

## Rev. Sue Artt - Biography



**Rev. Sue Artt** came to ministry as a third career pastor after nearly two decades in executive leadership with Mobil Oil Corporation and running her own private consulting practice – The Change Agency. Sue was called to ministry in the wake of the 1999 Columbine High School shootings, and attended Eden Theological Seminary (2003-2006) prior to serving her first call as solo pastor for 500-member St. Paul United Church of Christ in Nashville, Illinois, in the Illinois South Conference. During her tenure with Illinois South, Sue was tapped as inaugural chair of the conference's Finance Ministry, which, for the first time in the life of the conference, was able to paint a clear picture of their true financial picture for improved decision making. Sue also served as

the Conference's representative to the UCC Local Church Ministries Board of Directors (2010–2013).

At General Synod 29 in Long Beach (2013), Sue was elected to serve as Vice Moderator for General Synod 30, and at that Synod, was elected to serve as Moderator. Sue is currently Moderator of General Synod 31 which convenes in Baltimore in June 2017; she also sits on the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, its Executive Committee, and the UCCB Board Leadership Team.

In July 2013, Sue left her pastoral role in Illinois and relocated with her daughter Meghan to the mountains of Colorado, the native land of her paternal ancestry. Landing in Denver without a job or place to live, she was called to serve the Rocky Mountain Conference starting September 1, 2013.

During her time with us, Sue has:

- Driven forward the vision framework with the RMC Board, delivering the vision and our big inspirational goal -- "Be Radically Connected" -- at Annual Meeting 2014, which she continues to move forward;
- Been instrumental in the forestalling foreclosure of La Foret and refinancing the debt (fall 2013), re-stabilizing operations (2013/14), calling and aligning a strategically-focused Board of Directors (2014/15), and developing a long-term financial strategy (2015/16);
- Secured nearly \$30,000 for community recovery in the wake of the massive fall 2013 floods;
- Initiated the Conference-wide Association Leaders' Meeting to foster alignment and leverage of leadership knowledge across the RMC (2014 and ongoing);
- Retooled and transitioned conference staffing to align with increasing needs for communications technologies, targeted communications, and social media/information connection throughout the conference, including website redevelopment (2014/16);
- Strengthened the RMC's covenantal partnership with other settings of the UCC, including deep engagement with our National Setting resources, as well as Cornerstone Fund, Pension Boards, United Church Funds, the UC Insurance Board, and the Church Building and Loan Fund.
- Sponsored RMC Ministry Partner Archway Housing & Services's induction into UCC's Council for Health & Human Services Ministries (CHSM).

Sue's ministry continues to include extensive travel to meet and share ministry with our local churches across the Conference, as she consistently focuses on their health and ongoing vitality. Forward projects include new methods for assuring church renewal and vitality, enhanced and highly nuanced leadership training for lay and clergy in response to national research and trends, an RMC-wide campaign to bolster financial health and stewardship at the local church and wider church level, and empowerment of conference-wide initiatives in social justice and disability/mental health.