OUR LIVING MESSAGES | 20/20 HISPANIC VISION | MORE THAN A NUMBER

THE 2015 CONSTITUENCY SESSION DELEGATE ISSUE

Update

NEWS FROM UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE / APRIL 2015

Upper Columbia Conference: Four years in review *and* **Department reports**

GROWING DISCIPLES

SERVING OTHERS: THE SECRET TO A SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIAN LIFE

Upper Columbia Conference

77th Constituency Session

May 31, 2015

Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Washington

Every four years delegates from each church in Upper Columbia Conference gather to provide counsel and direction for the future. The "church" is not a building or an office in Spokane, but people called by God to make disciples and share Jesus with the world around us.

CHECK THE SESSION SCHEDULE AT UCC2015.ORG

Purpose

We have a constituency session to:

- Hear reports from the last four years.
- Elect conference leadership including four administrators, department directors and members of the conference executive Committee and the board of education.
- Give input on the focus for the next four years.
- Approve constitutional changes.
- Vote on agenda items.

Voting Members

Only delegates appointed by the local churches within the conference, and such delegates-at-large as provided for in the Upper Columbia Conference constitution, will be recognized as official delegates to participate in the business of the conference session.

Early in the session the delegates will be officially recognized (seated) by the chair and are then authorized to participate in the business of the Constituency Session.

Delegate Responsibility

Each church in the conference appoints delegates on the basis of church membership (two delegates for each church, plus one delegate for each 75 members or major fraction thereof). There are also delegates-at-large that are selected according to the Upper Columbia Conference constitution. The constitution also states that delegates-at-large shall not exceed thirty-three percent of the total delegation. All delegates have a responsibility to:

- Represent the best interest of the church as a whole and the work of the conference.
- Unite in prayer and commitment to transact the business for the Constituency Session in such a way as to further the work of God in the Upper Columbia Conference.

Procedures

- The Large Committee meets 60 days before the Constituency Session to select the nominating committee and the constitution and bylaws committee.
- The nominating committee starts its work at least 30 days before the Constituency Session. This committee submits, for approval to the delegates in session, a list of individuals to serve as officers, departmental directors, executive committee members, board of education members and financial and statistical review committee members.
- Delegates may speak to the standing committees' specific recommendations.
- All decisions from the standing committees will be brought as recommendations to the delegates for final consideration.
- The majority vote of the delegates will constitute the official action of the Constituency Session.

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SPECIAL DELEGATE ISSUE

The Great COMMISSION

PAUL HOOVER / UPPER COLUMBIA CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen" Matt. 28:18-20.

MINISTRY TEAM

Paul Hoover
President

Dot Rasmussen
Executive Assistant

From the beginning of time, even prior to sin, the love of God planned for everything possible to redeem His children.

Revelation 13:8 says, "the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world." His plan of redemption to save us was formulated even prior to creation! Jesus passed on to us the same great commission He had while on earth.

Jesus understood that His work was built upon His mission that the Father had given Him. It was the formative core that guided Him through every situation. It was this sense and clarity of mission that gave Him direction, energy and power to bring transformation to people and life. His focus and dedication clearly came out of His love for people and His perspective on the mission of redemption the Father had given Him.

Jesus never fell into the trap of doing what other people thought He should be doing. The crowd wanted to crown Him king and carry Him into Jerusalem. They wanted Jesus to vanquish the Romans and establish David's kingdom to all its former glory. Jesus even refused to allow His own needs to re-direct His life. From His hunger in the wilderness, to the anguish of Gethsemane, He always surrendered His will to the Father's will. Jesus never allowed Himself to get caught up in other people's agendas. For Jesus it was always about the mission of the Godhead concerning the salvation of a lost world.

Today, just like in Jesus' day, the devil will do anything to distract us from our prime purpose to "make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" Matt. 28:18-20.

Our mission that was given to us is found in Matthew 28 and Revelation 14. These passages clearly outline God's will and intention for His last day church. The three angels found in Revelation 14 represent the mission and movement that God has given to His church. We are called to make disciples through baptism, and teach them to observe all the things He commanded us to do.

We are called to follow the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 14:4; 13:8), proclaiming the good news of salvation, forgiveness and a new life in Christ (Rev. 14:6-7). This good news is that Jesus is not just the creator of heaven and earth, but also the re-creator, making new creations out of every person (2 Cor. 5:17) who surrenders their life to Him!

Each church, each member is a testimony to that new reality. We, the body of Christ today, are called to be a channel in the hands of God carrying the saving message of Jesus to our lost world. Our lives are a result of that saving work. We enjoy the grace of God and with that grace comes an opportunity to share it with others. If we take this opportunity, we will fulfill the gospel commission to the world at the end of time. We have the privilege of sharing the Three Angels Messages (Rev. 14) and spreading the great commission to the last generation on earth.

This is God's mission; this is the mission of the Upper Columbia Conference; this is my mission and I trust you believe it is your mission! It is the will of God for us today! God has asked us to use every church, every school, and every member as instruments of His will to proclaim the love of God to every person. We are going into the territory of the Upper Columbia Conference and into every corner of our world to "make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen" Matt. 28:18-20.

Paul

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

PATTY MARSH \ CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

"Can you believe it? Not one child has heard of the name of Jesus! And . . . not one has even heard of the Bible!"

These incredulous words came from a His Travelers* team member who served with two other young adults in a small community in Spokane County supporting the local church's Vacation Bible School.

His Travelers team members had knocked on doors with VBS invitations and balloon animals in hand resulting in 30+ children attending the Vacation Bible School in this Spokane County community. All children attending, the team discovered, were unchurched.

"Let the children come unto Me . . ." words that rang from Jesus lips gives the strongest endorsement in the ministry of making disciples of our youngest ones. Children easily trust, engage, love, share openly, and believe. And children have a lifetime ahead to live out what they learn in their early years!

In 2013 an informal survey of 15 various-sized UCC churches revealed the troubling trend that once children leave our Kindergarten Sabbath School, the number of children attending Primary in many of our churches will drop in half. Questions come to mind: Why? Will these children return? How is this trend effecting Adventist education? Do we lose the parents as well? Is a partial reason because few are willing to lead these divisions?

On a more positive note, ministry to our children brings tremendous opportunities! What if churches thoughtfully focused, when looking at their yearly schedule, on events that appeal to children? Ione Church offered a post-Christmas three-evening VBS that was well attended. For years Troy Church has offered a regular VBS follow up for the area children.

Millennial parents look for enrichment for their children. Only our imaginations limit the opportunities to mingle and share with children and parents in their communities in the neighborhoods near our churches?

- "Kids in the Kitchen" – a cooking class especially for kids – and of course, parents are welcome
- "Children's Art Workshop"
- Musical concert with reception following so kids could meet musicians, ask questions and touch instruments
- "Gardening for Kids" workshop
- "Welcome to [a country name]" – a workshop where kids can learn about a culture through stories, crafts, foods, games, language, and how Jesus is working in that country. Our Adventist church is blessed by culturally rich diversity. Have we tapped this potential?

UCC children's ministries supports the making of younger disciples from birth to earliteens through trainings, sharing of resources, including His Travelers teams over the last five years and through voice, pen and technology.

Jesus says, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me" Luke 9:48 (NIV).

**His Travelers – For the past five summers carefully-selected young adults (approximately 30 in five years) have served for eight weeks each summer in mostly small churches throughout Upper Columbia Conference supporting children's programming and community outreach.*

MINISTRY TEAM

Patty Marsh
Director

Tamara Terry
Administrative Assistant

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

WAYNE HICKS / FAMILY LIFE DIRECTOR

50
BILLION
Is spent each year on weddings in America to produce families that rapidly fall apart.

60
PERCENT
Of Americans only have a high school education. Nearly half of those (44 percent) have children out of wedlock.

15x
UNMARRIED
Number of unwed couples living together with children has increased 15x since 1960.

34
PERCENT
Children living apart from biological father.

3x
HIGHER
"Negative life outcomes" are two to three times higher for children in single-parent families than those in two-parent married families.

Individuals and families are the core building blocks that make up our churches. And these same individuals and families are called by Christ to disciple individuals and families in our churches and communities.

Families around us are sick and dying

Statistics from the Institute for Marriage and The National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia. www.stateofourunions.org/2012/social_indicators.php

Our example and ministry is needed today more than ever before. Families around us are sick and the statistics only show things getting worse.

Christ's model of discipling requires individual role models and family role models who can reflect Christ's love. They are not going to be perfect role models, but they can be role models that demonstrate a desire and a heart for Christ.

The strength of teaching and role-modeling these Biblical principles lies at the local church. Every congregation needs to find resources and programs to strengthen and safeguard families.

The UCC family ministry department is here to support your efforts. Our family ministry resource library contains books, videos and even video seminars that you can check out for use to instruct families at your church.

Have a specific family-related need that you don't know how to address? Give us a call and we will help you find the resources you need.

Reaching out and discipling the hurting families around us will make an eternal difference. Let's work together now to rescue as many as we can.

