



Potomac Association Central Atlantic Conference-UCC

Spring Meeting 2010

Location:

Amistad-St. Paul UCC-Lanham, MD

Saturday, May 1, 2009

8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

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Additional Reports:

Financial Report for FY-2009

Nominations for 2010-2011

Information Packet on "Toward Unified Governance for the
National Setting of the United Church of Christ (09-GS-36)

Agenda:

8:30 Registration

9:00 Opening Plenary

Reports of the Association Committees

Church and Ministry

Bill Wooten, chair

Christian Education

Jessica Petersen, chair

Higher Education

Arlene King-Berry, chair

Local Church Development

David Diesselhorst, chair

Social Action and Mission

Julie Holm, chair

Reports from the Board of Directors

Conference Ministry Team

Kwame Osei Reed, Associate Conference Minister

Treasurer's Report

Christine Rowe, Treasurer

State of Association Finances in light of Assessments Received

Moderator's Report

Hank Fairman, Moderator

Associate Moderator's Report

Felicia Simms

Nominations for Officers and Committees

Resolutions Before the Association

Resolution titled "*Faith United Against Tobacco in Virginia*"

Resolution titled "*We Support the Maryland Health Care for All!*"

10:30 Presentation on "Toward Unified Governance for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ (09-GS-36)".

Other Business before the Association

12:00 Lunch

12:30 Closing Worship

Reports of the Standing Committees

Christian Education

The focus of the Committee on Christian Education during the past year (June 2009-May 2010) has been twofold. We have concerned ourselves with the work of connecting local congregations throughout the Potomac Association. We have also dedicated time to pondering the current state of Christian Education in our Association's local congregations, examining problem areas and identifying places of hope and joy.

At the start of the year, we began compiling a comprehensive contact list of persons involved with Christian Education at all levels (children, youth, and adults) within the Association's churches. We engaged in this work in the hopes of providing an avenue through which these folks could share ideas, ask questions, invite one another to events, and join together in planning events. We are still in the process of gathering this information. Once a strong majority of the information has been brought together, we plan to have a Christian Education listserve and directory available to further enable folks to be in relationship with one another.

One way in which the committee has directly connected local congregations is through sponsoring a youth mission trip. Though we had hoped to offer an Association-wide mission trip in the summer of 2010, we were unable to do so due to limited space at the trip site. However, we decided to move forward on the trip planning with the result of 38 youth and adults from four Potomac congregations (Little River UCC, Rock Spring UCC, Christ Congregational UCC, and United Christian Parish) joining together in service. The group will work with Almost-Heaven Habitat for Humanity building houses June 27 through July 3.

Members of the committee have also met to discuss the challenges and joys we are currently experiencing in our local churches in regards to Christian Education. This group has met separately from the committee but has informed the entire committee of its work. From this group came the idea to hold an educational event in which Christian Education workers across the Central Atlantic Conference could explore *Faith Practices* (a new resource offered by the United Church of Christ and the Pilgrim Press). R. Kenneth Ostermiller, Minister for Curriculum Development, and local members of Partners in Education will guide those gathered in exploring this new resource on Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15 at Little River UCC.

The committee looks forward to the opportunity to present a piece of its work at the 2010 Potomac Association Fall Retreat in October. In the year to come, we hope to expand our work to more fully address the whole of Christian Education, focusing on adults in addition to children and youth.

This past year has been one of challenges and joys for the Committee on Christian Education. Though we have met difficulties and had to work through setbacks, we have experienced wonderful moments in which God was surely working that give us great hope for the year to come.

Faithfully submitted

Rev. Jessica Petersen (Westmoreland Congregational UCC-Bethesda, MD), Chair

Church and Ministry

Several major activities were initiated by the committee in 2009, many of which have or will come to fruition in the first months of 2010. In particular we rejoice at the recent affiliation of the United Christian Church of Lexington Park (MD), and the upcoming service to complete the affiliation of Covenant Baptist Church (DC). The committee continues to review its procedures and guidelines, in particular those for Periodic Support Consultations for Clergy, the In-Care Process, and the process for congregations wishing to affiliate with this Association of the United Church of Christ.

