



Rocky Mountain Conference United Church of Christ

Inspiring, challenging, and empowering generous faith and justice communities across the West.

Beloved,

I greet you in the name of one in whom is such a joy that the world cannot give nor can it take away; that name is Jesus.

In 2021, the Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC Board of Directors called me to the role of Associate Conference Minister. My portfolio includes the usual broad spectrum of duties of an Associate Conference Minister and includes a particular commission to envision and implement a ministry which engenders a sustainable culture of antiracism within the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ. Along with this commission came the privilege of curating a ministry team to aid in forwarding the work of disrupting, discrediting, and dismantling racism in our midst.

The past 12 months have been filled with privilege, and opportunity, to accompany Lay persons, Clergy, and Congregations through seasons of loss, change, celebration, and grief. I celebrate that the past 12 months have provided me the opportunity to visit 25% of our congregations throughout the massive geography of our conference in Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado. As the COVID-19 pandemic gave way, if only a bit, long awaited installations, ordinations, and celebrations of faith-filled congregations and clergy commenced. It has been a sacred honor to help congregations and clergy navigate pastoral transition and discernment.

A collaborative spirit within the Rocky Mountain Conference Ministry team has been invaluable as I acclimate to this role. The Rev. Erin Gilmore has been a trusted collaborator, and ally in our conference antiracism efforts. Book studies, conversations, worship services, and an Advent devotional, have been implements toward advancing antiracist aims throughout our conference. I developed and launched, "Let's Talk: Church, Race, and a Great Commission." This curriculum is designed to prompt collective discernment, conversation, and action to dismantle racism within a congregation and/or individuals' sphere of influence. This and other actions that I've shepherded are infused with four core tenets, Education and Consciousness Raising; Spiritual Formation and Nurture; Activism; and Reflection and Assessment. These elements form a unit which is designed to begin in a space of faith-filled conviction and lead to informed action which disrupts, discredits, and dismantles the tangled and tricky web that is systemic racism. Racism is so insidious that all persons, without regard to the racial and ethnic composition of their communities, are harmed by structures which perpetuate notions of white skinned supremacy.

All of the work to which I am called, in this role, is complex and rife with uncertainty. The COVID-19 pandemic has done a good job of shaking perceived foundations and exposing the precarious state of our work, our wellbeing, and our world. I'm ready to continue this journey as an Associate Conference Minister, ministering in and on behalf of the United Church of Christ and the Rocky Mountain Conference. I solicit your continued prayers, presence, participation, and support as we journey toward an antiracist, just, and holy reality.

Together,

The Rev. Anthony L. D. Scott, DMin
Associate Conference Minister
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