share whatever happens to be on their minds.

Sometimes we talk about search and call, other times we talk about preaching themes or church operations, and sometimes we veer into evangelism, church growth, and the importance of the prophetic voice. Each of these are critical areas of church life, and having the chance to connect with and hear from folks across the Conference has been a huge blessing to my ministry. We come up with new ideas collaboratively — that is a lesson worth remembering in our life together.

One of the key components of effective Conference ministry is to be consistently present. As you prepare for your next Conference Minister, be present at office hours and other opportunities to get to know them, and be sure to invite them to be come and see what is happening in your church or ministry setting!

Mark Boyd, Executive Director for Outdoor Ministries, N-Sid-Sen & Pilgrim Firs



2025-26 Report for Pilgrim Firs

In 2025-2026 we saw,
3100 folks came to camp.
For 97 different events.
From 29 different partner groups.
Including 10 PNCUCC events.
10 PNCUCC churches,
and 9 new or returning events.

New partner groups included.

Pacific Life Community
Bethany Lutheran
Kitsap Dog Search Teams
Luminous Dharma Buddhist

Returning Events included,

Larche'
Our Whole Lives (OWL)
PNCUCC Jr-Sr High Midwinter

Maintenance Projects and Improvements completed in 2025-2026

New retaining wall in Labyrinth
New maintenance storage garage
South Lodge back stairs improvement
24/7 hot water dispenser in dining hall

Bedside Cabinets
Stone entryways into Pride Garden
New picnic tables
New storage cabinets in craft room

2026-2027 projects

New carpet in South Lodge
New Canoe Rack
Cabin Bathroom upgrades

Adding sand to swim beach
Used housekeeping van
Invasive plant removal

Who's New & Coming to Pilgrim Firs in 2026-2027?

- 1) NW Women's Stone Sculptors
- 2) Compass Points A Certificate Program for Camp & Retreat Leaders
- 3) Casting For Recovery for those recovering from breast cancer

2025-26 Report for N-Sid-Sen

In 2025-2026 we saw,
1600 folks came to camp.
For 40 different events.
From 27 different partner groups.
Including 13 PNCUCC events.
4 PNCUCC churches,
and 9 new or returning events.

New partner groups included.
Warrior PATHH
Valley Assembly
WSU Architectural Grad Retreat
St Patrick's Catholic school

Returning Events included,
Krackenburg Family Reunion
Wilderness Dance Camp
Spring Renewal
East meets West Quilters

Events New or Returning

PNCUCC Textile Retreat
3 Weddings

Maintenance Projects and Improvements completed in 2025-2026

Major Cleanup throughout Camp
New used camp truck
January storm cleanup

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Stillwater roof replacement

Spirit Lodge new carpet
Spirit Lodge interior painted
Spirit Lodge toilet upgrades

2026-2027 projects

New carpet in South Lodge
New Canoe Rack
Cabin Bathroom upgrades

Adding sand to swim beach
Used housekeeping van
Invasive plant removal

Who's New & Coming to N-Sid-Sen in 2026-2027?

Serenity Retreat
North Idaho Women's Retreat
3 Family Reunions

Pride Camp
Crazy Quilters
Camp Reunion

2025-26 Executive Director Report for Outdoor Ministry Report

PNC Outdoor Ministry Committee

Met monthly via zoom or in person
Met with all summer camp event directors after summer and sent thank you letters
Added Mental Health consultants to registration process and onsite access.
See OMC Annual report for more information

Selected Curriculum and Leaders

N-Sid-Sen Futuring Team

Conducted Site visits to other Camps
Created Job Description for Site Manager
Finishing up NSS Mission Statement

Reviewed reports from consultants
Posted Site Manager Position
Creating Board of Trustees for both Camps

The team consists of

Ben Crosby, Wallace UCC Karen Nooney, Colville UCC
Andy CastroLang, Westminster UCC Julia Erickson, University Cong UCC
Paul Koppe, Fauntleroy Church, UCC Martha Warren, Kirkland Cong. UCC
Chris Otto, First Congregational, Bellingham John Eisenhower, Eagle Harbor Cong
Courtney Stang-Tregear, St Paul's UCC

N-Sid-Sen Specific

Huge Thank you to Randy and Linda Crowe for their tireless work and devotion to N-Sid-Sen
Helped coordinate with Randy on events Set up Pride Camp for 2026
Worked with Insurance Company & Camp Met with Partner Group leaders
Brought back groups that had left Working on Emergency Action Plans

PNC Conference Specific

Visited multiple churches Connected with Youth leaders in PNCUCC
Provided pulpit supply Attended PNC events
Hosted OMA Board of Directors Attended national Outdoor Ministry event
Registration for PNC Camps & Conference Events

Reports from the Board of Directors

Rev. Sandy Wisecarver, Moderator

Wow! What a year it has been for the Board of Directors. I was installed by you, the conference, at our last annual meeting. I recently found out that it is a two-year position. When Arelene emailed and asked if I was staying on, I desperately wanted to say no; but once I commit to something I stay with it. So far, God has gifted me with a supportive conference. I pray my gifts lead us in the right direction for 2026.

The Board met at N-Sid-Sen during the spring to envision what we wanted to focus on this year. We said we wanted to grow relationships by building bridges: through improved communication, complete the Constitution and By-laws rewrite, call a settled Conference Minister, and articulate clearly the next faithful steps for N-Sid-Sen. We have made strides in each of these goals but still have room for improvement. The Board has attempted to communicate with churches through the weekly news, the quarterly newsletter, and the listserv in addition to reaching out to churches in our local communities. This continues to be an area in need of improvement. The constitution and by-laws work continued throughout the year and was the primary discussion at the Board's fall retreat at Pilgrim Firs. As I write this in January, we are on our eleventh edition. We still have some more listening groups so I imagine we will have more editions by the time we meet at the annual meeting.

We are in the early stages of a search and call process for the conference minister position. The Board met on several occasions to discuss Phil's candidacy and ultimately, had a

split decision. Phil withdrew his candidacy in hopes of helping the conference move forward in a timely manner. Nominations were excepted through the search and call website. As I write this, I'll be contacting nominees and helping them get started on the search and call process. I hold on to the hope that we will receive several applications and be able to present a candidate to the conference at special meeting before the end of 2026. Phil is staying with us until the end of June. Please be in prayer for our conference, specifically for the search and call process.

Lastly, a focus group was created for N-Sid-Sen. They have met with other successful camps leadership and are working on a plan for the future of the camp. They are drafting a job description for an assistant camp director to be stationed at the camp and will begin that search soon. Mark Boyd took on the roll of executive camp leader mid-year and has been working with several dedicated members to keep N-Sid-Sen growing in the midst of transition.

The worked with Phil and the annual planning committee to bring the annual meeting to a location that was easily accessible to folks flying in and that provided "run of the house" so the conference could fellowship with each other throughout the weekend. The Board heard the call for more youth participation and thanks to the strong leadership of the annual planning committee, you will see quite a bit of youth leadership throughout our time together. Mark is working with other youth leaders to keep this going in the year ahead. The theme of "Come and See" came out of the Board's Spring retreat. We wanted to encourage conversations about what different churches are doing in their unique ministries.

Lastly, the Board worked with the Veradale Congregation in their response to vandalism to their property. The Board provided a \$30,000 loan to help the church begin the process of updating the safety for their church. The church had a grant to complete the work but the grant provided funds only after their COMPLETION, thus the loan was needed.

These are the highlights of the year. The Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30 p.m. The Board tries to hold a Spring and Fall retreat at our camps. We will be meeting directly after the annual meeting to plan for the coming year. Both clergy and lay folks are invited to attend our meeting with voice without vote. The Board is tasked with governing the conference between annual meetings. Your voice matters, use it. There are certain conference members that are outspoken, we need to hear from all our local churches to govern fairly. I invite you each to "Come and See" what the Board is doing. Thank you for your trust and faith in my leadership. Here is to another year together doing the work of the Conference.

Treasurer's Report

Diana Kelsey Kutas

Following are highlights of our current Fiscal Year 2026, which began June 1, 2025 and ends May 31,2026. The upcoming Fiscal Year 2027 begins June 1,2026. The forecasts given in this report are based the conference December 2025 month-end financial reports.