Ordained Clergy

Installation of Ministers:

Rev. Michael Murphy, Senior Pastor (9/20/2009)
Peoples Congregational Church UCC-Washington, DC

Rev. Jessica Petersen, Minister for Children, Youth, and Families, (5/31/2009)
Westmoreland Congregational UCC Bethesda, MD

Rev. Aguinaldo Jamandre, Pastor (6/21/2009)
Asian-American UCC-Chesterfield, VA

Installation of Ministers Approved (To occur in 2010):

Rev. Marvin Silver, Pastor (5/23/2010)
Amistad-St. Paul UCC-Lanham, MD

Rev. Peter Dennebaum, Senior Pastor (4/11/2010)
First Congregational United Church of Christ-Washington, DC

Dual Standing Granted:

Rev. Monroe Wright, The United Church (die Vereinigte Kirche)-Washington, DC

Rev. Nancy Clark (interim) at Rockville United Church-Rockville, MD)

(Actions on Covenant Baptist Ordained Clergy will be completed in 2010)

Partnership Standing:

Rev. Annie Blackwell at the United Christian Church of Lexington Park (MD)

Chaplaincy Endorsements:

Rev. Diana Gomez de Molina

Rev. Countess Clark-Cooper

Approved for Ecclesiastical Council (Ordination)

Rev. Susan Hayward (Ordained, 3/21/2009)

Rev. Phyllis Gillie (Ordained, 2/22/2009)

Rev. Karen Byrne (Ordained, 3/17/2010)

Rev. Mary Barrino-Smith (Ordained, 3/13/2010)

Jeanette Salley (Pending Next Ecclesiastical Council)

Approved for Ecclesiastical Council (Affiliation)

United Christian Church-Lexington Park, MD (Received in Full Standing, 3/29/2010)

Granted In-Care Status

Julie Holm(Little River UCC-Annandale, VA)

Julia Bush (Cleveland Park Congregational UCC-Washington, DC)

Jane von Maltzahn (Christ Congregational UCC-Silver Spring, MD)

Harry Knox (First Congregational UCC-Washington, DC)

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Wooten (Rock Spring Congregational UCC-Arlington, VA), Chair

Higher Education

INTRODUCTION

The Higher Education Committee is responsible for the development and retention of ecumenical campus ministries. Since the climate on college campuses too often reflect terror, stress and tragedy, we enable students to benefit from the services provided by three ministries in the Metropolitan Washington area: United College Ministries of the University of the District of Columbia, and the United College Ministries of the University of Maryland, and the United College Ministries of Northern Virginia. The following individuals serve as board members: Arlene King -Berry-Chair, Erma Barron- Secretary, Martha Huelsback, Theresa Grana, Gwendolyn Pla, Doug Snyder, Carolyn Williams The Ministers include Rev Denise May, United College Ministries of Northern Virginia, Rev. Jamal Reed, United College Ministries University of the District of Columbia, and Rev. Holly Ulmer, United College Ministries of the University of Maryland

FUNDING

The college ministries are grateful for funds provided by the association this academic year. All monies were utilized to enhance ministry programs and activities. However, financial challenges were encountered. For example, the United College Ministries of Northern Virginia, regrettably, after five years of Part-Time contractual service will no longer have funds to pay. Rev. Daeshik Shim. Rev. Shim will depart after May 6, 2010 unless a \$10,000 grant comes through or other new monies are found thus temporarily ending paid ministry at NOVA for one year. The United College Ministries of the University of the District of Columbia had to rely on volunteer ministers to support the program, which provided scheduling challenges. The College Ministries of the University of Maryland has not received any funds from the Christian Church Capital Area for 2 years, nor a grant for the mission trip this year. As a result \$3600 of UCM funds was pent for the mission trip, which enabled students with limited incomes to participate. To continue programs at the current level of functioning support of the Potomac Association is critical for the United Campus Ministries as we seek to continue and expand our programming in the 2010 – 2011 academic year.