MINISTRY TEAM

Wayne Hicks
Director

Cheryl Wallace
Administrative Assistant

MEN'S MINISTRY

In addition to providing resources and consultation for local church men's groups, the Upper Columbia Conference's men's ministry hosts an annual winter summit for men. Deep issues of life, specific to men and their families, are tackled head-on.

Men who attend Men's Summit long to be discipled by Christ – you can hear it when they pray! You can see it when they share Christ with other men.

And even better than attending the summit, start a men's ministry in your church, where godly men follow Christ's example to disciple other men. It's a biblical concept!

MINISTRY TEAM

Wayne Hicks
Director

Cheryl Wallace
Administrative Assistant

MINISTRY TEAM

Patty Marsh
Director

Tamara Terry
Administrative Assistant

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Beautiful music, scrumptious food, spiritual feasts, fellowship with friends, praying with others – have you connected the dots? Each fall the women's ministry department hosts the annual Women and Young Women's Retreat. Additional discipling opportunities for women are offered in April for Hispanic women and a special one-day women's inspirational event in May.

Restoration House, in Osborn, Idaho, is a transitional home for women released from prison. Diana Pierce and others share love, instruction from God's Word, prayer and lots of opportunities for learning, giving these woman a fresh start to a new life.

Throughout Upper Columbia Conference women use unique gifts and talents for God, uplifting churches, touching lives and impacting communities by:

- Weekly opening homes so neighbor women can work on crafts.
- Leading small groups for Bible study and prayer and reading circles.
- Blogging, writing articles and books.
- Ministering to abuse victims and newly arrived refugees.

Matthew 27:55 says, "Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs." Praise the Lord for the women today who are following Jesus and caring for His needs in Upper Columbia Conference!

SINGLES MINISTRY

50+ **PERCENT** Of all Americans are classified as single.

Adventist single adult ministries is a fellowship that provides opportunities and encouragement to single adults that are never-married, divorced, widowed, or single parents. More info at adventistsingleadultministries.org.

MINISTRY TEAM

Wayne Hicks
Director

Cheryl Wallace
Administrative Assistant

WENDY EBERHARDT/ YOUTH DIRECTOR

Discipling At The Lake

The Camp MiVoden summer program purposefully gives every individual at camp the opportunity to grow their relationship with Jesus and share their story of what He has done in their lives. Each summer there is a Biblical theme and all programs are designed to highlight a specific aspect of the theme, pointing all towards a closer and deeper relationship with our Heavenly Father. Here are two ways that Camp MiVoden and the Youth Department are growing disciples and expanding the kingdom of heaven.

Izzy, Junior Camper

Our theme in the summer of 2013 was "Set Free," based on Romans 8:2, "Because through Christ Jesus the Law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the laws of sin and death."

During the week, under the discipleship of her counselor, Izzy made the decision to accept Jesus as her Savior and expressed a desire to be baptized. We communicated this with her pastor and over the next school year she took baptismal classes and studied the Bible with one of the local conference pastors. She grew in her knowledge and understanding of Jesus and His sacrifice for her eternal life. Plans were made for Izzy to be baptized at camp this past summer. Over 200 people from family to church members to her Pathfinder club and camp family supported and witnessed Izzy's rebirth through baptism.

Izzy is twelve years old and is excited about her relationship with Jesus. She explained that she understands a lot more things in the Bible and feels different now when she prays. Being the only Christian on her street, she enjoys sharing Jesus' love with other kids her age.

When Izzy tells others who have never been to Camp MiVoden before, she talks about the activities, walking through nature and looking at what God designed. She also explains about the campfire programs and learning in fun ways about Jesus.

Kerysa, Summer Staff Member

As I prepared for my fourth summer as camp staff, I was sure I had made the wrong decision to work at camp again. However, as I left, I wondered what had happened. How did Camp MiVoden 2014 turn out to be one of the biggest blessings of my life?

As I watched and participated in ministering to campers, young and old, I began to realize that there was something special at Camp MiVoden, and that was Jesus. Not only could I see Him working in the lives of others at camp, but in my own heart as well. I made the decision to be re-baptized, and what a rich blessing that was and continues to be.

There truly is no other name like Jesus, and I am grateful to Him for bringing me to MiVoden and strengthening my desire to continue in the summer camp ministry.

These are just two examples of many relationships that were ignited as a direct result of a ministry, of other disciples building relationships and sharing their love for Jesus Christ by serving in the Great Commission.

MINISTRY TEAM

Wendy Eberhardt
Director

Bruce Christensen
Camp Operations Director

Denise Kinney
Administrative Assistant

LIVING MESSAGES

"Children are the living m

LARRY D. MARSH / VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION

From its early beginnings

as Milton Academy in 1886, Adventist education in Upper Columbia Conference has grown to 27 schools. The educational footprint of K-12 schools includes three academies, Cascade Christian Academy (CCA), Upper Columbia Academy (UCA) and Walla Walla Valley Academy (WWVA) in addition to a number of junior academies and elementary schools.

We're excited to report that UCC education experienced an increase of 43 students during the 2014-2015 school year. We now have 1,856 students being mentored and encouraged by more than 200 teachers, staff and volunteers. May this trend continue!

This school year, classrooms across the conference began using a new faith-based inquiry science program for grades 1-8 called *By Design*. This wonderful addition to our Adventist elementary curriculum teaches science through the lens of the Bible.

MINISTRY TEAM

Larry D. Marsh
Vice President for Education

Rochelle Stanton
Associate Superintendant

Zlata Champion
Executive Assistant

Shelle Blake
Administrative Assistant

"I have no greater joy than to hear my children walk in truth."

— 3 John 1:4

Next school year a new Bible curriculum, *Encounter*, will be released beginning with freshman Bible students. The following school year, the addition of the sophomore curriculum will be added, etc.

Students are thriving with the outstanding diversity of the curriculum in our schools; meteorology, robotics, marine biology, small engines, foreign languages and agriculture just to name a few. In addition, cultural, historical and spiritual mission trips and community outreach are woven into the fabric of our UCC schools.

Another highlight in our schools is a music program that is second to none, from our smallest schools with students learning to sing and play chimes to the larger schools with bell choirs, string programs, bands, small instrumental groups and choirs. What a tremendous gift these young people's talents are to the churches they attend and will be throughout the coming years!

In addition to the high quality curriculum, several of our schools have implemented physical plant improvements over the last few years. These include the renovation of WWVA's entrance, office complex and parking area; CCA's classroom addition connecting the elementary and academy; and a much-needed dining complex on the UCA campus. These improvements would not have been possible without each one who faithfully supports Adventist education.

Adventist education is truly an investment, but is this investment worth the sacrifices many make to give their children an Adventist Christian education?

When Adventist students are compared to students in other educational systems, the ground-breaking *CognitiveGenesis* testing of 18,000 students, definitively shows that the longer a student attends an Adventist school, the greater their academic success. Additionally, they perform consistently above national averages regardless of school size. This is especially good news since more than 60 percent of our schools are small 1 to 3 teacher schools.

While strong academics are important, nothing is more important than the values passed down to our children and teens. Our schools provide true discipling of our young people.

In 1990, 2000 and 2010, 18,000 Adventist students were surveyed to discover how strongly they connected with Adventist Christian values. Students enrolled in Adventist schools rated vital topics such as the Sabbath, creation and personal values like alcohol and sexual abstinence of high importance (usually a rating of 75 percent or higher.)

essages we send to a time we will not see."

—John Whitehead

Are there concerns about our Adventist education? Certainly. These include:

- Increasing cost of education in a struggling economy. We must discover ways to make Adventist education accessible to all.
- At times schools face unique challenges . . . as do churches and businesses.
- Staffing cuts at the conference level as well as in individual schools.
- And perhaps most troubling of all; only 30-40 percent of Adventist young people attend Adventist schools. What must we do to increase our numbers?

One approach we're using to boost enrollment is through scholarships. In June, 2014 the Education/Adventist Community Services scholarship was introduced for children and teens who volunteer for agencies in their communities or in the church through Vacation Bible Schools or Adventist community services. Last summer, approximately 60 students received this scholarship which assists them in attending one of our Adventist schools here in the conference. We expect even more children and teens to volunteer and receive a scholarship toward a UCC education this coming year.

At the end of the day, is there anything more important than passing the torch of faith to the next generation? May we be faithful!

Serving like Jesus

PATTY MARSH \ ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

What does a children's and parent's reading circle, clothing, diaper, furniture and food banks, an ESL class, a quilting circle, a thrift store, a SAIL exercise class and weekend backpack program have in common?

If you guess they are examples of a few Upper Columbia Conference Adventist community services (ACS) outreaches, you are correct! We are blessed with more than 50 ACS ministries conference-wide.

In 2013 a generous couple gave $100,000 to serve as matching funds for the development of new ACS ministries throughout UCC. It has been exciting to watch as close to 20 new ministries have begun from Yakima, Walla Walla, Tri-Cities, Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Condon, Troy, and elsewhere. And this gift continues to bless.

Last summer the ACS and education departments partnered to offer an Education/ACS Scholarship for children or teens who volunteer for agencies in their communities or in the church through Vacation Bible Schools or ACS. This scholarship will again be offered this coming summer.