Highlights:

- Conference Ministries: We are forecasting a larger deficit than budgeted due to staff changes, higher than expected office closing expenses, and digitizing of documents.
 - Broadview UCC Grants: Upon the closing of Broadview UCC and the sale of their property in 2025 they generously granted Conference Ministries with \$600,000, \$55,000 to Camp N-Sid-Sen and \$55,000 to Camp Pilgrims. The funds are currently held in reserves.

- Veradale UCC Loan: Over the past several years Veradale has been subject to acts of vandalism and their grant application for \$150,000 was approved by the Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD) to install security measures to deter future vandalism. In August 2025 the PNC Board of Directors approved a \$30,000 18-month zero-interest loan to be secured by a lien on the Veradale property as seed money to begin improvements until the EMD grant funds are reimbursed. The loan will be repaid as each stage of improvements are completed and the expenses have been reimbursed by EMD. Veradale has until August 2026 to complete the project or lose the grant.
- Camp Ministries: We are forecasting operating results at both camps to be better than budgeted due to new business, the great work by camp staff, and all the volunteers donating their time and talents.
 - Camp Pilgrim Firs Land Sale: An adjacent property owner, who had been maintaining 3.03 acres of Pilgrim Firs property for 25 years after a handshake agree was made by the previous owner made an offer to purchase the 3.03 acres. The property lies just beyond a small swampy area and difficult to access by Pilgrim Firs. After being threatened with adverse use, substantial legal fees, and on advice of legal counsel the Board approved accepting the purchase offer in August 2025 for \$18,000 with the purchaser paying all related costs. The sale was completed in September 2025.

Conference Ministries is forecast to have a FY2026 Operating Loss of approximately (\$74k) compared to the FY2026 Budgeted Loss of (\$58k), the smaller losses in FY2025 loss (\$32k) and FY2024 (\$12k).

- FY2026 Revenue: We are forecasting FY2026 revenue of \$471k versus the FY2026 Budgeted Revenue of \$477k, which is lower than FY2025 revenue of \$526k and FY2024 revenue of \$499k. OCWM donations in FY2026 are forecast to be approximately the same as budgeted but lower those received in FY2025. Donations to UCC OWCM are budgeted in FY2027 at 19% and the same percentage as the FY2026 budget.
- FY2026 Expenses: We are forecasting FY2026 expenses of \$545k to be higher than budgeted expenses of \$535k, lower than FY2025 expenses of \$557k and higher than FY2024 expenses of \$511k.

Camp Pilgrim Firs is forecast to have a FY2026 Operating Profit of approximately \$79k compared to the FY2026 Budgeted Profit of \$52k but less than FY2025 profit of \$90k and FY2024 profit of \$121k.

- FY2026 Revenue: We are forecasting significantly higher FY2026 revenue of \$954k versus budgeted revenue of \$868k, higher than FY2025 revenue of \$898k and FY2024 revenue of \$853k.
- FY2026 Expenses: We are forecasting FY2026 expenses of \$876k to be higher than budgeted expenses of \$815k, higher than FY2025 expenses of \$807k and FY2024 expenses of \$732k. The increase in expenses is primarily due to staff compensation, camp repairs & maintenance, and direct costs.

Camp N-Sid-Sen is forecast to have a FY2026 Operating Loss of (\$6k) and substantially lower than the FY2026 Budgeted Loss of (\$134k), the FY2025 loss of (\$98k) and the FY2024 loss of (\$220k).

- FY2026 Revenue: We are forecasting higher FY2026 revenue of \$446k versus the FY2026 budgeted revenue of \$390k, higher than the FY2025 revenue of \$378k and the FY2024 revenue of \$332k.
- FY2026 Expenses: We are forecasting FY2026 expenses of \$453k to be lower than budgeted expenses of \$524k, lower than the FY2025 expenses of \$476k and the FY2024 expenses of \$552k.
- Reserves to cover the forecasted N-Sid-Sen loss are covered by Conference Ministry Reserves.

We continue to be very appreciative of the OCWM giving of our Conference churches. Without your giving, operating the Conference successfully would not be possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Kelsey Kutas
 Treasurer
 Stewardship Ex-officio Member
 Board Liaison to Outdoor Ministry Committee

Committee Reports

Church Development Committee

Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel and Roselyne Savini Gatoloai, co-chairs

“The Church Development Committee shall seek to initiate and/or support the formation of new church communities and the transformation of existing church communities....The committee’s primary duties are to consult, assist, and provide funding in partnership with those involved in church formation or transformation.”

Pacific Northwest Conference Bylaws

Building Relationship with Congregations Seeking Affiliation

The Pacific Northwest Conference has the tremendous opportunity of receiving churches seeking affiliation with the PNC-UCC as well as the formation of new congregations. We are working with several south Puget Sound area Samoan and Marshallese Congregations who have shown interest in affiliating with the PNCUCC. Churches received at Annual Meeting 2025 include Live in Salvation Church (Tacoma) and Emmanuel Church (Algona). Building relationships with congregations does not end once a congregation has been received. We seek to strengthen relationships with new churches after they have been welcomed in the conference, and a representative of our committee has visited both of these congregations since their affiliation was formalized.

New Churches in Formation

CDC seeks to support Ministry Leaders in New Contexts. We convene a regular gathering for those who are serving in non-traditional settings on Zoom for mutual support and

encouragement. It is a privilege for us to engage with those who are embarking on new ministries, offering support and resources.

Weaving Our Stories

We were so grateful for the amazing turn-out and participation for our event hosted on January 10 at Fauntleroy UCC: Weaving Our Stories. Exuberant worship, lively discussions, and creative idea-sharing made for an inspirational day for all. We had the idea of putting on this event in recognition that members of our Conference have much wisdom to learn from each other, and that perhaps the most important thing we could offer this year was to gather people together to share their stories.

Strengthening PNC Congregations through Strengthen the Church Offering

Your donations to the UCC Strengthen the Church (STC) Special Mission Offering are used here in our conference to support the mission and programs of the Church Development Committee. Plan now to receive the Strengthen the Church Special Mission offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 24 or sometime in the Pentecost Season. Your gifts to Strengthen the Church make an impact in our Conference, congregations, and communities. Thank you!

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bauleke, Chair of COM-West

Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley, Chair of COM-East

The United Church of Christ assigns authority for the authorization and oversight of ministers, including ordination, lay ministry, and their continued standing, as well as those seeking ordination, to the Committee on Ministry (COM).

In providing support and accountability for those seeking or holding Authorized Standing in our Conference, COM is divided into two geographical regions. E COM includes Central and Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho, and Alaska. COM W covers Western Washington.

In 2025 COM introduced an anti-racism requirement for Authorized Ministers. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) training is to be completed by the end of 2026, and repeated on a three-year cycle. Those who have participated appreciate the growth in understanding. For information on this and other requirements for ministerial standing check the COM section of our website:

<https://pncucc.org/committee-on-ministry/>

With the churches of our Conference we have shared in joys and challenges of transitions in pastoral leadership with ordinations, installations, farewell services, and covenanting for lay ministry. It is an honor for COM members to participate in these sacred times. The installation of dual standing for ten Samoan ministers in June was a unique and joyful celebration. We welcomed Chelsea Chiu, from Taiwan, to serve the Presbyterian and UCC Taiwanese congregations in the Seattle area. On the Transitions page of this Annual Report Booklet you will find other PNC transitions.

COM seeks to strengthen covenantal relationships within the PNC by offering Communities of Practice, confidential support groups for ministers (pncucc.org); developing Covenants between ministers, their workplace, their church and the Conference; interviews for transferring and retiring ministers; and supporting Members in Discernment seeking ordination.

For churches and ministers experiencing conflict, or potential conflict, COM offers Situational Support Consultations. These hosted conversations offer a chance to listen and explore issues below the surface. They may be requested by pastors or other church leaders.

The PNC has gone paperless in 2025, with all files now digitized. This has been a huge effort by our staff as well as the COM. The confidential files for each of our ministers are required by the UCC to be kept in perpetuity, which means there are many, many files going back to 1932. Thank you to the current and former COM members for your gift of time reviewing the files for duplicates and unnecessary content. The required Annual Information Review Form for ministers this year is uniquely designed to fill the information gaps discovered in this process. If you have not completed your AIR, we request you do so.