TABLE 1- DISBURSEMENTS

MINISTRY	1ST SEMESTER	2ND SEMESTER	TOTAL
University of the District of Columbia	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$11,000
University of Maryland	\$5,500	\$6,500	\$12,000
Universities of Northern Virginia	\$5,500	\$6,500	\$12,000
	TOTALS		\$35,000

In an effort to increase funding \$1000 per ministry for next year, a fundraiser, "A Showcase of Stars" was held on April 17, 2009 at Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ. Each campus ministry participated. (See table 2 below) Approximately \$3000 was raised. This will enable each ministry to receive approximately \$500 each after expenses. We are requesting the association to match this contribution and enable the \$1000 increase per ministry next year.

TABLE 2- SHOWCASE OF STARS PARTICIPANTS

COLLEGE MINISTRY	PARTICIPANTS	DIRECTOR/Pianist
University of the District of Columbia	UDC Chorale Benjamin Jackson Caesar, Tenor Kelvin Page, Tenor	William Jones Mara Cook, Piano
University of Maryland	Maryland Palestrina Choir Rameen Chaharbaghi, Baritone Farah Padamsee, Mezzo Soprano David Bellona, Piano	Janet Hagelgans
George Mason University	Anna Jones, Step Dancer	

CAMPUS MINISTRY REPORTS

UNITED COLLEGE MINISTRY- *University of the District of Columbia*

Weekly Activities

- We have two student organizations that meet weekly for prayer and bible study.
- Truth Club meets on Wednesday and Friday in building 39, room 114. This group provides student ministers with the opportunity to give celebrate with praise and worship services as well as short sermons.
- Bible was held each Wednesday in the Firebird in from 1:00-2:00 PM.
- The Muslim Association meets on Fridays at 2:30pm in building 41, room A-3 auditorium for weekly community prayer.
- Each Friday, beginning at 3:00PM a Worship and Praise Service is held followed by a book review and discussion

Special Activities

- October 16-18- Students participated in a weekend retreat in Severn Maryland with Campus Crusade for Christ. Students participated in the Feast of Fast Breaking at the beginning of the month.
- The UDC student organizations participated in the United College Ministries fundraiser on Saturday, April 17, 2010. One of our student ministers helped to co-host the program and other students shared a variety of talents.
- The students from the Truth Club held a special prayer vigil for the Haitian Relief Effort.
- Truth Club participated in the university-wide effort to collect non-perishable items to be sent to Haiti

UNITED COLLEGE MINISTRY- *University Maryland*

Weekly Activities

- Sundays, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Memorial Chapel Lounge, Free Student Dinner, 15-20
- Sundays, 1st & 3rd, 2 times/month, Main Chapel, Protestant Communion Service, 15-20
- Sundays, 2nd, once/month, Hot topics discussion, Chapel Lounge, 15-20
- Sundays, 4th, once/month, Film Night, Chapel Lounge, 15-20
- Sundays, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Weekly, Maryland Palestrina Choir Rehearsals, 13

- For 7 weeks every semester, Rev. Holly Ulmer, Chaplain teaches a 1 credit course, weekly, 2 hours, location as assigned by university; number of students per course = 13

Course: Interfaith/Secular Dialogue for undergraduate students; part of the Words of Engagement Intergroup Dialogue Program. For more information go to

<http://www.ohrp.umd.edu/WE/index.html>

- UCM has a Student Peer Minister Leadership Development Program. This past academic year these students served as Peer Ministers: Ashley Vowles (UCC), Rachel Solomon (Disciples), Chris Tabisz (PC (U.S.A.)), Monique Robinson (Non-denominational)

Chaplain serves on UM Program Committee of UM Wellness Coalition

Special Activities

- Mission Trip to New Orleans, March 14 – 19, 2010; 8 students, and 3 older adults.

Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance we painted Liberty's Kitchen.