While we're excited for the new ministries that have started, many ACS ministries have served as lights to their communities for decades -- what a blessing they have been! All across the conference we're seeing younger generations picking up the torch, held high for so long.

In the last five years new ACS ministries have been launched, including three God's Closets, the Tri-Cities Diaper Bank, a new food bank/thrift store in Troy, Main Street Cafe in Northport and many more.

An initiative was launched in 2014 including the addition of an urban ministries coordinator to encourage grass roots involvement in our largest urban center, the Greater Spokane-Coeur d'Alene arena. As members connect with their communities and discover felt needs, the natural step is to join their talents in making a difference. The result? A variety of ways to mingle, meet needs and to serve as the hands of Jesus. What a blessing to watch members making a difference for Christ.

Another key area of ACS is the vital role we play in disaster response. Over 100 individuals have been trained in disaster response (DR) over the last five years. The Carlton Complex Fire devastated thousands upon thousands of acres including over 300 primary residences. Because the worst firestorm hit during the night giving no warning, many residents fled with only their nightwear—and yes, as a conference family, we grieved as members also lost homes. The morning after the fire swept through Pateros, Wash., ACS leader, Lola Worth, and daughter, Cindy Cook, who experienced the firestorm themselves, opened the Brewster ACS to clothe those desperately in need. Cindy has managed the Pateros Distribution Center for several months and serves on the long-term recovery committee.

By the request of Washington State Emergency Management, Larry Mays, NPUC DR coordinator, and Doug Venn, UCC DR coordinator, helped manage a huge warehouse in Okanogan. Many local Adventists such a Nancy and Scott Leader generously gave of their time as well as Adventists from other conferences.

Adventist Community Services at its best is each member engaged in their community. Changing lives and discipling, begins with each member!

"We are Christ's ambassadors; Christ is making His appeal through us" 2 Corinthians 5:20.

MINISTRY TEAM

Patty Marsh
Director

Tamara Terry
Administrative Assistant

Sharing the Good News

37
BROADCAST
Ministries sharing good news every day

200+
MINISTRIES
Served by UCC Communication department

170K+
PEOPLE
Reached each week by UCC media ministries

One of the most important ways the communication department supports local churches is by helping them share the stories of lives changed by the gospel. Every day members all across Upper Columbia Conference are living out their faith and making disciples.

Each week we share stories and news with our members and the public through our conference website, magazines like the Gleaner and email newsletters.

In addition to recounting what God is doing, the communication department provides leadership to nearly 200 different media ministries in Upper Columbia Conference including 160 websites, 25 radio stations and 12 television stations.

The net result of all these ministries is astounding. More than 170,000 people are ministered to on a weekly basis through the media ministries in Upper Columbia Conference.

Every day we're reaching out to people like Katherine who was recently baptized at the Spokane Central Adventist Church. She says, "One day I wanted to shoot myself I was so depressed. I turned on He's Alive TV and I heard Doug Batchelor talking. He made me feel like I could have another chance at life."

Katherine has come full circle and now teaches a Bible class in her apartment building, sharing her faith with her neighbors. "Moving to Spokane was a blessing beyond measure," says Katherine. "He's Alive TV was a life saver and a life changer for me."

What a privilege to be allowed to be such an integral part of someone's life. Every day we minister to thousands of people like Katherine. Whether it is through television, radio or the Internet, our media ministry outreach is a valuable part of growing disciples.

MINISTRY TEAM

Jay Wintermeyer
Assistant to the President

Kathy Marson
Administrative Assistant

20/20 Vision

WALTER PINTOS-SCHMIDT / HISPANIC MINISTRY COORDINATOR

MINISTRY TEAM

Walter Pintos-Schmidt
Hispanic Ministry Coordinator

Vania Schimpf
Administrative Assistant

During the last four years the Hispanic constituency has been growing disciples by focusing and promoting and teaching the two Great "Cs" of the Bible: the Greatest Commandment and the Great Commission.

The first "C" constrains us to equip and develop disciples who may represent the Lord's character. The second compels us to make and multiply disciples as well as to establish an Adventist presence in the form of new congregations around the Upper Columbia territory.

The Lord has been performing great miracles over and over again since the 2011 constituency. He has doubled the number of Hispanic members; soon to hit 4,000. He also has planted an Adventist presence in many different towns and cities. He also has doubled the number of Hispanic students in our institutions. Finally, God has, again, doubled the Hispanic tithe during these four years; presently more than one million dollars each year.

As we look ahead expectantly to the future, we are confident He will continue to provide. Inspired by our good Lord's blessings and leadership, the Hispanic members have decided to cast a vision under the motto: MULTI-G 20/20.

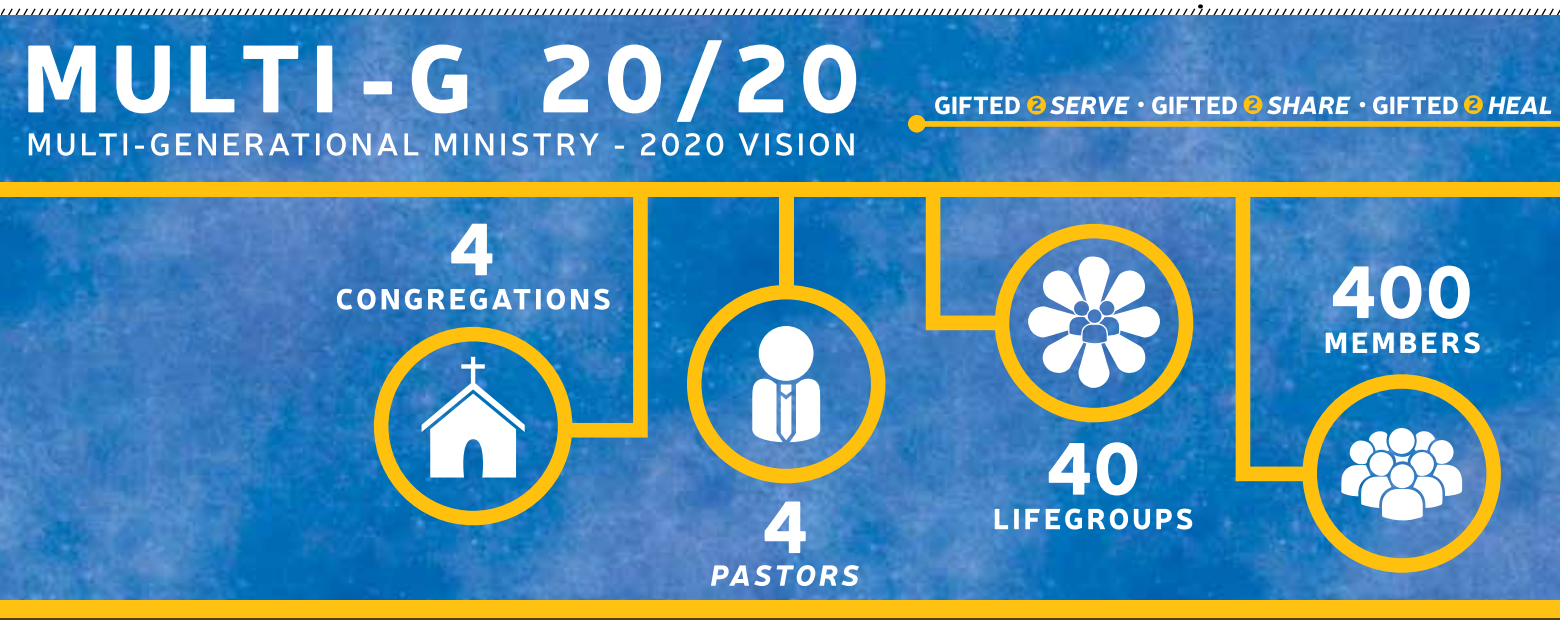
This is a God-sized goal, but He's more than able to accomplish this and more if we are faithful.

By 2020, we aim to plant four multi-generational, fully functional, English-speaking, congregations with at least 100 members each.

In addition to membership growth, we hope to achieve a 100 percent tithe increase by 2020.

We also plan to train and equip four new pastors to minister to the new multi-generational congregations.

The final component of our vision centers on education. We pray we can double the Hispanic student population in Adventist schools by 2020.