In 2026 COM is committed to having contact with as many ministers as possible. Some have told us they feel disconnected. If you would like more connection, or have questions, please contact your COM Chair.

Thank you for the support you have given your COM as we seek to faithfully serve God, our UCC and you.

Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley, E COM Chair Rev Dr Cindy Bauleke, COM W Chair

Global Ministries Committee

Cory Passons

Global Ministries Committee Report for PNCUCC Annual Meeting 2026

Rev. Corey Passons (Interfaith Minister with Community for Interfaith Celebration and Director of Interfaith Relations with Interfaith Works)

Global Ministries continues as a joint effort with our regional Disciples of Christ family. This last year was a time of celebration and itineration as we welcomed Xiomara Cintron-Garcia and her spouse, Alex Maldonado-Lizardi, to the Pacific Northwest. This tour was a time of sharing about the years of service they had just completed in Colombia. They visited a number of Seattle-area churches and we are so grateful for the support from All Pilgrims Church, Prospect UCC, St. Paul's UCC (in collaboration with NW Christian Church), as well as to the Conference Minister for a meeting with them while they were in the area. They even attended a Mariner's game (Alex is a huge baseball fan...)! Xiomara and Alex served since 2021 and worked with Justapaz. Please click [HERE](#) to read more about their work by selecting their bios.

After leaving Seattle they headed East where they presented to Englewood Christian Church in Yakima, Westminster UCC and Creston Christian Church in Spokane. From there it was on Montana! Alex and Xiomara presented at the Global Ministries Summit in Cane Ridge West and also at Central Christian Church in Great Falls. After all this they returned to Portland to return home to Puerto Rico.

At this point, the Global Ministries subcommittee is determining its next steps while upholding our connection to peace workers in Colombia and the national Global Ministries office. We are also recruiting!!! We have a number of subcommittee members who are leaving the committee with spots for 2-3 people. In addition, I will be stepping down as co-chair of this committee and would be delighted to answer any questions from interested persons on how to get more involved in this incredible ministry. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Global Ministries and the work we do around the world.

We would welcome those with interest in peace work, bridge building between congregations, and a desire to know more about the relationship between our conference, the Global Ministries office, and the peace organizations doing their amazing work on the ground in Colombia.

Please email coreypassons@gmail.com for more information and thank you!!!

Peace and blessings to you,
Rev. Corey Passons

Ministry Resources Committee

Jenn Hagedorn, Chair

Ministry Resources Committee Annual Report 2026

The Ministry Resources Committee (MRC) serves primarily as the nominating committee for conference committees and General Synod delegates. We understand our role as one of communication, invitation, and discernment, as we seek to connect people with opportunities for conference service that reflect their gifts, interests, and capacity.

To that end, the MRC engages the conference in a variety of ways. We send conference-wide emails, submit information for the weekly conference newsletter, provide bulletin inserts and slides for use in congregational settings, reach out directly to some churches and pastors, and invite recommendations from conference leaders. For the past two years, we have also assigned a liaison to each conference committee. These relationships have helped the MRC better understand the work, culture, and needs of the committees, and have strengthened our ability to recruit with greater care and clarity. In addition, we ask each potential committee member to have a brief conversation with the current committee chair prior to nomination. We believe this practice strengthens relationships and helps nominees gain a clearer sense of the committee's direction and expectations.

This year has been a season of liminality for the MRC, and for the conference as a whole. As the Board has developed proposed bylaws, we have observed areas where the bylaws more closely reflect current practice, as well as areas that point toward shared, aspirational values. As a result, the MRC has prepared a slate of nominees while holding the reality that the parameters of committee structure and service may change following the Annual Meeting.

In this in-between space, the MRC remains committed to faithful discernment rather than simply filling roles. We welcome the diversity goals articulated by the Board and look forward

to working collaboratively across the conference to ensure that our values are embodied through representation and beyond.

Respectfully submitted by Jenn Hagedorn, MRC Chair

Outdoor Ministries

In this past year the Outdoor Ministry Committee continued to fulfill our charge to plan, promote, coordinate, implement and evaluate the annual program of PNC conference-wide retreats, camps and other faith formation events at N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs. In 2025 this took the form of the following retreats (with noted attendance):

Men's Retreat at Pilgrim Firs - 46 attended
Jr-Sr High Midwinter at Pilgrim Firs - 32 attended
Women's Retreat at N Sid Sen - 15 attended

And the following camps:

You & Me Camp at N Sid Sen - 12 attended
Kids Camp at N Sid Sen - 4 attended
Intermediate Camp at N Sid Sen - 15 attended
Jr High Camp at N Sid Sen - 23 attended
Family Camp at N Sid Sen - 79 attended
Camp Together at N Sid Sen - 32 attended

OMC held its annual in-person retreat at N-Sid-Sen in October to review the 2025 camping season and begin planning for 2026.

While at the retreat we reviewed the end-of-camp evaluations and reviewed the dates and initial plans for the 2026 retreats and camps. We also created sub teams to focus on specific areas prior to the 2026 camping season. The sub teams and their work to date include:

Promotion & Relationships: In addition to promotion options that have been used in the past ("save-the-date" post card, website updates, etc) began to look for new ways to promote our summer camps.

Communicable Disease Policy & Emergency Action Plans: Drafting a Communicable Disease Policy and Emergency Action Plan to have in place prior to start of 2026 camps.

Safer Camp Policy including Cameras and Photography: Update Safer Camp Policy including adding details related to cameras & photography to have in place prior to start of 2026 camps.

Mental Health Support Strategies: Updated registration to include more mental health screening questions and developed a process to support Camp Staff and Campers when/if mental health issues arise at camp. This could include having trained mental health specialist available to provide support to volunteer and paid camp staff as needed.

Program Enhancements: Gathered ideas on new program elements/activities that could be offered as part of the summer camp experience. Examples include having an astronomy night (a high-powered telescope was recently donated to N-SID-SEN), additional court games like Pickle Ball, additional activities that take advantage of the

waterfront like Stand Up paddleboard training or sailing instruction and activities that take advantage of the camp grounds like ultimate frisbee or a Gaga Ball pit.

Social Justice: Gathered resources for Event Directors and volunteers camp staff to use to augment the primary curriculum and provide additional activities, games, videos, songs, etc. Resources are divided into the follow areas: Climate and Environmental Justice, Racial Justice (civil rights and anti-racism), Refugee & Immigrant Justice, Gender/LGBTQ+ Justice, Healthcare & Reproductive Justice, Economic/Wealth Justice (poverty/food insecurity/housing) and Disability and Mental Health Justice.

In addition, OMC has supported Camp Managing Directors to identify Event Directors for our summer camps and held the annual Camp Event Director training on February 21st. OMC also supported the 2026 Mid-Winter Youth retreat held at Pilgrim Firs on February 6-8.

Stewardship Committee

The responsibilities of the Stewardship Committee are outlined in the Board of Directors approved Fiscal Policies Manual. These consist of the following:

With the assistance of the Conference Accountant, prepare and recommend the annual Conference Ministries Operating Fund Budget, the two Camp Operating Budgets and the two Camp Capital Fund Budgets. After approval by the full committee, these budgets are sent to the Board of Directors for their approval. All Budgets are then presented at the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference for final approval.

Assist the Treasurer and Conference Accountant in the management of the Conference Funds and Investments. The Committee reviews the actual income and expenditures in all funds of the Conference monthly to insure conformance with established budget parameters. It also approves any unbudgeted expenditures including any unbudgeted capital expenditures.

The Committee is also tasked with fund raising. For the last several years this has been challenging, sporadic and insufficient. To achieve the budget fundraising targets in FY 2027 and to meet any kind of fiscal stability in our Conference, it is imperative that more Stewardship Committee members are needed with fundraising abilities and background.

The Committee is also responsible for raising and managing funds for the distribution of health insurance grants to retired clergy and their spouses/mates and to churches. In FY 2025 the Committee distributed \$18,836.

Also the Committee has established an Endowed Scholarship fund to support students who are pursuing graduate or doctoral studies in theology and or ministry. The Stewardship Committee, using Committee on Ministry recommendations, will determine the amount of any scholarship funds granted from the fund. In Calendar year 2025 the fund gave out scholarships totaling \$3,200.