Liberty's Kitchen is an innovative, non-profit organization dedicated to **transforming the lives of at-risk youth** by building self-sufficiency and independent living in a supportive community where they learn life, social and employability skills in a culinary setting. <http://www.libertyskitchen.org/>

- 12/13/09, 8:00 p.m. Annual Advent & Christmas Celebration Concert, student choirs and soloists from School of Music, Memorial Chapel, attended by 125 +; raised \$220 for S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat).
- 4/25/09, Annual Spring Concert, student choirs and soloists from School of Music, Memorial Chapel, attended by 125 +; raised \$110 for S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat)
- 5/2/10 CROP Walk, near campus, UCM participation organized by Ashley Vowles, Peer Minister.

UNITED COLLEGE MINISTRY-*Northern Virginia*

Weekly Activities

- Weekly Thursday night fellowship, Table Talk, continues and UCMNV welcomed the addition of Little River UCC as one of five churches that provide a free dinner for students.
- Weekly Wednesday night worship, which we call 747 for the time we meet continues, co-sponsored with Lutheran Campus Ministry. For the second year we held a special Advent 747 at the Mathy House, home of GMU President and Mrs. Merten.
- Thanks to a local pastor, students meet every other week for Feminist Theology Coffee Hour at the new GMU Starbucks.

- Two new programs, “50 Ways to Pray & More” which every other week teaches new models of prayer and “Community Prayer” a weekly offering have started.
- Listening Posts were held in the fall at NOVA—Annandale and both semesters at NOVA—Alexandria and at GMU.
- Bible Studies were offered in the fall at NOVA—Annandale and both semesters at NOVA—Alexandria.

Special Activities

- Training two seminarians, Elizabeth Baird and Pete Fontneau, who serve at George Mason University (GMU) as UCMNV Chaplain and Social Justice Coordinator respectively
- Minister Director and UCC clergy member, the Rev. Denise Giacomozzi May, spoke at two interfaith forums representing Christianity at GMU. One was before 135 first year students in the Narratives of Identity course in the Institute of Conflict Analysis and Resolution on “How Faith Forms Identity.” The other was attended by 125 students (and covered by the student newspaper) on Suffering and was hosted by the Ahmadiyyah Moslem Student Association.
- Rev. May responded to the shootings at the Northern Virginia Community College—Woodbridge Campus in December where thankfully no one was physically injured. She debriefed, comforted and prayed with dozens of students, faculty and staff the next day as they came to reclaim their personal items, which had to be abandoned during the several hour-long incident.
- Rev. May was honored to be asked by GMU to give the invocation before President Obama spoke at the GMU Patriot Center on healthcare March 19. Her prayer, heard by the nearly 8500 attendees, was interrupted by cheers and applause several times and quoted in *The New York Times On-Line*.
- We again held a spiritual retreat, also co-sponsored by LCM.
- We offered a local service Spring Break Mission Day Trips to Rising Hope Mission in Alexandria.
- UCMNV participated in Hunger & Homelessness Action Week and World AIDS Day activities.
- International students were hosted for Thanksgiving and Easter. This program’s funding which ended two years ago due to lack of funding and was re-started will end once again. We need \$5000 for this important outreach to continue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arlene King-Berry (Peoples Congregational UCC-Washington, DC), Chair

Local Church Development

There have been many success stories this year in the Association from our local churches, as well as the Association. Some of the stories are:

- United Christian Church-Lexington Park, MD has officially come into full standing with the Association.
- Covenant Baptist Church-Washington, DC in May will officially come into full standing with the Association.
- Several churches received church grants from CAC
- Two churches received small urban church grants from CAC
- UCC-Seneca Valley, MD has received financial support from the CAC
- Lincoln Congregational Temple-Washington, DC will end a multi-year financial support from the CAC
- Funds from the Association were provided by this committee
- LCDC is the steering committee for an Association Retreat to be held Oct. 22, 23, 24th at the 4-H Conference Center in Front Royal, VA
- LCDC will be stepping up its effort on getting local churches to complete the Local Church Survey (electronic copies are able at the May meeting)

Several of our churches are going through minister changes. C&M has its hands full with this one. But several of the churches have called new pastors, completed local church profiles, and/or have secured interim pastor.