More Than a Number

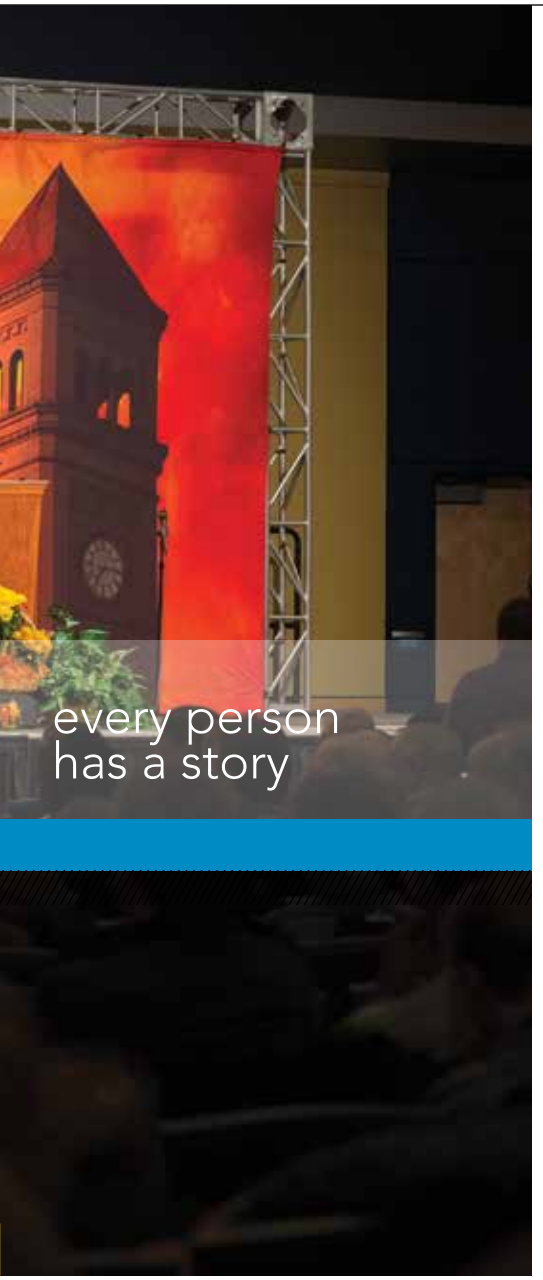
GERALD HAEGER \ MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR

Matthew 28:17-20 maps out clear marching orders for every Christian. Here in Upper Columbia Conference, we're seeking to be faithful to that commission by discovering the mission fields closest to us; the communities where we live and where our churches are located. We especially are striving to focus on the larger populations of people in order to reach as many people as possible.

Jesus' ministry example as described in Ministry of Healing, p. 143, is no doubt the clearest picture we have of how we are to reach our communities. It is a cycle that is on-going. We are to positively mingle with people, show sympathy appropriately, minister to felt needs, win people's confidence and invite people to follow Jesus.

When I think about our calling to grow disciples, I think about people like Alan Armayor. Alan was baptized January 3. He made his decision for Christ during a series of meetings that were part of a two-year effort to reach people living in and around Spokane, Wash. (Spokane is our largest population center in the conference and it's also our greatest mission field. One in three people in our territory live in Spokane.)

Though originally from Oregon, Alan lives in Spokane and is studying physical therapy at Spokane Falls Community. Last fall he received an invitation to attend a series of meetings at the Spokane Central Adventist Church, one of nine in the city that were holding simultaneous meetings. In the past several years, though raised in an Adventist pastor's home, Alan had not been open to



what God wanted from him. He was impressed that he should attend these meetings and invite as many friends as he could.

The meetings wrapped up two years of focused evangelistic efforts in Spokane. From 2012 to 2014, area churches spent time building awareness on busses and billboards. They also held two major evangelistic meetings. The final one that Alan attended was called Re:Think Prophecy. The meetings ended with a four-day event with David Asscherick at the Spokane Convention Center.

"It came at the right time for me," says Alan. "It was a great witnessing opportunity for me personally too. Several of my friends attended, and my best friend Trevor didn't miss a night."

Alan was rebaptized on January 3, 2015, at the Spokane Central Church. Since then, Trevor has also been baptized. Today, Alan leads a group of young adults on Wednesday and Thursday evenings studying Bible prophecy.

When asked how Re:Think Prophecy affected him, Alan says "It made my life's purpose clear! Actually, we all have the same purpose; we need to share the Gospel."

The evangelistic efforts in Spokane that reached Alan, though significant in scope, only scratch the surface of what our churches are doing every year to reach out to their communities. Over the past four years, there have been 502 evangelism series. In addition, over the past four years we've celebrated 2,271 baptisms.

These baptisms are the result of the faithful ongoing evangelistic efforts of our members and the 22 outreach coordinators we have across the conference who are working with churches to provide Bible work training and support for members.

If you think sharing your faith is challenging and scary, I'd like you to consider what Chris James and her group of friends in the Walla Walla valley are doing. Chris is an Outreach Coordinator working with the Stateline Church in Milton Freewater, Oregon. Her small team has come up with a remarkably simple, yet effective way to reach people for Christ.

Chris and a friend came up with an ingenious idea for an outreach ministry in their area. They selected nine major holidays on the calendar and began planning ways to share the gospel with passengers at the Walla Walla bus transfer station on or shortly before each holiday.

After consulting their budget and the local Dollar Store, they decided to give small gift bags to passengers with a cheerful greeting of, "Happy Valentines Day" or Happy St. Patrick's Day." Each gift bag contains two pieces of candy, a GLOW tract and an ad for the local Adventist TV station.

Chris says, "People are very receptive and happy to get a treat, and most are happy to hear the word of God."

Jesus is doing some wonderful things through Chris's ministry that has transformed the culture of her local church and moved them beyond the four walls of the church and out into their community. So far their bus ministry has resulted in 60 Bible studies and a baptism (with more to come.)

Every day, members, pastors, teachers, Bible workers and many more are working together to implement Christ's method of evangelism here in Upper Columbia Conference. The evangelism department has worked to enable as many outreach efforts as possible. Over the past five years we have facilitated the allocation of the General Evangelism fund which totaled $2,267,045.

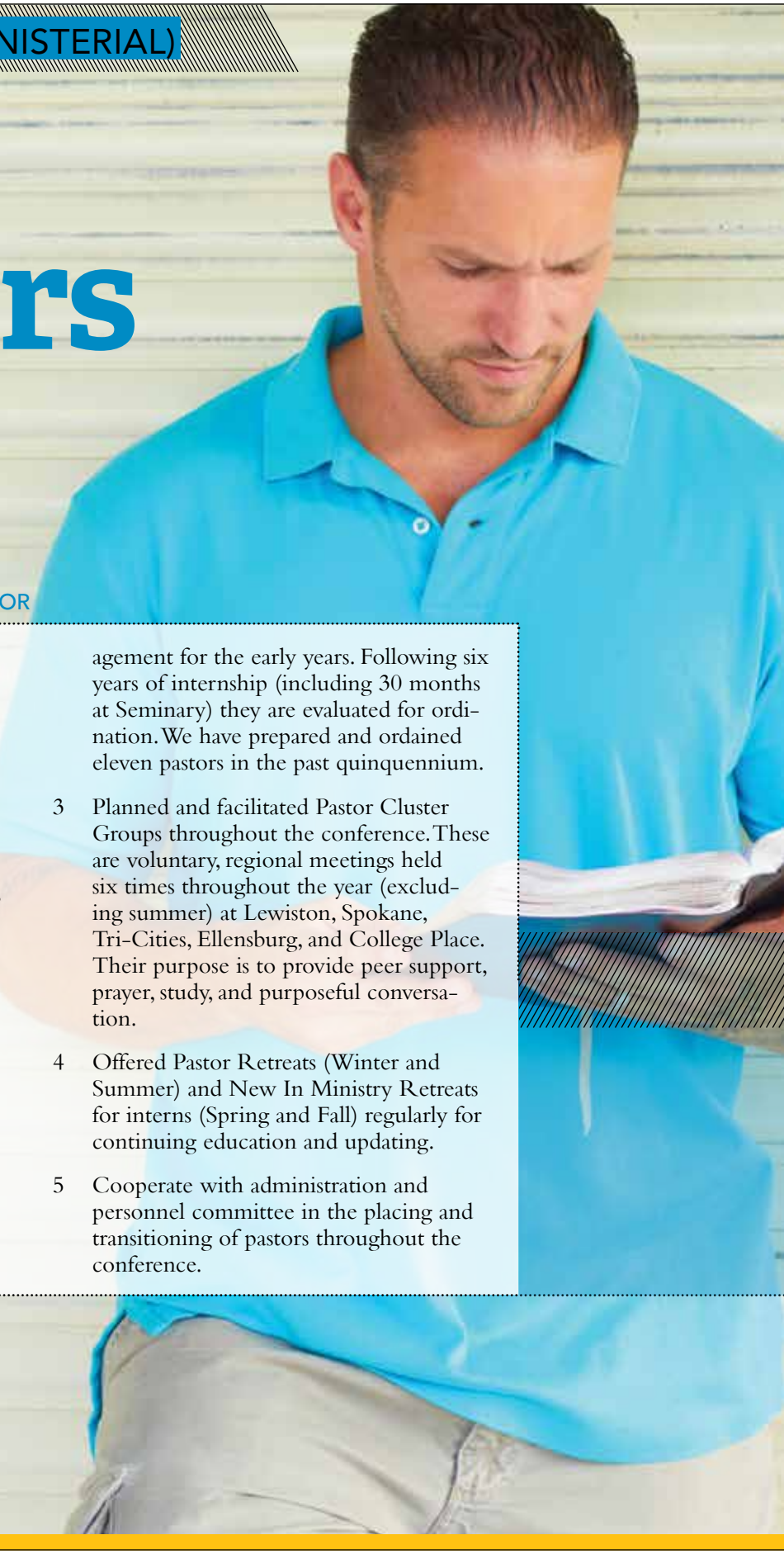
If we just look at numbers, it's easy to miss that each number represents a person with a story and a new-found love for Jesus. It's also easy to forget that these dear souls came to Christ through the faithful loving efforts of people just like you who are actively living out their faith and answering the call Jesus gave us just before He ascended to heaven.