The Stewardship Committee has also been tasked by the Committee on Ministry with periodically updating the Compensation Guidelines for ordained ministers in the Pacific Northwest Conference. This update will occur in Jan 2026.

Many thanks are given to all the members of the Stewardship Committee and the Conference Accountant for their efforts this past year.

Other Reports

Pacific Northwest Conference News

Mary Stamp, Editor

PNC-UCC News reported on the ministries of the conference, its camps, congregations and committees with issues in Winter 2024-25, Spring, Summer and Fall 2025. Articles build awareness and relationships among the PNC congregations as they share stories of what they are doing. Conference staff and committees inform on the life of the conference and resources it provides. We inform on staff perspectives and updates. Pilgrim Firs and N-Sid-Sen camps are regularly featured, reporting on usage by the conference and partners.

Features included work camps at N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs, N-Sid-Sen's volunteer management by the Crowes and its 90th anniversary, and Mark Boyd becoming executive director of Pilgrim Firs. Annual Meeting coverage featured speakers, welcoming new Samoan congregations and business. We introduced website designer Ben Crosby, welcomed Beth Astarte as administrator said goodbye with thanks to Arlene Hobson for 28 years as PNC administrator. We reported on 10 Samoan pastors being granted UCC standing. There were reports on Faith Action Network's leaders and Advocacy Day. We uplifted Spirit of Peace's Valentine messages for Congress, United Churches of Olympia outreach, Jeanette Solimine's rural ministry, Bainbridge Island's hunger outreach, St. Paul's Building Hope Community Center, Samoan youth at Christian Worship Center in Anchorage feeding homeless neighbors, young adult peace pilgrims challenging nuclear weapons, and Iotamo Falealili's ministry in Anchorage. We also cover the work of PNC committees in News Briefs and features.

We publish PNC-UCC News online at www.pncuccnews.org. Before each issue, we email requests for articles and pastors, committees and staff. Before publishing we send out a copy of the proposed issue for those interviewed to review. We share the link by email to the PNC congregations, clergy and committees, through Facebook and the email listserv. We ask those receiving it to share it with their congregations.

Minutes of Annual Meeting 2025

Yakima Convention Center, Yakima WA April 25-27, 2025

Creating Sacred Space

This year's annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ opened with a welcome by Moderator Indigo Brown on Friday, April 25, 2025 at a bit after 1:40 pm as we awaited the arrival of those joining the meeting online. She led us in words of greeting and recognition. A technical glitch delayed the online participants. This first plenary session took place before the official beginning of the meeting tomorrow. She thanked the personnel of the Yakima Convention center

Indigo shared Luke 14:12-14, a reading reflecting the theme of our gathering. The text concerns the welcome we are to share and offer others in the "kingdom". She reminded us that these words challenge us to invite the marginalized and the oppressed and are a call to dismantle privilege and act with radical grace. We need to be led by God's Spirit!

She then directed us to workshops in various locations. Two sessions, one after the other, were held for most of the workshops, followed by a gathering of affinity groups identified in the advance materials.

We had delayed the "speak outs" until 5:00 pm when the body regathered in the main meeting area for dinner.

Speak Outs

Gary Southerton spoke about the Horizon House West Tower project. This is a new building project they will soon begin at Horizon House. Gary represents the Conference on the Board of Horizon House. Horizon House is an independent and assisted living community in downtown Seattle. Over the years, they built a new building every ten years or so. At present, a 33-story tower is planned with construction beginning soon. At this point, they are taking reservation deposits. Gary spoke of the Horizon House community as a mix of deeply engaged people from a variety of backgrounds. He offered information packets to those desiring them.

Megan Pritchard of Prospect UCC, representing the Conference Environmental justice taskforce, invited us to take part in a raffle to highlight the work of this committee and the information on their display table. They would like to know what work for the environment is being done by our local congregations.

Jenn Hagedorn of Spirit of Peace UCC reviewed the nominating slate to be presented later by the Ministry Resources Committee. She invited those currently serving on Conference committees to wave their hands. She invited us to submit names for possible nomination. Her phone number is available.

Moderator Brown invited our Vice Moderator, Esther Sanders, to offer announcements. She spoke of the card shower for Arlene on her retirement. Please fill out a card! Esther then led us in the Doxology and Indigo offered instructions on the procedure for dinner.

After a delightful dinner, we had a long period of table fellowship.

Indigo then called us to a time of worship with words of hope and love. She invited us to renewal and faithfulness.

Our land acknowledgement offered thanks to the Yakama Nation and the labor of the many that enabled us to gather. So much of our gathering today is dependent on those who were enslaved and the violence perpetrated on the indigenous, those brought here against their will, and immigrants.

Our guest preacher, the Rev. Freeman Palmer, Conference Minister of the Central Atlantic Conference brought the word and various PNC leaders took part in the worship service.

Rev. Palmer took our theme text (Luke 14:12-14) as his text. He thanked God for our safe travels and for Phil Hodson our Designated Conference Minister. He reminded us that the good that Jesus did was counter cultural and revolutionary, pushing back against the empire. Jesus spoke to those who were suffering religious oppression. Jesus fed the people, he overturned the tables of the status quo, and healed for free, setting people at liberty. In fundamental ways, Jesus created sacred space for everyone.

Jesus came to dinner at the home of a Pharisee, after a healing on the sabbath. Jesus defied rules and created sacred space for people to be accepted and welcomed at an open table. Don't sit in the place of honor, Jesus said, sit where others are valued equally. We were reminded that the place of honor is the place of service. Jesus did not shut up—Jesus turned to the host, and said that the next time, invite the poor and the ones who rarely get invited to the table. Invite to the table some of the 37 million who live below the poverty line in this nation. Invite the youth, invite those not often invited. Invite those degraded. Invite African Americans who are having their history wiped away by our leaders. Invite women who had been

disenfranchised and denied. Invite the indigenous, who have been culturally erased. Don't just stop there—invite those who are 'other': the transgendered and those who are left out, the immigrant community, and all those who are 'othered'. Invite to the table religious minorities. Invite those 'othered' by Christian Nationalists. The ones we need to invite are not the rich, but rather the marginalized, the oppressed and in doing so we are creating sacred space!

He called us to make room at the table. He told the beautiful story of his mother and the leaf of welcome she always added to her table. Put in a leaf! Deconstruct the table and put in a leaf! Jesus says, if we host an inclusive gathering, we will experience a blessing. The blessing will be the blessing of resurrection.

Jesus spoke of the resurrection, not as judgement day, but when we are the church, when we invite the 'other' we will have resurrection here and now as a church. Stories that are untold can change us and the world. Paul reminded us that we are transformed by the renewing of our minds. God knows, the church could surely use a resurrection. We need to rise from the tombs of our own making, tombs of indifference, tombs of narrow-mindedness. Tombs of fear-based silence. Jesus invites us to do things in a different way, creating in the process sacred space and resurrection space.

We need resurrection for government workers, the people of Gaza, and for the millions who wonder what will happen to the things we have worked for. We have a chance to create space for resurrection. What kind of space do we want to create? A safe space. Get the guest list going and make sure it is right! People who never or rarely get invited need to be invited!

We then received an offering to support the work of Camp N-Sid-Sen and a local Yakima group that works with indigenous youth.

Members of the Church Development Committee called on the members and leaders of the two new congregations joining the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ.

We owned the covenant and words of the Partnership in Mission and Ministry between the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa and the United Church of Christ.

And with the unanimous recommendation of the PNC Board, we welcomed the members of Live in Salvation Church and Emmanuel congregation.

The leaders of these congregations led in singing our partnership and our common joining. They called us, as the newest members of the Conference to recognize them as pioneers and new partners. We heard words of greeting from the Rev. Tahita Makolotoa. Minister of the Live in Salvation Church.

Gifts were presented to Rev. Freeman, Phil, Indigo, and Esther, the chair of the Church Development Committee and to Dawn Koloi, recognizing her key role in welcoming new congregations.

Rev. Elder Siva from the Emmanuel Church was then recognized and he spoke words of thanks and mutual welcome. Additional gifts were shared.

Additional words of commitment between these two new congregations and the other delegates and visitors representing the Pacific Northwest Conference congregations were shared.