For most of our local churches - the continuing economic crisis has made us open our eyes and made us very fiscal conservative and have fewer events / benevolences. We encourage all of our churches to utilize the Association website to post activities or look and see what other churches are doing. Encourage your members to participate in events at other local UCC church locations especially if you had to drop a similar program.

LCDC has been responsible for taking the lead in making an all association retreat event. This event will take place in October 2010. You should be hearing more about this at the association annual meeting. The idea is based on the last two meetings of the Association, and a desire to look at the "Association as a Church."

Respectfully submitted

David Diesselhorst (Bethel UCC-Arlington, VA), Chair

Social Action and Mission

The Social Action and Mission Committee oversaw benevolences of approximately \$20,000 to mission partners in the Potomac Association. This year members of the committee checked in with each of these partners to see what they were doing. While our primary partner is Shaw Community Ministry, there are about 10 mission and interfaith organizations which receive benevolences from the Social Action Committee:

Shaw Community Ministry

The Shaw Community Ministry develops and implements religious, educational, and social programs that enhance the developmental growth of children, youth, and adults in Northwest Washington, the Lincoln-Westmoreland apartments, and the Shaw community area. For more information visit www.shawministry.org.

Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services

Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services provides homeless prevention services for the low-income working poor, disabled and elderly. Additional details are available at www.goodhousing.org.

Downtown Cluster of Congregations

The Downtown Cluster is a non-profit, ecumenical association founded in 1972 for the purpose of cooperatively meeting pressing human service needs in the District of Columbia. More information is available at www.downtowncluster.org.

Community Ministry of Montgomery County

Community Ministry of Montgomery County's mission is to pursue social justice with an emphasis on identifying and meeting the needs of the poor by leading and engaging Montgomery County's Faith communities in service, education, and advocacy. Additional information is available at www.communityministrymc.org.

Community Ministry of Prince George's County

Community Ministry of Prince George's County is an interfaith, nonprofit, congregation-based organization that addresses human need throughout Prince George's County in areas such as substance abuse treatment, emergency food and shelter, affordable housing, mental health services and health care services. More information is available at www.cmpgc.org.

Community Ministries of Rockville

Community Ministries of Rockville combines the efforts of congregations to provide shelter and empowerment for the homeless, assist the frail elderly in their homes, and house working, formerly homeless men. Additional information is available at www.cmrocks.org.

Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington

The Interfaith Conference brings together people from different religions, economic levels and races to deepen understanding and respect for our diverse traditions and to collaborate on key issues of the day. Additional information is available at www.ifcmw.org.

Virginia Council of Churches

The Virginia Council of Churches brings together eighteen denominations in the Commonwealth of Virginia to foster Christian unity and to meet human needs. More information is available at www.vcc-net.org/default.htm.

Virginia Interfaith Center

The Virginia Interfaith Center engages and educates both the faith community and the public regarding social issues, the legislative process, and faith-based advocacy. For additional information go to <http://ga4.org/interfaithcenter>.

An increasing feeling of the committee is that our role is to identify local issues and needs, to make this information available to local churches, and to make cooperation between churches easier. To that end we hosted a highly successful mission fair in February 2010. Conference Minister John Deckenback presented information from his recent sabbatical trips to the Middle East and Africa, and more than a dozen churches and related organizations set up displays and tables for the fair. We plan in 2010 to work more to help communicate to and between local churches on social justice and mission issues.

We have discussed the possibility of instituting a mission project in Southeast, and spoke with Barbara Cardwell, the pastor of Pilgrimage Christian Church in Suitland, MD, just over the border with DC. Pilgrimage has a significant outreach to people in the Southeast quadrant of DC, and churches will be hearing about this connection in 2010.