MINISTRY TEAM

Gerald Haeger
Director

Denise Johnson
Administrative Assistant

Growing Leaders



GERALD HAEGER \ MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR

Disciples are never status quo but must be experiencing continual growth. The ministerial director is given the responsibility of fostering growth opportunities for the pastors of the conference. They are disciples, too, with the need to keep their calling to ministry renewed and focused on the mission and message of the church.

Specifically during the past five years these are some of the ways we have carried out this responsibility:

1 Collaborated with the Theology Department of WWU in offering the Walla Walla mentoring plan for the Religion and Theology majors. This gives them a nine-month laboratory experience in the local churches with an ordained pastor for a mentor. In the past five years we have had forty-six students fulfill this requirement.

2 Organized, assigned and monitored all pastoral interns with senior pastors to provide support, guidance and encouragement for the early years. Following six years of internship (including 30 months at Seminary) they are evaluated for ordination. We have prepared and ordained eleven pastors in the past quinquennium.

3 Planned and facilitated Pastor Cluster Groups throughout the conference. These are voluntary, regional meetings held six times throughout the year (excluding summer) at Lewiston, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Ellensburg, and College Place. Their purpose is to provide peer support, prayer, study, and purposeful conversation.

4 Offered Pastor Retreats (Winter and Summer) and New In Ministry Retreats for interns (Spring and Fall) regularly for continuing education and updating.

5 Cooperate with administration and personnel committee in the placing and transitioning of pastors throughout the conference.

MINISTRY TEAM

Gerald Haeger
Director

Denise Johnson
Administrative Assistant

WAYNE HICKS / PATHFINDER DIRECTOR

The Key to Families

If someone said to you, "I just came from a baptism where two and a half souls were saved," would you think, two adults and one child?

That's what happened to evangelist DL Moody. He came home from a revival and his wife asked him, "How many converts did you have tonight?"

He replied, "Two and a half."

His wife responded, "I suppose you mean two grown ups and a child?"

"No," said Moody, "Two children and a grown up. The two children have a whole life before them, but a grown up person has only a half a life before him."

It is reported that one million souls accepted Christ through his ministry, and that 500,000 were children. Yet, near the end of his life, he lamented that he wished he had focused more on children.

Pathfinders and Adventurers have a discipling advantage over many ministries in the church. Both clubs were organized around the discipling methods of Christ.

How's that? During Christ's public ministry, He spent the vast majority of his time with His chosen twelve disciples. That's three and a half years, 24 hours a day, seven days per week with twelve men. For 30,660 hours, He taught them when teaching, when working, when cooking, when preaching, when praying, when walking, when healing, when eating, and when sleeping.

He followed his own directive from Deuteronomy 11:19, "Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Pathfinders and Adventurers are organized in small units of six, mentored by a counselor or parent, with the purpose of discipling these "little ones" for Jesus. It works! And it works very well!

Every time UCC young people gather for a Pathfinder fair or camporee, 60-90 young people commit to baptism. Plus hundreds of others surrender their lives to Christ every year in Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs. This is growing disciples!

Lest you think that child evangelism is only for the young, realize that every year, whole families are discipled to Christ through local Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs.

Christian author, Bill Hybels, says, "I believe the single remaining common interest or entrance point for non-churched people into the life of the church is children. No matter how lost a guy is, he still usually loves his son. And no matter how off track a woman is, she still has a soft place in her heart for her kids. We have a wide open door to almost every family in every community when we love and serve their kids."

Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs have found the key! Our clubs can and will be the family evangelism hub to disciple "kids" and families for God's kingdom!

"To disciple a child for Christ, is God's highest calling on earth!" — C. R. Cloud

ABOVE: Scenes from the 2014 International Camporee in Osh Kosh, Wisconsin.

47K
PATHFINDERS
Trekked to the Osh Kosh, Wisc. International Camporee

900
CHILDREN
Gather each week for Pathfinders and Adventurers clubs

340
ADULTS
Disciple children throughout the year to love and follow Jesus

MINISTRY TEAM

Wayne Hicks
Director

Cheryl Wallace
Administrative Assistant

DOUG JOHNSON \ VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION

Remembering Our

"Our mission is to share the everlasting gospel, in the context of the three angels' messages

Unlike most parts of the United States, Adventism entered the Inland Northwest when it was a lightly populated frontier. When Augusta Moorhouse, the first Adventist in the Pacific Northwest, arrived in the Walla Walla Valley in 1861, there were only 12, 000 individuals living in the Washington Territory. Even when the first Adventist minister, Isaac Van Horn, arrived in 1874 the territory was still unsettled with a population of only 50,000.

Through the years Adventism grew along with the region. Today, the Upper Columbia Conference has the best member-to-population ratio (26,249 members with a population of 1.94 million for a ratio of 1 to 74) of any conference in the United States and Canada.

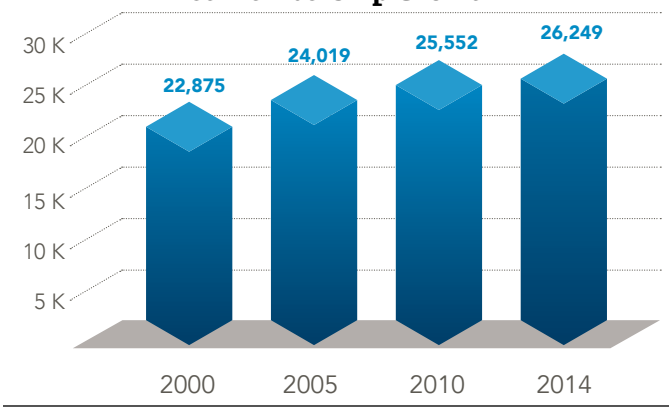
The growth of the Upper Columbia Conference has taken place because of the blessings of God and the dedicated efforts of members. Each year thousands of Seventh-day Adventists volunteer their time and give of their finances to serve others and share the gospel in the Inland Northwest.

Like the rest of the United States, the population of the Upper Columbia Conference has changed through the years. The majority of the people no longer live on farms in rural areas. Now they can be found in the towns and cities of the Inland Northwest. There have been 12 population centers identified in the territory of the Upper Columbia Conference. They include Coeur d'Alene, Ellensburg, Hermiston, Lewiston-Clarkston, Moscow-Pullman, Pendleton, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, Wenatchee and Yakima. These 12 population centers contain two-thirds of the region's population.

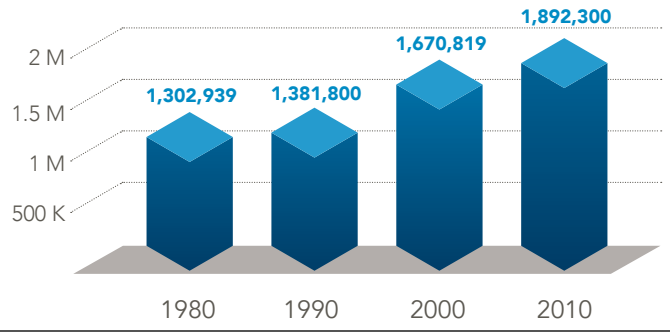
Adventism's growth in many of these cities has not kept pace with the more rural areas of the conference. As a result we have mission fields within our own territory. Special projects and efforts have taken place in the past and will continue in the future in an effort to change this trend.

In 1880 the Upper Columbia Conference started with only four

Net Membership Growth



UCC Population



Roots

Isaac Van Horn

MINISTRY TEAM

Doug Johnson
Vice President for Administration

Connie Whiloughby
Executive Assistant

of Revelation 14:6-12, with every person in the Inland Northwest and the world..."

churches and 119 members. Now there are 26,249 members and over 130 churches, companies and groups as well as 28 elementary and secondary schools throughout the Inland Northwest. God has been good to the members of the Upper Columbia Conference. But the best is still ahead.

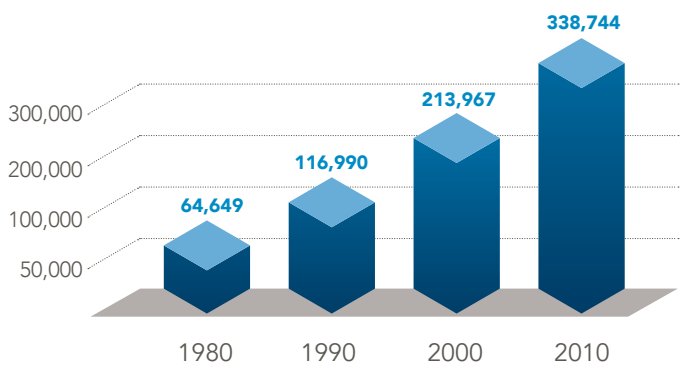
The secretariat works closely with the other administrative offices to focus the membership of the Upper Columbia Conference on the mission that God gave us. Before returning to heaven, Jesus urged His disciples to share the everlasting gospel and make disciples of all nations.