We literally sang one another into covenant.

Our Intentional Conference Minister, Phil Hodson, expressed words of deep welcome and affirmation and prayed a blessing on our gathering and our call to be God's people.

Our Moderator offered words of welcome and invited us to a closing hymn. Vice Moderator Esther led us to a beautiful benediction.

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Moderator Indigo Brown welcomed us and invited us to enter a spirit of worship.

Our song leader, Rev. Va'a Alaelua, who with members of his congregation led the singing with great spiritual power throughout our meeting, opened the day beautifully, as he led us in song. Worship leaders from among those clergy who practice Specialized Ministries shared the service. They relied on our theme scripture: Luke 14:12-14, while sharing a collage of poetry, meditation, prayer, and stories related to their ministries. "To struggle with doubt is the work of faith."—Rev. Jeannette Solimine

The Moderator called for Speak outs:

Speak outs

Elizabeth Maupin, Spirit of Peace UCC, on gathering a list of Homelessness and Housing ministries PNC congregations are involved in.

Va'a Alaelua, Christian Worship Center UCC, on putting together a Conference Youth Committee. He hopes that we will establish a sacred space for youth ministry in our Conference.

Mary Stamp, Westminster UCC, The Conference News and The Fig Tree. Mary reminded us that we all have stories and that we need to share stories in our newsletter. She always invites the story tellers to review their stories.

Joanie Henjum, Broadview Community UCC, concerning the closing of their congregation. May 4 will be their last service, and she invites Conference members to attend their final service. At noon!

Following Speak outs, Moderator Indigo Brown began the day with a greeting which included the Board, first-timers, delegates, our planning committee and volunteers and our song leader and his two associates.

Once again, we heard our theme scripture: Luke 12:12-14. Indigo reviewed what we had heard during worship last night about how we are called to embody God's call to justice. She reminded us that we are to dismantle exclusion and build community where all are honored.

She called on Mary Olney-Loyd to offer a Land Acknowledgment. We honored not only the Yakama nation but expanded this acknowledgement to include all who have labored, especially those enslaved and all other exploited peoples.

Vice Moderator, Esther Sanders offered a summary of yesterday's activities, offering thanks to those who led workshops, worship, and affinity groups.

Reminding us of our theme: Creating Sacred Space, Moderator Indigo Brown called us officially to Order.

She announced that a quorum was present.

She invited Leah Atkinson Bilinski, Board Member, serving as our process guide, to review our Standing Rules and communication guidelines. These rules offer us guidance for how we will behave and do our business together.

Indigo announced that members of the JWM committee would meet with her, Esther and other Board members over lunch.

Indigo recognized our guests and granted them voice without vote. She led us in a practice vote, using purple voting cards.

She asked us to approve the updated agenda for today by consensus. Agreed

She invited us to approve the Minutes of Annual Meeting 2024 and of the Special meeting held June 18, 2024. The minutes were available in the advanced materials. Both were approved without corrections.

Indigo called on the Rev. Freeman Palmer of the Central Atlantic Conference to deliver the keynote address.

Expanding on the theme: Creating Sacred Space, he began by reminding us that this has been the mission of the church from the beginning. Pentecost was all about creating sacred space. The people gathered around that day sneered at what they saw happening, but Peter, quoting from the prophet Joel, spoke of the young and old, women and men, seeing visions and dreaming dreams--creating sacred space---not just for some but for all, breaking down walls!

God called Peter through a vision of all that was clean. Peter saw the faith of the gentiles at the home of Cornelius and Peter began to preach. The Holy Spirit fell, and all were baptized. This, like Pentecost, was a pivotal event in the history of the church. This vision created sacred space for us. Being church was created by a call to sacred space!

All of us are here because somebody said we were sacred, and we owned the mission and it is now ours to share.

Lately, we have seen the dismantling of our rights with a relentless barrage of executive orders. We cannot be silent in the face of this. Our call is a call to sacred space.

Jesus was an insurrectionist. There seems to be confusion over what is partisan and what is political. The Gospel is never partisan, but the Gospel should always be political.

Of the 153 congregations in Central Atlantic Conference almost half are in the DC area. These congregations are deeply affected by the current situation in Washington, DC. 20% of affected Government employees live in DC. At least 1 million federal workers live in DC and the wider area around DC.

Ministers have been encouraged by the Conference to first tend to pastoral needs, helping those affected. There have been services of lament, and acts of prophetic witness to create sacred space amid trauma and loss.

He offered three places where we can focus:

1. Social and racial justice. The move toward dismantling DEI creates an urgent call to churches to speak out. Connect Jesus and the Gospel to the racial justice we are seeking. An intentional commitment. Our history has been laced with racism and institutional issues. We have many streams that created the UCC that still need to be recognized. We must create sacred spaces for all to be welcomed and recognized. We must journey to confront white supremacy in congregations. He called us to a racial

justice audit. We need to discover how local churches can embed anti-racism in a congregation's life. In the CAC, a team of clergy and lay leaders are developing a model to be made available to other conferences.

2. LGBTQ+ issues are being confronted. One of their churches has experienced conflict because of a pride flag--with a call to burn the church coming from the community. God worked through this situation as members of the congregation gathered to respond. Other organizations also stood in solidarity. When you put yourself out there to create sacred space, God will partner with you. Don't back down in your witness. We have your back. World pride will happen in Washington DC this summer. The CAC is working with churches and the national setting.
3. Immigrants and refugees and asylum seekers. The CAC, is a named plaintiff in a law suit challenging ICE and other law enforcement agencies over their right to trespass on local churches and violate the sacredness of church space and freedom of worship. Every human being is a child of God by birthright. All are worthy of care and love. Jesus welcomed strangers. This was not new. This is our faith tradition. Aliens are welcome. People need safe space and invasion by ICE violates the Gospel.

His advice to us:

1. Be focused and grounded. This Administration's goal is to make us feel overwhelmed so we can't do anything. We can do something. Figure out what it is God wants you to do. Know what you can do and can't do. Make goals smart, specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timed. This could last four years or more. Pace yourself. Rest, renew, take turns, you are not alone. Burnout does not do anyone any favor. Know what you can do and when you can do it. Enlist allies. 26 denominations and communities joined together in this lawsuit. We had to rely on our coalitions to create a sacred space, discovering the power of 'us'. We can do more together than we can do alone.
2. Creating sacred space is vital for our future. He mentioned the book: *Canoeing the Mountains*. It is about the Lewis and Clark expedition and how their success was made possible by the indigenous woman, Sacajawea--who served as their partner, creating sacred space for everyone on the journey. Remember, the Church is a movement of the hands and feet of God to create the reign of God. Our work creating sacred space is vital and important. May we gather to create sacred space here, out there and in the world. All the people can see it together.

Phil invited questions from the gathering.

Question about the differently abled. It is important to recognize all are part of creating a community.

Practical suggestions about the immigrant friends: Invite churches to do signage around private areas of the church. Policy—ICE can invade public areas but not private areas. They must have a warrant. Signs: "ICE is not welcome here without a warrant".

What gives him hope? The witness of the clergy and the leadership of congregations. People turning out gives him hope. People come together in hope.

ICE is active in Bellingham. Supporting families is important.

When a church building is publicly used, can any of it be protected? By designative private space. Sanctuary is a public space.

World Pride Day...come and take part. Work locally and donate and support youth. Barriers to sacred space—White supremacy—which is in the institutional DNA of all organizations. Adjust priorities so that all are welcomed into sacred space. A year-long process in local congregations. Begin internally and then go outside. Congregations can be transformed.

He was asked about our focus. Do one or two things well within our capacity. Figure out what is going on then do what you can do within your capacity.

Faith in God needs to be our task and the call to tell the truth of God's love. People suffer because of loss and this is nothing new. Our call is to serve.

Dawn reflected on the theme scripture lesson, she reminded us to 'put on a big dinner.... invite the marginalized. She has found power in our gathering and shares it with her congregation.

We need resources to take on white power and privilege. Making sure we are not excluding those who need to be welcomed. Specific places where we need to have shared. Can a black pastor thrive in a white congregation? People are called to dream. We were reminded of our partnership with Columbia and those issues we have in common are not limited to one Conference. It is global.