In addition, the committee appointed Richard Griffiths to the Interfaith Council of Greater Washington. The UCC has at least two additional vacant seats on this council, and the committee invites recommendations for people to server in this way. It only requires attendance 3 or 4 meetings a year. We feel it is important for the UCC to be better represented in this group which promotes unity of people of faith.

We decided not to pursue a previous initiative toward a time bank service in the Shaw neighborhood due to the expense associated with it, which are well outside of the Potomac Association budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Holm (Little River UCC-Annandale, VA), Chair

Report of the Board of Directors

Conference Ministry Team

When the Potomac Association held its "mass" Ecclesiastical Council at Bethany Christian Church (DOC) on March 27, 2010, this was a celebration of a great deal of good work reaching fulfillment. Church representatives came out in good numbers to support each of the candidates. Then after the individuals were authorized, the vote to approve the United Christian Church of Lexington Park, Maryland and Covenant Baptist Church of the District of Columbia, as churches with full standing in the United Church of Christ, was unanimous.

This was a glorious day. But it pointed to the wonderful celebration on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010, when the Service of Reception for United Christian Church was held at Bethany Christian Church in Fort Washington, Maryland. Bethany had been the location for much of the planning for the new church start that would become the United Christian Church. The church holds standing in both the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Ecclesiastical Council also pointed out plans for the May 16, 2010 Service of Reception where the full UCC Standing of Covenant Baptist Church will be celebrated.

TRANSITIONS

This has been a year of great transition in the Potomac Association and the United Church of Christ. The numerous searches of church pastors have been particularly challenging in this period of economic uncertainty. Clergy, who otherwise would readily apply to our churches, are reluctant to move. Still, we are making slow progress in these searches.

The transitions that we face include my now serving the Chesapeake Association Churches in the city of Baltimore. So far, my participating in one installation, Chesapeake Ministeriums and the Chesapeake Association Spring Meeting has been delightful. Still, we will have to live into this arrangement before determining what effective use of staff time and services is.

PROGRAMING

The Potomac Association is alive with meaningful programs. They emphasize local church, community and higher education ministries. A great aspect of this effectiveness is that the committees of the Association have been well organized by the Association leadership. It is fortunate that these leaders know the importance of supporting members of committees and their chairs in their work.

CAC/UCC PARTNERSHIPS

Creative work continues to take place in our partnership with the Howard University School of Divinity. This has been demonstrated by the very successful April 24, 2010 UCC Friends of HUSD led James Floyd Jenkins Pillar of Faith Award Luncheon. This significant event continues to promote the UCC and Howard Divinity School's commitment to the vision of those who founded Howard University at First Congregational Church (now United Church of Christ). That vision includes, among other things, preparing persons to serve the cause of justice in church and society.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kwame Osei Reed, Associate Conference Minister

Moderator

2009 was a strong year in our ministry together. At last year's Spring Meeting, we encountered the story of Mordecai and Esther. We asked ourselves about our strengths, about our mission together—how to strengthen our partnership in ministry? We asked ourselves, "Are we in crisis?"

Since that time, we have enjoyed a calendar of events unlike any in recent years. Ordinations, Installations, Ecclesiastical Councils, Receptions of Local Churches, Mission Fairs, Training Events—we have been busy! We have come together in mission and ministry!

I would be remiss not to remember the action we took at last year's Spring Meeting, sending a challenge to the General Synod to remember our racial, ethnic, and spiritual health while we restructure our national governance. I give thanks that our work mattered in the final tally, challenging and bridging the discussions at General Synod. Thanks to all, at every level, who took part in the honesty of expression of the resolution. May we now live out the words we have spoken

As we cross the calendar year, transition in ministry remains the theme for our congregations. We welcomed two new pastors into the Association, and celebrated the ministry of two departing. We know that 2010 will continue this trend, with several searches completing, and several new interim times beginning.

We remain in a period of restructuring, rediscovering what it means to be connected with deeply woven roots. We are discovering our past, as the Committees rediscover the ministry in prior years. We are reconnecting our clergy—not just those in parish ministry, but those in chaplaincy, education, retirement, and a myriad of other places. We are challenging ourselves to rethink what association ministry means, in light of changes in the structure and polity of our conference and national setting.