The Upper Columbia Conference mission statement incorporates this focus. It says, "Our mission is to share the everlasting gospel, in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12, with every person in the Inland Northwest and the world, leading all to love and accept Jesus as their personal Savior and to unite with His church, nurturing them in preparation for His soon return."

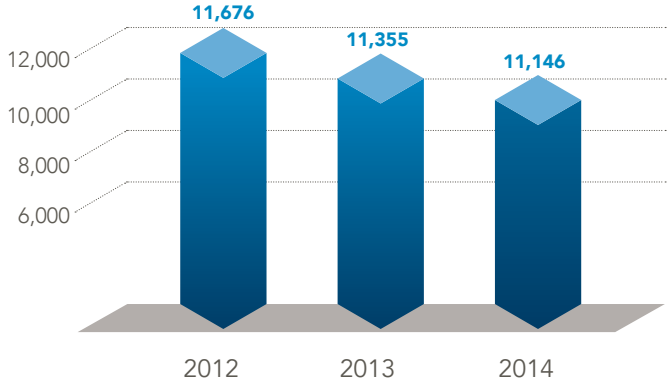
The secretariat:

- Prepares agendas and minutes for conference boards and committees.
- Oversees, along with the other administrators, the overall work of the Upper Columbia Conference.
- Coordinates pastoral placements.
- Manages the conference's membership program (eAdventist.net).
- Prepares the annual conference directory.
- Is available for special assignments by the president.
- Issues licenses and credentials.
- Develops, along with the other administrators, an overall awareness of the needs of the conference and its personnel.
- Oversees the conference's ethnic work.
- Promotes and oversees the planting of new churches throughout the conference.
- Develops statistical reports for the administration and various committees.
- Oversees half of the departments at the conference office.
- Along with the ministerial department works with the churches of the conference.

UCC Hispanic Population



UCC Church Attendance



HERMAN SCHREVEN \ ABC MANAGER

The Discipleship Depot

MINISTRY TEAM

Herman Schreven
Manager

Kathy Geoghegan
Branch Manager

Becky Chen
Accountant

Dusty Spivey
Shipping / Receiving

Doug Cameron
Sales Associate

Donna Katsma
Periodicals Clerk

Sandy Lee
Sales Associate

Cheryl Wiggins
Sales Associate

The ABC has over 300 different book titles that are specifically written and designed for sharing and witnessing. The ABC also has 130 books on church resources, reference material and training. It's easy to say the ABC is the one-stop destination for church leaders and members who are looking for truth-filled literature, specific to outreach and discipleship.

In addition, the ABC has over 3,000 books that help church members become and remain grounded in Bible-based truth that will strengthen their personal relationship with God and give them a solid reason for what they believe.

Of course, the ABC is open to the public and from time to time we have non-Adventist customers who purchase our books and have been led to a better understanding of Biblical truth and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. While this is exciting and encouraging, we recognize that our true mission is to strengthen existing Adventist members and give them a significant selection of nurturing, encouraging and sharing material that will truly equip them to go and make disciples of all men.

To this end, the ABC operates its main store in Spokane and a branch store in the Walla Walla Valley and operates a thriving mail-order service. In addition to these full service stores, the ABC also operates an extensive bookmobile program that visits 37 locations each year. This service puts thousands of books in the hearts and homes of members.

For strengthening our children and youth, the ABC is also the distributor of many textbooks, reading material, and Bibles for our schools. The ABC is also the distribution center for all of the lesson quarterlies from Beginners through Adults. We also serve the leaders with felts and Sabbath School teaching aids.

The ABC is owned by the Upper Columbia Conference but we are self-funded and pay our own expenses, including salaries, medical, and retirement. We receive excellent support and a great facility from the conference but financially, we are able to provide services to UCC members with no tithe or offering funds and essentially no cost to the conference.

What do you have?

MINISTRY STAFF
Cynthia Williams
Health Ministry Coordinator

"The medical missionary work is to bear the same relation to the work of the third angel's message that the arm and hand bear to the body. Under the direction of the divine Head they are to work unitedly in preparing the way for the coming of Christ" Counsels on Health, p. 513.

The health ministries department began this quadrennium under the leadership of Dr. Jay Sloop. Dr. Sloop had a passion for the Lord and for living an Adventist healthy lifestyle. His leadership focus was largely on training, encouraging and facilitating health care professionals and gospel workers to work together, in the same relationship as the arm and hand have with the body, to share the gospel with our communities and the world. Partners in mission continuing education workshops for health care providers and pastors were conducted in Walla Walla and in Spokane. Dr. Tim Howe and Elder Lee Venden jointly conducted health seminars during the 2013 camp meeting which focused on the inseparable connection between physical, mental and spiritual health and the gospel.

Dr. Sloop disappeared on May 14, 2013 in Kiev Ukraine while on a medical mission trip. His whereabouts remain unknown in spite of an extensive search. Plans have been made to build a walking trail on the UCC Spokane campus in honor of Dr. Sloop's years of service and his love of and commitment to an active lifestyle. The trail will be completed in the spring of 2015.

Another statement from Ellen White has led to an additional approach to health ministries. "We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work" Counsels on Health, p. 425.

We need to approach outreach differently if every member is to be a medical missionary. Since the summer of 2013, I have encouraged UCC churches to look at health ministries as more than classes, programs and events. We need to look for opportunities to meet people and minister to them as individuals. Often we must first identify the needs in our communities. Then we need to ask ourselves, what resources do we have in our congregations to meet those needs. Churches are finding that God provides resources when He helps them identify needs! But, it often doesn't look like anything they have ever seen or done before.

Here are a few of the creative ways that UCC churches are meeting needs in their communities:

S.A.I.L. (Stay Active & Independent for Life): S.A.I.L. is a comprehensive fall prevention program for senior citizens. The East Wenatchee church has a group which meets twice a week to exercise and fellowship. Members of churches in Spokane have taken the training and are starting programs in their churches.

Best Weigh: About 2/3 of adults in the US are overweight or obese. Several churches are conducting weight loss programs, such as Best Weigh and the Full Plate Diet, and making friends for the kingdom in the process.

Adventist Recovery Ministries, Journey to Wholeness: Five individuals from UCC participated in the training for this Adventist twelve-step addiction recovery program that was conducted by the NPUC in September 2014. The Spokane and Yakima areas are laying groundwork for recovery groups which will reach both the community and church members.

Dinner with the Doctor: The original idea for this was that a physician would invite his/her patients to dinner and a lecture. This would provide an opportunity for the physician to share his/her faith with their patients as well as introduce them to the local pastor and members of the local church. This has proven to be an effective way to make friends and introduce people to Jesus. Churches are adapting this concept to work with their communities and available resources.

Training for our members is an important factor in successful outreach. Several departments have worked together to host C.H.A.T. (Community Health Advocacy Training) at the UCC office during April and May 2015. This is a six-weekend course on how to "mingle in an effort to minister to needs, to sympathize, to win confidence, and then lead people to Christ."

JOHN STANTON \ PERSONAL MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Investing yourself

"The followers of Christ have one leading object in view... the salvation of their fellow men. … God bids you with one hand, faith, take hold of His mighty arm, and with the other hand, love, reach perishing souls"
—Testimonies, Vol 2, pp. 168-170.

Personal involvement is the core foundation of true discipleship. That's why the personal ministries department promotes disciple growth by providing members with training, tools and resources to foster a culture of personal evangelism.

Our areas of ministry include a network of Bible workers (aka Outreach Coordinators), literature evangelism, church consulting, adult Sabbath school, and prison ministries among others.

An essential part of our support to churches includes 22 Outreach Coordinators, down significantly from 34 in 2013. The Outreach Coordinators bring leadership and support to the outreach efforts in 26 churches by knocking on doors in the community, leading out in Bible studies and equipping and training church members in how to be actively involved in Christ's kingdom work.

Literature outreach partners closely with local church ministry efforts. Over the past several years, literature ministries has been growing in the Upper Columbia Conference. The main literature programs include Youth Rush, GLOW and Knock. In addition to these initiatives, we have been closely associated with the start of SOULS Northwest, North Pacific Union's outreach training school which has a strong focus on literature ministry.

Youth Rush is a 10-week student colporteur program that takes place each summer. Students canvass all around the conference territory, leaving books for donations which help them fund their Adventist education. In the last four years, more than half a million dollars worth of literature has been distributed in UCC, providing over $380,000 in non-member funding for student tuition.

Giving Light to Our World (GLOW) has been expanding around the world as well as within our conference territory. In 2012, 30,000 tracts were distributed in our conference. In 2014, that number has grown to more than 334,000 tracts.

Knock began in the fall of 2013 in response to interest from around the conference for a training program for non-students to begin colporteur work in their local communities. Since its start, around 15 people have received training to work as colporteurs. In addition to the two-week flagship training program, an in-home DVD-based training program is also available to members, with continuing field training and mentorship for those who continue to canvass.