The theme text is the ownership of the table. What white dominant culture does to all of us. Empowerment is for all of us to teach and to learn. Inviting others to the table might reflect a white dominant culture. We need everyone at the table. It is dangerous when you think about who is setting the table. The table is the church—white supremacy can prevent us from setting the table God wants us to set.

Before breaking for lunch, Indigo reminded us of the card shower for Arlene and that cards are available for us to use.

Following the lunch break, Esther made a few announcements.

We then prepared to begin our business session for the afternoon with a brief devotional.

Kelle Brown led a song which helped us create sacred space. It was her creative rewrite to the hymn: "God Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary."

*God prepare me to be a place of safety
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving. I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.*

Our Moderator called our Designated Conference Minister, Phil Hodson, to do his report.

(Scribe's note: a lengthy and extensive report appears in the written materials provided to delegates before the meeting. Below are the scribe's notes on Phil's oral report.)

Phil spoke of the vitality of the PNC and his efforts to witness and empower vitality in our local contexts. He is hearing dreams and seeing transformation. He has engaged with 45 congregations. He noted that in one sense, there are two types of churches: growing and dying. In that context he proclaimed that the resurrection promise is central to all we do.

He asks three questions in each ministry setting:

1. What is your purpose?
2. What is your plan?
3. What are the tangible outcomes you plan to achieve in the next twelve months?

He celebrates and believes that we can make a powerful impact in our communities. We are involved in so many ways and engaged in protest and support as part of our call to be the church in the world. This is our call from God.

Building relationships as colleagues and congregations in partnership with the Conference is his role. The Conference staff offers guidance and equips our leaders and congregations. He reviewed the work of the staff for our mission enhancement and local church vitality.

Offering praise for her ministry among us, he noted that Arlene has been our warm voice since 1997 and carries our institutional memory. He offered thanks for her many gifts.

Our staff have been collaborators and counselors to him in his work. He expressed thanks.

He celebrated that both Board and staff participated in anti-racism training. He praised the members of COM who are working with our clergy to facilitate their training in anti-racism.

He remembered that it is only in our death, the death of ways of being and doing, that we can truly encounter the reality of resurrection.

He had celebrated Easter with the people of Broadview UCC as they prepared to end their time of service. He thanked them and reminded us that their death will become a launching pad for new congregations.

He celebrated that The Rev. Steve Erickson, who passed recently, left a legacy gift to begin a permanent endowment at N-Sid-Sen—another resurrection. These are examples of how the table will be made bigger. We know that there is a long road ahead.

We need to invite new folks to the table. This is a time to share the great good news in all the settings of ministry.

Let the Conference know what is happening in your local congregations so we can share with one another. As a Board and staff, we are ready to walk together. That is what resurrection looks like. This is our moment; may we rise with Spirit's help to meet it.

Jen Hagedorn, chair of the MRC presented the slate for the election.

Annual Meeting Planning Committee 2026

Committee Members: 2 people | At least 6 members

Rev. Tara Leininger

Ex-officio per Bylaws: Moderator

Board of Directors

Board vacancies: Heartland Area Representatives

All area representative terms are two years renewable up to three terms. All other term lengths are noted in italics.

Returning for a New Term:

Scribe: Rev. Dr. Ron Patterson, Term: 2027-2 (*Term is two years, with an option to serve another two-year term*)

At-Large Rep: Rev. Leah Atkinson Bilinski, Term: 2027-2

Southwest Area Rep: Rev. Amy Johnson, Term: 2027-2

Young Adult Rep: Tevita Fakasiieiki, Term: 2027-3

New Committee Members:

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Sandy Wisecarver, Term: 2026-1 (*this is a one-year term renewable up to two terms*)

Vice Moderator: Danette Koloi, Term: 2026-1 (*this is a one-year term renewable up to two terms*)

Northwest Area Rep: Edwin Galeai, Term 2027-1

Northeast Area Rep: Morag Stewart, Term: 2027-1

Central West Area Rep: Demontrice Bigham, Term: 2027-1

Continuing Current Term:

Treasurer: Diana Kutas, Term: 2027-2 (*this is a four-year term, with the option to serve one additional term*)

Southeast Area Rep: Rev. Deborah Tyler, Term: 2026-1

Youth Rep: Talaalemoth "Leilani" Alaelua, Term: 2026-1 (*this term is one year renewable up to two terms*)

Past Moderator: Indigo Brown, Term: 2026-1 (*this term is one year*),

Church Development Committee

Committee Members: 10 people | Up to 18 members

Returning for a New Term:

Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel (Co-chair), Term: 2027-2

New Committee Members:

Betsy Runke, Term: 2027-1

Rev. Catherine Foote, Term: 2027-1

Rev. Va'a Alaelua Term: 2027-1

Jennifer Tagoa'I, Term 2027-1

Tofaagaoalii 'Tos' La'a, Term 2027-1

Continuing Current Term:

Kaila Russell Term: 2026-1

Luapo Tai Korua, Term: 2026-1

Lupe Mamae Term: 2026-1

Rev. William Comfort Term: 2026-1

Rev. Margo Richardson Term: 2026-1

Rev. Valerie Garrick Term: 2026-1

Roselynn Gatoloai (Co-chair) Term: 2026-1

Committee on Ministry

EAST

Committee Members: 4 people | Up to 6 members

Returning for a New Term:

Susan Chamberlin, Term: 2027-2

Rev. Russ Clark, Term: 2027-3

New Committee Members:

None

Continuing Current Term:

Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley, Term: 2026-1

Rev. Fred Hutchinson, Term: 2026-1

WEST

Total Committee Members: 16 people | Up to 18 members

Returning for a New Term:

Janet Ott, Term: 2027-2
Judy West, Term: 2027-2
Rev. Bruce Wilson, Term: 2027-2
Rev. Jennifer Castle, Term: 2027-2
Rev. Karyn Frazier, Term: 2027-2
Stanley Ou Yang, Term: 2027-3

New Committee Members:

Rev. Jermell Witherspoon, Term: 2027-1

Continuing Current Term:

Charnley Marsen, Term: 2026-3
Gene Hill, Term: 2027-1
Judy Theirry, Term: 2026-1
Kenn Robinson, Term 2026-3
Rev. Dr. Cindy Bauleke (Chair) 2026-1
Rev. Dr. Dee Eisenhauer, Term, 2026-1
Rev. Kevin Bechtold, Term: 2026-1
Rev. Lara Crutsinger-Perry, Term: 2026-2
Rev. Marci Scott-Weis, Term: 2026-2

Global Ministries Committee

Total Committee Members: 5 people | Up to 6 members (this is a joint committee with the Disciples of Christ)

Returning for a New Term:

Rev. Corey Passons (chair), Term: 2027-3
Rev. Kenneth Colman, Term: 2027-2

New Committee Members:

Brian Thorngate, Term: 2027-1

Continuing Current Term:

Rev. Dan Stern, Term: 2026-3
Rev. Tara Young-Brown, Term: 2026-1

Ministry Resources Committee

Total Committee Members: 3 people | At least 6 members

Returning for a New Term:

Rev. Jenn Hagedorn (Chair) Term: 2027-2

New Committee Members:

None

Continuing Current Term:

Al Bentley Term: 2026-1
Ex-officio Per Bylaws: Past-Moderator

Justice and Witness Ministry Committee *Total Committee Members: 7 people | Up to 18 Members*

Returning for a New Term:

None

New Committee Members:

None

Continuing Current Term:

Elizabeth Maupin, Term: 2026-1

Kate Forrester, kateforrester5@gmail.com, Term: 2026-1 Phoenix Rainbow Sparrow-Harris Butterfly, Term: 2026-1 Rev. Jennifer Butner (co-chair), Term: 2026-1

Rev. Sophie Morse (co-chair), Term: 2026-1

Rev. Stevi Hamill, stevi@fccbellevue.org, Term: 2026-1

Zoe Pfeifer (co-chair), Term: 2026-1

JWM is also the umbrella committee for two taskforces: Dismantling Racism Taskforce & Environmental Justice Team

Outdoor Ministries Committee

Total Committee Members: 8 people | Up to 18 members

Returning for a New Term:

Eric Johnson (Chair), Term: 2027-3

Rev. Linda Crowe, Term: 2027-2

Shirley Asmussen, Term: 2027-2

New Committee Members:

Julia Erickson, Term: 2027-1

Margaret Irribarra Swanson, Term: 2027-1

Rev. Jessica Star Rockers, Term: 2027-1

Continuing Current Term:

Janet Malley, Term: 2026-1

Ex-officio: Rev. Leah Atkinson Bilinski and Diana Kutas

Personnel Committee

Total Committee Members: 6 people | Committee is full

Returning for a New Term:

Eleta Wright, Term: 2027-2

Mar Robertson, Term: 2027-2

Robbie Gilchrist, Term: 2027-2

Wendy Blight, Term: 2027-3

New Committee Members:

Rev. Esther Sanders, Term: 2027-1

Continuing Current Term:

Rev. Ryan Lambert, (Chair) Term: 2026-2

Stewardship Committee

Total Committee Members: 11 people | Up to 18 members

Returning for a New Term:

Martha Baldwin, Term: 2027-3

Rev. Tara Barber Term: 2027-2

Thomas Miller (Chair) Term: 2027-3

New Committee Members:

Rev. Bill Maury-Holmes, Term: 2027-1

Continuing Current Term:

Alex Fonoti Term: 2026-1

Chris Otto Term: 2026-1
Claudia Farnsworth-Smith Term: 2026-1
Ed Coleman Term: 2026-3
Jonathan Kesler Term: 2026-3
Ex-officio per bylaws: Treasurer and Vice Moderator

General Synod Delegates 2025:

We are allotted 6 delegates / An alternate delegate has been nominated if any current delegates are unable to attend.

New Delegates for 2025:

Rev. Va'a Alaelua
Washington Tauanu'u (youth)

Returning Delegates:

Charnley Marsden
Indigo Brown
Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown
Zoe Pfeiffer

In addition to the above report,
A Scot Ward was added to the Annual Meeting planning committee
Kendrick Richardson was added to the Board of Directors to an at large position
Rev. Bianca Davis was added to the COM west.

After questions were raised, members of the Board attempted to respond and address the concerns expressed about the possibility of a racial audit. It was suggested that we do a better job of onboarding our new members.
Thanks were expressed about the value of our ongoing conversation.
We proceeded to vote on the nomination report. It was approved.

Speak-out Time

Linda Purdy was introduced as the Director of Wellbeing at Horizon House. She noted her coming retirement and that they are hoping to hire someone to replace her. They are seeking a person to replace her at Horizon House and hope someone might apply.

Amy Johnson from Wayside UCC and the national setting of the UCC. There have been 859 anti-trans bills introduced in 49 state legislatures. She invited us to take part in a counter-protest to the rally sponsored by anti-trans religious groups on May 24th. She asked us to offer love and acceptance to the trans community and to counter the "Don't Mess With Our Kids" anti-trans gathering.

She reminded us that Our Whole Lives curriculum training will take place at Pilgrim Firs in the Fall.

Gen Heywood, Veradale UCC, Spokane Valley. Her church was founded as a community church. It is the most diverse congregation. Their flags had been stolen, and their lawn was vandalized. She offered words of thanks and encouragement.

Amy Hitchens, Normandy Park UCC, on behalf of COM spoke about the importance of the Community of Practice groups for the support and vitality of our clergy. If you are interested, talk to her.

Emily Tanis-Likkel, Alki UCC, spoke of the power of the post-Easter clergy retreat as a moment of renewal and offered thanks for this event.

Dee Eisenhauer, Eagle Harbor UCC, spoke about free books and hopes we will look through them and take them home with us.

Yvonne Williamson, Chewelah, she spoke with appreciation of the Samoan churches and their music. She spoke of the vitality her small church experiences as they gather with another congregation each fifth Sunday for a potluck.

Bill Kirlin-Hackett of Wayside UCC, spoke in memory of Pope Francis and his impact on all Christians and the world at large.

Elizabeth Gordon of Plymouth UCC spoke about a workshop offered by the People's Institute of Kitsap County about building community through an anti-racism lens. She also affirmed the words of wisdom spoken earlier by Dawn.

Committee on Ministry Presentation

Cindy Bauleke, the current chair of COM West began the report of the committee by reminding us that we are continually learning what welcome means. She called on Lara Crutsinger-Perry, a COM West Subcommittee chair, to introduce the new requirement to maintain ordained ministerial standing. Seeking to live into our Conference commitment to be anti-racist and open and affirming, there is now a new requirement for Diversity, Equity, Inclusiveness and Belonging training. This will be required every three years with the first series to focus on racism. The COM is recommending three possible programs and will entertain other options if proposed. They recommend the program led by the New York Conference, the programs sponsored by Seattle's People's Institute, and Convergence. This is a faithful first step living into what we say we want to become as a Conference. The New York Conference training is being offered August 14, 2025, October 11, 2025, and January 10, 2026.

Cindy then reviewed the many scholarships available to our clergy for these events and other continuing education opportunities.

The Outdoor Ministries Committee

Eric Johnson, chair of the Outdoor Ministries Committee, began his report by inviting those present to consider getting involved, especially to help their committee become more anti-racist. He shared a brief conversation with two others who have been blessed by our camp program. Naomi Bilinski was interviewed on her extensive involvement as a young person. Janet Malley was asked about her history with our camps and spoke about her first experience when she was a single mother with a four-year old. These were beautiful testimonies.

Eric reviewed the work of his committee. Working in partnership with the Board of Directors, they plan, train and equip leaders for our camps. They are considering ways to enhance the ministry of our local congregations. He listed several of the events they sponsored. They were partners in a recent retreat for trans youth. There are many wonderful camp opportunities this year, with over 250 people involved.

He reviewed their organization and the ways they involve volunteers. They have developed a comprehensive evaluation system. They are working on how to make our camps more inclusive. He presented a promotional video. Outstanding! He reviewed camp websites. He spoke about the importance of having people promoting camps in your local congregation and urged us to **find ways to add a link to the camp websites on local church website.**

Mark Boyd, Director of Pilgrim Firs was introduced. He thanked our many volunteers. Last year there were over 2,800 participants at Pilgrim Firs, of whom 800 were UCC folks. PF is committed to being a sacred oasis. He spoke about several of the elements of the camps environment, presenting slides illustrating the vitality of the camp and its programs.

Phil led us in a review of what has been happening at N-Sid-Sen. A group of wise people have created a team of three former camp directors who will serve as a team to bring their wisdom to N-Sid-Sen, so we can have a summer camp program this year: Bill Bordon, Shirely Rassmussen from Fauntleroy, and Randy Crowe will help us get through. Phil urged us repeatedly to “Come to camp!” The future looks bright. Get involved, come to camp. Look for updates. Donors are getting involved. Work keeps happening. A special taskforce has been appointed by the Board to explore the future vitality of N-Sid-Sen.

Esther, our vice Moderator transitioned us into the Board reports.

A Personal note from Your Vice Moderator: *We are the Conference. Remember the song “The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is the people?” The song goes on with “I am the church; you are the church; we are the church together.” In the many years I have served on the Board of Directors and the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, I have heard many compliments and complaints. Sometimes folx take ownership of the Conference in the compliments, yet often in the complaints there is a clear distancing, “The Conference did or decided thus and so...” or the same sentence is recited about “The Board.” While it is human nature to distance ourselves from those actions with which we might not agree or where we have exercised no autonomy, for “The Conference,” it can undermine the faith-filled work of those who are volunteers on committees and the Board. Presently there are around one hundred individuals who are volunteering in official capacities at the Conference level and they were elected by “The Conference.” There is always room for more volunteers, those who are taking ownership of the Conference through a calling God put on our hearts. Though not all are called to this work, there are many other ways to claim ownership of “Our Conference:” through prayers, through stewardship of time, talent or finances, and asking questions of committees, the Board and the Conference Minister when the Holy Spirit is compelling you to seek clarity or accountability. This is our Conference; we are the Conference together. Love, Rev. Esther Sanders*