As we gathered in November, we embraced Sid Fowler's text, "*What Matters to You, Matters to Us.*" The frank and honest discussion, coupled with the *Strengthening Partnerships* of the Spring Meeting, continues to guide our work together. The feedback from these sessions was circulated to the Committees for their planning needs. The outcomes of these sessions are being lived out today.

We are alive, thriving, and enjoying the journey!

Our Church's Wider Mission remains a hard topic, with the economy coming to bear on our congregations. We were largely untouched coming into 2009. This is not the case as we end the year. Feeling the beginning of this, the Board offered what was felt to be a fair budget, reducing our apportionment to cover the basics: mission giving, campus ministry, and support for Christian education and ministry formation. As we begin 2010, we know that Association and Conference receipts will be less than these reductions. Where this will challenge our mission and ministry has yet to be determined.

What I am sure—we will thrive and enjoy all that is coming. The revival-joy of 2009 will carry us into 2010 and beyond. We will be honestly evaluating our style and structure of ministry. We will welcome new congregations, new pastors, and new members into our family. We will embrace the challenge of ministry in “such a time as this.” No, we are not in crisis. We continue in a newness that comes when we come together in ministry.

In that newness, I will say these prophetic words: *Bylaw Revision*. The church in each generation needs to ensure that it has not become “stuck” in the organizational system. We have seen over these past years that our required offices and nominated representation has taken on a character outside of the bylaws. The question that comes is whether to force the mould onto the ministry, or “framebend” the expectations to meet our reality. I believe it is time to own, name, and claim the uniqueness of the ministry in the Potomac Association, and better describe how we do what we do. It is my hope that a preliminary report on revision will be available at our Fall 2010 Retreat/Meeting.

2010/2011 encapsulates my term as Moderator. While my entrance into this office was far from expected, the work of rebuilding and strengthening our ministry together has been personally meaningful. We have come to understand the duties before us, and learned how to accomplish them in the realities of this time and place. We have regained a sense of our history, and are compiling the minutes, reports, and actions we have taken together in a comprehensive system. We are engaged in retying “the ties that bind,” with our authorized ministers—new and tenured; and with our congregations—historical and affiliating.

Isaiah reminds us:

...my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered. (56:7b-8)

This is our call, as one small association, with a large heart for Christ.

I give thanks to all who have served in this last year, and those who will continue and come to serve in the coming years. Ministry in the Potomac Association is strong, and it is because of the grace of God, and the hands of each person in our covenant.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry E. “Hank Fairman (Rock Spring Congregational UCC-Arlington, VA), Moderator

Resolutions Before the Association

In Support of the Resolution titled "*Faith United Against Tobacco in Virginia*"
and

The Resolution titled "*We Support the Maryland Health Care for All!*"

Sponsors:

Jerry Foltz, Nancy Clark, Denise Giacomozzi-May, Rebecca West, Janet Parker, Barbara Brown Zikmund,
Doug Griffin, Kwame Osei Reed, Hank Fairman, Al Fuertes, Doug Hodges

WHEREAS:

The undersigned members of the Potomac Association-United Church of Christ are convinced of by the arguments presented in the attached documents;

AND:

The Potomac Association holds a unique opportunity to stand as a prophetic voice to the three jurisdictions of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia:

AND:

The United Church of Christ has long stood as a prophetic voice in addressing "the health impacts of tobacco usage on children, teenagers and their families" (including 01-GS-44, from where this quote is taken).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Delegates and Clergy gathered at the 2010 Spring Meeting of the Potomac Association-United Church of Christ affirm

The Resolution titled "*Faith United Against Tobacco in Virginia*"

and

The Resolution titled "*We Support the Maryland Health Care for All!*"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resolutions be distributed to the congregations within the appropriate jurisdiction for their consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these resolutions be communicated to the Delegates and Clergy gathered at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference, for their consideration and adoption.