Prison ministry is another personal outreach effort we support in our department. We have seen God's grace at work in the lives of inmates in our state prisons throughout the conference. Over 100 decisions for baptism have been made over the past two years.

The prison ministry leaders in the Walla Walla area took on a unique project in 2014. They raised nearly $75,000 for Bibles for inmates. These Bibles will be invaluable for a continued successful ministry in the years to come. In the Spokane area, we are seeing some real progress in our efforts to increase the number of volunteers.

In December, church members combined their talents to put on a Christmas concert for the inmates in the Airway Heights Correction Center. Their response provided a powerful testimony of the impact our volunteers are making in the lives of those who some consider hopeless and out of reach.

Another area of focus is the revamping of our church consultation ministry. We updated the program by adding a coach to the process that now includes a seven-step program for helping a church maximize its inreach and outreach opportunities. Not only do we walk them through the process of assessing their level of effectiveness in nurturing and serving the members and the community, we provide ongoing guidance through an assigned coach to provide expertise that will better enable them to find ways to engage each member in active disciple-making that will transform the church and the community around them.

MINISTRY TEAM

John Stanton
Director

Shelle Blake
Administrative Assistant

Robert Kooreny
Literature Ministries Coordinator

RICHARD PARKER / HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Doubly blessed

"Twice blessed" it's God's ideal for His children! "Divine wisdom has appointed in the plan of salvation, the law of action and reaction, making the work of beneficence, in all its branches, twice blessed. He who gives to the needy blesses others, and is blessed himself in still greater degree" Counsels on Stewardship p.13. According to the law of "action and reaction" God has made it possible for His stewards to be blessed both by giving and receiving when we partner with Him for the salvation of souls!

Beneficence or benevolence means a disposition to do good, an act of kindness or a generous gift. It is in giving that we become more like our Creator. God designed it this way. When we give we are following the example of Jesus who gave His life for us. It's the way He made us. It's the way He made the universe.

The stewardship department exists to support and assist churches in learning and practicing the principals of benevolence. Through education and practical materials church members may learn more about their opportunities and responsibilities to partner with the King of the universe in His work on behalf of a lost human race.

Each one of us can join in the greatest endeavor in the universe – the salvation of mankind. No matter how small our gift or effort God will multiply it exponentially for His kingdom. And that blessing will return to the giver in a reflex action that will last for eternity.

You are key to God's effort to save mankind. He is waiting for your contribution to His Kingdom. You may not feel you have much to offer. But the truth is that God choose what is small and foolish in the world to shame the wise. He used Moses' Rod, a little boy's lunch, David's sling, Mary's gift of perfume, Gideon's torches, a widow's mite, and so many others "gifts" to bring salvation and deliverance to millions. God doesn't need grandiose sermons, huge programs, or big bank accounts to accomplish His purposes. All He needs is a willing and generous heart. Large or small God will multiply the gift both in the effect on the world around us and in our own lives. The effects of even a small gift can be enormous in the hands of God. The wisest man who ever lived said "Cast your bread upon the waters for you will find it after many days" Eccl. 11:1. The footnote to the New Living Translation says "Give generously, for your gifts will return to you later."

He gave His life… what will you give to Him?

MINISTRY TEAM

Richard Parker
Director

Tamara Terry
Administrative Assistant

ANDREW MCCRARY \ TRUST DIRECTOR

PLANTING TREES: one family at a time

Paul and Jeanne Oss are close to Camp MiVoden. From their living room window, they can look across Hayden Lake and see it just about six miles away. They are near enough that an ambitious and athletic granddaughter even swam across the lake from their home to MiVoden. But more than close proximity, Camp MiVoden is near and dear to their hearts because of the rich legacy left by Elder Melvin Oss—Paul's father.

Shortly after 39-year old Elder Oss began serving as youth director for UCC, he joined Conference leaders in April of 1940 to view some landlocked property owned by the Conference. "Where's the lake?" he asked. "We have to have a camp on the lake!" he insisted, urging the Conference to purchase a nearby YWCA camp, pointing out that he could be ready to run a youth camp that very summer. And he did! Over the ensuing nearly 75 years Camp MiVoden and Elder Oss's vision has blessed countless generations of young people, provided places for church retreats, Pathfinder meetings, pastoral and teacher annual training events, and so much more.

Paul and Jeanne Oss's lifetime interest in Camp MiVoden is no surprise, given this legacy and the countless weeks they and their family and grandchildren have spent or worked at MiVoden. So it's always been natural to look for ways to assist MiVoden, something they're thrilled to do with a Charitable Gift Annuity. Not only does it give them a welcome lifetime income stream, it gives a second time with a generous donation to their beloved Camp MiVoden. They are excited to have one more way to continue Elder Melvin's Oss's legacy, a legacy of discipling future generations through the ministry of MiVoden.

Cut to another lake shore. It's been a long day, but the spiritual retreat has been amazing, leaving people hungry for more. Even growling stomachs haven't pulled people away from the riveting message, but the speaker is sensitive to such things, and challenges his assistants to think

big and feed the crowd, though they have nothing on hand. Then Andrew steps forward and introduces a young boy with a small lunch, wondering how it could ever help in addressing the needs of so many. Whereupon everyone watches in amazement as the simple lunch makes an impact beyond anyone's imagination.

Your Upper Columbia Conference trust department functions much like Andrew, connecting people passionate about making an eternal difference in this conference with ways to do that. It is our privilege to work with some of the greatest and most generous people who, while caring for family, also want to be a part of building disciples in their communities and conference, whether the amount given seems large or small.

We are in the business of planting trees, which means that the rich blessings this conference receives each year reflect faithful planning, often decades ago by passionate dreamers of the past. At the same time, we are partnering with individuals today to plant seedlings which will bless, nurture and disciple future generations. Our thanks to the many generous members of this conference who are part of that planting – and therefore reaping – process!

MINISTRY TEAM

Andrew McCrary
Director

Jimmy Johnson
Treasurer

Thomas R. Knoll, Sr.
Trust Officer

Laurinda Cutlip
Administrative Assistant

Dot Rasmussen
Administrative Assistant

Lori Kyle
Administrative Assistant

TREASURY

THE COST OF Growing Disciples

RANDY TERRY \ VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE

Matthew 28 shares Christ's commission to His followers to disciple others. How do we make disciples? How do we grow disciples?

The treasury department contributes to disciple growth by ensuring funds for our front-line workers. Our mission as a department is to:

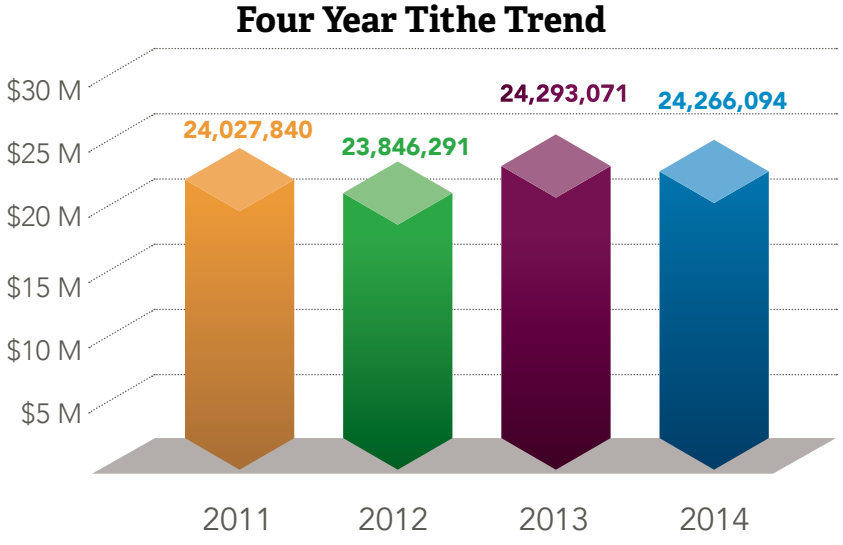
1. Serve the members, employees and institutions of the Upper Columbia Conference.
2. Release funding to help grow disciples and accomplish the mission of the church.
3. Report accurately the financial position of the Upper Columbia Conference, so funding can start and continue activities that help us accomplish our mission.
4. Manage and protect the assets of the church.

I have the privilege of working with a great team that helps make our mission a reality. Joy Rogers serves as the conference undertreasurer. She oversees payroll and all accounting functions of the department and keeps things running smoothly. Becky Chen serves as the assistant treasurer and oversees the accounts payable functions. She also serves as the accountant for the Adventist Book Center and part-time auditor for the churches and schools in the greater Spokane area. Tawnya Swanson serves as senior accountant and oversees accounts receivable, locally funded payroll and remittances. Wayne Wasiczko serves as our church and school auditor. Without them and the local church and school treasurers, we would not be able to accomplish our department's vital mission.

I'd like to broadly summarize the financial ways in which our conference mission has been carried out over the last four years. Accompanying this report is a copy of the audited financial statement for the years 2011 – 2014. These statements report the financial activity in both the conference and the corporation.