The Vice-Moderator’s Board Report

Your Board of Directors have been busy in the last year. Most prevalent were the themes of calling a Special Conference meeting to converse about and vote on our Designated Conference Minister, seek leadership and a plan for N-Sid-Sen Camp an Conference Center and establish a path for training for the Board, leadership and staff to participate in anti-racism training, which is one small step in our Conference’s goal toward anti-racism. In addition to our typical agenda of approving minutes, hearing financial reports, and reports from both camp directors and our Designated Conference Minister, here are some other highlights of what your Board accomplished since last year’s annual meeting. · In May 2024 we had a workshop with Heather Kimmel on good governance. · June 2024: Approved camp guidelines offered up by the Outdoor Ministries Committee. · July: Debriefed the Special Meeting of the Conference. · August was a sabbath month; we did not meet. · September: Discussion with Phil, Designated Conference Minister, about the health of the Conference and setting goals together. · October (we met twice in October and not in November) Reviewed fiscal policies and clarified definitions for Board liaisons (those from the Board to committees) and committee liaisons (those from one committee to another committee). We then received the report of the audit being completed and set up a sub-group to take a close look at the Constitution and By-laws. · December: Changing plans for Anti-racism training from People’s Institute (due to higher cost for group trainings than individual trainings) to contracting with New York Conference. · January: Heard from Phil about the creation of a N-Sid-Sen Vitality Task Force. · February: Accepted the report about the Outdoor Ministry Charter 13 · March: Met with two leaders from the Justice and Witness Ministry Committee and at a special called meeting we accepted the resignation of the Designated Camp Director at N-Sid-Sen.

Prayerfully submitted by Rev. Esther Sanders, Vice Moderator.

The Moderator's Board Report

During this year the Board, in response to fulfilling our 2024 Annual Meeting commitment, explored options for training and partnered with the New York Conference UCC to implement anti-racism and cultural awareness training, still encouraging further training with Peoples' Institute independently. This initiative will provide resources for Committees on Ministry and local churches to deepen our collective justice work.

We have approved new camp guidelines from the Outdoor Ministries Committee. We have had a redesigned conference website launched to improve resource accessibility. All documents of the Conference are in the process of being digitized.

Though camp N-Sid-Sen has been in lots of transition in the past year. We continue exploring partnerships to strengthen this sacred site's future.

The revised 4/1/2025 budget packet demonstrates responsible fiscal management while funding our justice commitments. Limited assistance remains available for attendance costs through the conference.

And the Constitution and Bylaws are in the process of being revised thanks to a dedicated subgroup of the Board. (Stay tuned for next year.)

We urgently invite prayerful consideration for:

- Conference committee vacancies
- Board of Directors positions
- Volunteer roles supporting meeting logistics and ongoing ministries

I want to thank the board for their guidance through this transitional year. Together, we're building a Conference that truly embodies our theme of creating sacred space.

Respectfully submitted,
Indigo Brown, Moderator

Indigo offered her Moderator's report.

Over the past two years, we as a conference have journeyed through a period of transition and growth, marked by challenges and opportunities. As I reflect on my time as Moderator, I am reminded of our theme, *Creating Sacred Space*, which has guided us in redefining what it means to be a conference and a collective church community.

Entering this role, I was aware that it would not be an easy path. It has been a time of learning—both rewarding and difficult. One of the most pressing observations during my time has been our collective aspiration to embody an anti-racist and inclusive conference.

While we excel in performative actions that make it seem as though we are doing the work, the reality often falls short (is not enough). At times, our community has resembled a social club offering shallow welcomes rather than a truly transformative space of belonging.

This whole time I have been observing how we as a conference are a collection of churches rather than a body knitted together in purpose. As a goal, we have claimed that we are striving to be an anti-racist inclusive conference. We are very good at naming ourselves and doing the performative things to make sure that it looks as if we are doing the work. And I am first to acknowledge that many are doing good work, and getting into good trouble. But the reality is that we seem stuck hesitating follow God, siloed and in competition with one another while being church becomes a dream deferred.

With a nation trembling in fear, the poor at the brink of death, farmers being undermined, Black, Brown, Indigenous, queer, trans and gender diverse people under attack, we still struggle to live into our own aspirations to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. We struggle to see each other as fully human while also celebrating old victories over and over again.

In terms of my leadership, my demographics were against me the moment I stepped into this role. I heard and experienced some of the racism and mistreatment of the Black, Brown and Indigenous people within this conference. We've made promises to become antiracist, but rely on the least equipped among us to decide how to pursue this goal. The thing that has been coming to the forefront for me during my time is there has been more intellectual work done within this conference than right action. In other words, faith is secondary to strategy and policy, with lots of boasting as if the work is being done.

Matthew 6:1-5 reminds us to Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen, to not be like the hypocrites who are more interested in how they look rather than transforming their hearts.

It's wonderful that you have taken the trainings, if you have stacks of t shirts and yard signs about peace and justice. However God is interested in the spiritual fruit, and it should be evident to us all. What we should see is how you are changing the way in which you move throughout this world and how the world is transformed because of you.

My call to action for this conference is to resist celebrating while so many are unheard and do not feel welcome to the table. Resist burying yourself in the intellectual things. Do the actionable things. Don't rely on the persons of color to hold you accountable. This is your moral, sacred work! Do the work of the church to make sure that all are truly welcomed and cared for. To bring in those who would not be invited to your table. To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Respectfully submitted,
Indigo Brown, Moderator

After a break at which we honored Arlene's service to the Conference since 1997 with a card shower and a cake, we reconvened to consider the details of the budget.

Budget Presentation

Martha Baldwin, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee and the Board, presented the budget for the coming fiscal year. Slides were prepared and presented to the delegates which were also presented in the advanced materials.

Her presentation offered the budget in three segments including Conference Ministries, Pilgrim Firs, and N-Sid-Sen. Revenue sources are Endowment, OCWM, and individual gifts. Our endowment draw is currently 4% and that income represents about 7% of the budget. As with most non-profits, our largest expense is salary and benefits for our staff. This budget includes 2.3% COLA.

Martha reviewed expenses and income figures and presented a balanced presentation of budget realities.

She reviewed expenses and income for both camps with most of the news from Pilgrim Firs being good and N-Sid-Sen showing less income and higher expenses. Efforts to address the needs at N-Sid-Sen are part of a longer plan the Board of Directors is seeking to address.

She reviewed the reserve funds that will be utilized to cover the losses at N-Sid-Sen based on the recommendation of the Board.

The Board will be reviewing plans to meet the ongoing needs at N-Sid-Sen.

Treasurer Diana Kutas announced and honored the 5 for 5 congregations and thanked all who gave. Our total giving was over half a million dollars.

She called on Andy Warren to answer questions.

After lengthy discussion, the moderator called for a vote on the Conference budget. At the recommendation of the Stewardship Committee and moved by the Board, the delegates passed the budget.

Conference Ministries

Revenue:	\$476,600
Expense:	\$535,034
Net Loss:	(\$58,434) (Deficit covered by conference reserves.)

Camp N-Sid-Sen

Revenue:	\$389,660
Expenses	\$522,730
Net Loss	(\$133,070) (Deficit covered by camp and conference reserves)

Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center

Revenue:	\$860,200
Expenses:	\$807,997
Net Income:	\$ 52,203 (Surplus will help support N-Sid-Sen deficit)

Vice Moderator Esther presented the plan for the Annual Meeting 2026 in the hope we will have one westside site, one eastside site and one site in Alaska, hoping that a church in Alaska will offer to host. Delegates will gather on the weekend of March 13-15, 2026 with Board members and officers deployed to each location

She reported that new bylaws are in the works and that there will be a series of townhalls planned to present changes and seek input from around the Conference. The Board hopes that these new by-laws will be presented for adoption at the next annual meeting.

Phil enthusiastically asked for volunteers to help plan next year's annual meeting.

Esther thanked our amazing tech team, Kyna Shilling, John Eisenhauer, and Kevin Bechtold.

Gifts were presented to Indigo and Esther from the Board and others.

Phil announced that the Conference is sending Indigo to TFAM as an act of thanksgiving for her leadership. He congratulated her on her upcoming election to the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ.

Moderator elect, Sandy Wisecarver moved to adjourn the Annual Meeting 2025 at the conclusion of worship tomorrow. Passed

We then moved to a period of worship which included the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the installation of leaders and a time of memorial for those who had passed in the year since our last gathering. New clergy were recognized

Respectfully submitted. Ron Patterson Scribe.