

# 2022 Annual Celebration State of the Conference Address

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Presented by Rev. Sue Artt, RMC Conference Minister  
and  
Judith Baillie, RMC Board Moderator, 2020-2022

# Shape Shifting of Church

- COVID continues to challenge how we knew to be church
- Models we thought were working aren't working so well
- The Gospel isn't any less relevant

# Urgency of Spiritual Connection

- Yearning for authentic connection with others
- Seeking an authentic experience of the Divine
- Some prefer face-to-face; some prefer virtual



What is your church willing to do for  
the sake of the Gospel?



“Preach the Gospel at all times;  
only when necessary use words.”

~ Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

# Listen for the Whisper

- Refute the heresy of busyness
- When do you “Waste time with God”?
- Spirit almost always whispers – it very rarely shouts
- Learn to “Be Still” and listen

# Christ's Church will go on

- Where is God calling you to be?
- What will be your role?
- What will be the role of your church?



# Bless Us, O Holy One

That we may be your hands and feet in the work you would call us to.



# Purpose of Conference

Catalysts to support local churches and church leaders

# Review of 2021/2022

# Anti-Racism Culture Shift

- One of the most critical issues of our time, the Board in 2020, authorized the inauguration of an Anti-Racism Ministry seeking to shift the culture of the Conference
- Anthony Scott joined us as ACM right before Annual Celebration 2022
- Alongside his ACM role, he also moves forward our work in Anti-Racism Cultural Shift – you'll hear from Anthony on Saturday



# Conference-Wide Committee on Ministry (CWCOM)

# Tributary Fund Grants

- A fund established by the Board of Directors through its budgetary process
- To encourage and incubate new church starts, new ministry development, and significant ministry revitalization
- To encourage innovative worship / expansion of the meaning of “church”
- Administered by Board-directed task force with accountability, guidance and mentorship
- First grants in 2021; currently in 2nd cycle of applicants

# Search & Call

- Nation-wide reduction in pastoral candidates for all pulpits
- Settled, interim, designated or other
- Frontier, rural, suburban or metropolitan
- To some degree regardless of church size or salary package

# Rural Church Vitality

- Focus for 2022-2023
- Worship leaders most likely called from within the congregation
- Conference will help identify educational path and fund the education of lay worship leaders

# Funding our Future

- Recruit a Funding Associate for the Conference staff
- Write grants to fund significant projects that enhance communities
- Conduct funding campaigns such as OCWM, Friends of the Conference
- Anticipated that Funding Associate will return more than own salary in grants receipts



# Conference Real Estate Update

Conference Real Estate Team:

Ken Hoagland, Lee Berg, Larry Ricketts, Shelly Dunham, Judy Baillie, Mark Dutell

Two pieces of property sold in the 2021/2022 cycle:

- Former Church Building of Christ Congregational in Denver at **2500 S Sheridan Boulevard**
- Office Parking Lot at **5th & Lipan**



**2500 S Sheridan  
Realized \$1M**





Parking Lot at  
5th & Lipan

Realized \$600K







Construction  
underway



AURA ARTS DISTRICT

# Mixed Use Retail & Housing







Strategy:  
Hold office until project on  
opposite corner is realized

ktgy  
AURA ARTS DISTRICT



# RMC Jubilee at La Foret

Mon - Wed, August 15-17, 2022

- Workshops
- Connection
- Association Leaders Conversation - What's Next for Associations?
- Relaxation, Fun, and a Rockin' Band!

# 2022 Annual Celebration Seminars

- A continuation of 2022 Annual Celebration events
- Zoom-based seminars on topics of interest
- Saturday, November 5, 2022
- Stay tuned for details



# Responses? Questions?

Please raise your hand using the Reaction button  
at the bottom of your screen.