The audit for 2011 was conducted by the General Conference Auditing Service. The audits for 2012 – 2014 were conducted by Anastasi, Moore and Martin a local CPA (certified public accountant) firm in Spokane. Our audits take place annually and are just one piece of the internal control system that has been designed to give members a reasonable assurance that funds are being handled appropriately and with Christian integrity.

Tithe is the main source of funding for the Upper Columbia Conference. The treasury department is charged with the sacred duty of administering



the tithe. In addition to providing funds for the ministries of the conference, a portion of the tithe is shared with the world church. The tithe you return to God literally takes a trip around the world to assist in proclaiming the gospel.

Approximately four percent of the tithe sent to the North Pacific Union Conference and North American Division is returned to the conference in the form of an appropriation for education and evangelism. So, 65% of your tithe dollar is used in the operation of the conference.

During the past four years, faithful members of the Upper Columbia Conference have returned over $96.4 million in tithe, compared to $90.4 million for the last quadrennial, a 6.6 percent increase. The current four-year tithe trend shows giving has been relatively level, with a gain of 1 percent, which averages out to .25 percent per year.

Over the last 4 years, the conference has experienced the following gains/(losses):

2011 $(339,364)
2012 $(619,009)
2013 $(401,721)
2014 $59,551 (unaudited)

One of the main expenses that we saw increase was our healthcare costs. They rose over $1 million between 2011 and 2013.

With the losses in the first 3 years, the conference had to use reserves to fund the shortages. Conference administration, as well as the executive committee had to make some tough decisions to reduce costs in order to balance our budget, since expenses were growing faster than tithe income.

Since our main expenses deal with personnel, we looked to make reductions in our staff. Three teaching positions, six pastoral positions and 8.7 full-time equivalents in the office were reduced. This affected 25 individuals, as some of the positions in the office were less than full-time.

Fortunately, many of the reductions were realized by attrition, meaning someone retired or took another job and their position was not replaced. The other way the positions were realized by expanding church districts from one-church to two-church districts; or two-church to three-church districts; or two church districts combining to a four-church district.

God has seen us through this time and we were able to have a small gain in 2014 and a balanced budget for 2015.

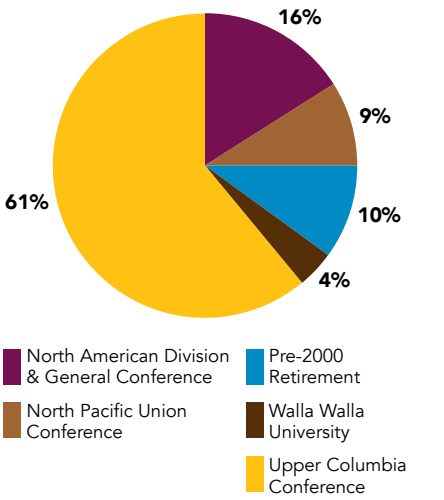
It has been my pleasure to serve as vice president for finance for this past quadrennial. My load is lightened by the assistance of a very professional and competent treasury staff.

In closing, I want to thank you for your generosity and faithfulness. Because of your support, Upper Columbia Conference is in a strong financial position to continue growing disciples.

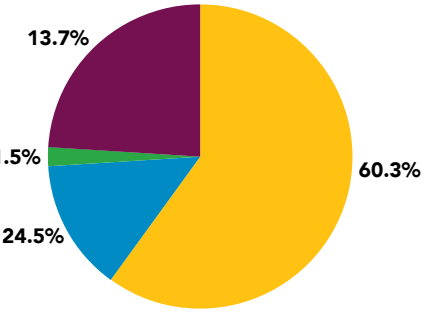
"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

—Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

Where does my tithe dollar go?"



How do you spend my tithe?



Church Ministries includes pastor salary and benefits, as well as evangelism, ministerial, camp meeting, Camp MiVoden, Sabbath School and youth.

Education includes a portion of the teacher salary and benefits, appropriation to Walla Walla University, as well as the education department.

Special includes the communication and health departments.

Administration includes expenses of president, secretary, treasurer, human resources, trust services and data processing departments, as well as expenses for retirement and the overall operations of the conference office.

MINISTRY TEAM

Randy Terry
Vice President for Finance

Joy Rogers
Undertreasurer

Becky Chen
Assistant Treasurer / Auditor

Tawnya Swanson
Senior Accountant

Wayne Wasiczko
Auditor

HUMAN RESOURCES

MINISTRY TEAM

Richard Parker
Director

Stephanie Bailey
HR Specialist / Administrative Assistant

Sheryl Janke
Volunteer Screening Coordinator

Tamara Terry
Administrative Assistant

The human resources department provides resources, guidance and employment service to the employees and ministries of the Upper Columbia Conference. We also help them comply with government regulations and church policies.

Our desire is to serve with the excellence and integrity which reflect the values described in 1 Peter 2:17—"Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government."

The Upper Columbia Conference human resources department was established in 2006 and is a relatively new department in our conference. We serve over 1,200 employees working in ministries that include churches, schools, thrift stores, day care centers, media ministries, medical clinics, youth camps and more!

Each of these ministries are passionately committed to one goal – giving people in our communities the opportunity to receive Christ in their hearts before our Lord returns. Our passion is to provide them with the kind of support that will allow them to focus on their mission and do it in a way that will represent the Kingdom of God well in their community.

Following is a list of some of the services we provide:

- Updated information and support to employees concerning their benefits (such as healthcare, paid leave, FMLA, insurance, etc.)
- Employment, policy and regulatory updates to local supervisors regarding their employment practices.
- Policy information and guidance to local ministries
- Assistance with hiring
- Assistance with terminations
- Assistance with retirements
- Record keeping for employees

We also support the volunteers who work with children and youth through our volunteer screening program.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MINISTRY STAFF

Art Lenz
Director

The information and technology department aids disciple growth by increasing the productivity and effectiveness of our employees, churches, schools, Camp MiVoden and our two book stores.

Here are just a few of the many ways we've helped gospel efforts in our conference:

- Negotiated discounted school software site licensing, including most Microsoft and Adobe products. This assures that children and staff have the latest software and that schools are compliant with licensing rules.
- Procured refurbished computers for schools (130 computers supplied at $100 each in the last two years).
- Renegotiated UCC office telephone service contract, resulting in a savings of $1,000 a month.
- Changed College Place office internet service, saving about $200 a month while increasing speed.
- Supervised technical aspects of the new conference office, assuring an effective work environment.
- Broadened the implementation of the UCC time-clock to minimize the labor required to process academy payrolls.
- Established a data archive in addition to the backup system, further assuring the longevity of vital records.
- Began implementation of Microsoft SharePoint. This has already helped our Pathfinder Club reporting.

God has blessed our efforts over these past few years and I have confidence that He will continue to do so in the years to come. There is much to do. Our schools need our help to secure their networks; and churches and schools need reliable, confidential web-based backup. These, among other initiatives, will become accomplishments as I labor for Him.

SPECIAL THANKS

We cannot list all of the thousands of lay members and employees who contributed to the growth of the Upper Columbia Conference during the past four years. We would, however, like to specifically mention a few who gave ongoing counsel and support as we wrestled with the many challenges of managing a conference of this complexity and size.

Conference Executive Committee
Shelley Bacon
W Alex Bryan IV
Marlen De Ochoa
Mable Dunbar
Jaime Flores
Mindi Irvine
Monty Knittel
Michael Lambert
Gregory Lamberton
Larry Marsh
John McVay
Richard Mehrer
Paula Oltman
Paul Rasmussen
Dick Ruder
John Stanton
Rose Marie Tiffany
Rosemary Watts

Financial & Statistical Review Committee
Donald Ammon
Pamela Backman
Glenn Carter
Rick Claridge
Weston Davis
Harold Dixon III
Edward MacKenzie
Eric Ruud

Constitution & Bylaws
Committee
Rhonda Backman
Monty Buell
Laura Davis
Russell Gilbert
Ronald Jacaban
Philip Merchant
Larry Sendelbach
Cliff Wells

Nominating Committee
Noel Asencio-Bellos
Donna Austin
Maria Duron
Sharon Flerchinger
Tobi Goff
Emily Heagy
Judith Homburg
Ronald Honner
Lance Irvine
Judy Jenner
Michael Lambert
Teofilo Martinez
Vivian McGee
Yanet Medrano
Allan Segebartt
Michael Skeels
John Stanton
Kristina Wright

Board of Education
Brian Harris
Debby Maniscalco
Denise Dunzweiler
Dennis Plubell
Doug Johnson
Geoffrey Heald
John Winslow
Keeni Mitchell
Lance Irvine
Larry Goodhew, Sr
Larry Marsh
Marilee Thomas
Paul Hoover
Randy Terry
Richard Parker
Rochelle Stanton
Shannon Fisher
Sherri Wheeler
Stephanie Gates
Walter Pintos

UCC Camp Meeting - June 17-20, 2015

Join us this summer for the Upper Columbia Conference Camp Meeting. Our main speaker will be Derek Morris, pastor and international speaker. Plan now to attend and invite your family and friends!

Get all the details and register online: uccsda.org/campmeeting.