

I hope we will see you there! Deadline for registration is Sept 17. You can register [HERE](#).

Erin

Rev. Erin Gilmore Associate Conference Minister
Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC

Discerning next steps for the Conference Wide Committee on Ministry

It is hard to believe it has almost been two years since we formed a two-year Provisional Conference Wide Committee on Ministry (CWCOW). Its formation came out of a multi-year discernment process across Associations asking the question, "what is needed now and how best do we meet that need?" Through that process we discerned that in this time of rapid change and increased complexity, there was value in drawing together our collective wisdom and shared resources to be able to meet this complexity and change with as much excellence and grace and ingenuity as possible. Now that this initial two year provisional period is coming to an end, it is time to discern next steps. Are we ready to move this from being a provisional committee to a settled one, do we need an additional provisional period, do we want to move Committee on Ministry responsibilities back to the Associations?

Over the last two years those elected by the conference to serve on the CWCOW have been working very hard not only to carry out the responsibilities of the Committee on Ministry but to also evaluate along the way what has worked well, what hasn't worked well and what needs adjusting. As we said in November of 2021, this was a starting point. The leaders of each of the subcommittees are gathering next week to reflect on what we have learned and to make recommendations for the CWCOW moving forward.

These recommendations will be part of the agenda for the special Conference Meeting on Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30 pm. The recommendations will be available a month before the meeting for you to review. In order to ensure continuity should the conference choose to vote to continue with the CWCOW, the Nominating Committee is working on finding nominees for each of the subcommittees and if the vote is to continue with a CWCOW, they will be presenting nominees for the CWCOW. If you are interested in serving on the CWCOW, or would like to nominate with their permission to the CWCOW, please email nominating@rmcucc.org.

If you have questions, concerns, feedback, regarding the CWCOW or the process moving forward, please email erin@rmcucc.org

A deep bow of gratitude to all who have served on the CWCOW in the Provisional period. It has been a monumental task to create the road while walking. And a bow of gratitude to everyone in the conference for your support, prayers and willingness to learn in this time of experimentation.

DONATE

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.



We are
praying
with Maui.



www.hcucc.org

Synod 34

Indianapolis and the Indiana-Kentucky Conference hosted the 34th General Synod from June 30-July 4. It was the UCC's first in-person national gathering since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Rocky Mountain Conference Delegation started our days at 6:30am each morning at our Western Region Caucus Meeting. Our days were filled with workshops, committee meetings, plenary sessions, and vibrant worship services. Denver's own Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber was the keynote speaker on Saturday.

13 out of the 14 proposed resolutions were passed. The only resolution that did not pass was Plant Based Living. This was the Resolution Committee to which I was assigned. We met for 7 and a half hours in one day to rewrite the resolution to make it more palatable to the wider church. It is a difficult task to wordsmith a resolution in a 40 person committee filled with very different views on the topic. I am very proud of the work the committee accomplished in order to come to a consensus to present the resolution to the floor. An amendment was added to the resolution on the floor. The resolution was then voted down.

You can find more information regarding the resolutions at ucc.org

By an incredibly narrow margin a UCC bylaw change was approved to change the frequency of General Synods from every 2 years to every 3 years.

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson was elected General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. She is the first woman and the first black woman to lead the denomination.

As a life long member of the United Church of Christ, it was a special honor to represent our church, the Southeastern Association, and the Rocky Mountain Conference at General Synod. I enjoyed taking part in the mission project of putting together period packets for Church World Services. I became friends with pastors and lay leaders throughout the country and deepened my relationships within our

Rocky Mountain Conference delegation. It was great getting to know our new Rocky Mountain Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Doug Wooten.

Our next General Synod will be hosted in Kansas City, MO in 2025.

Angie Law
SEA Synod delegate

The Ordination & Installation of Terri Bowen

Afternoon Service & Dinner September 24, 2023 | 4 pm at Park Hill Congregational Church, UCC

Terri and Brian Bowen invite you to their table for a celebratory dinner following the service. A special request of friends who are clergy: please attend wearing your stoles.

RSVP to Terri@parkhillchurch.org by September 20

Virtual Option: If you are unable to attend in person, please attend virtually on Zoom, click [HERE](#).

Park Hill Congregational Church, UCC
2600 Leyden Street
Denver, Colorado 80207

Book Study this Fall

Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide

Mondays, September 11, 18, 25 and October 2, 9, 16 from 11:30am – 1pm

Rev. Richard F. Ward, Fred B. Craddock Professor Emeritus of Homiletics and Worship and Member of Sixth Avenue UCC and the Rocky Mountain Conference will be hosting an online discussion of a book this fall titled Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide by Professor Leah Schade of Lexington Theological Seminary. He specifically chose this book as way to prepare to preach through next year's election season. This will give us some time to begin with prayer for our preaching ministries and then discuss 2 chapters in the book. The topics that Professor Schade covers suggest several preaching strategies as we approach what promises to be a highly contentious election season. If you are interested in participating register [HERE](#). There is no cost but donations are welcome.

Wanted

Community UCC Boulder, Boulder, CO is seeking a person, office administrator who works with the Pastor, Coordinating Council and CUCC commissions and committees to ensure orderly conduct of church business. This person will aid the church in achieving its mission.

For additional details check [HERE](#).

UCC Webinar—The Climate Strike Movement 5 Years Later

Five years have now passed from when Greta Thunberg and others launched a movement that reverberated around the world. The movement continues as organizers prepare for the March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City on September 17th. This webinar will feature faith-based organizers and activists who will reflect back on the movement and where we are today. Speakers will include Rev. Jim Antal, Aly Tharp, and Gabriela Martinez. Even if you cannot make the webinar at its scheduled time on September 13th at 1 pm ET, still sign-up, and we will send you a link to a recording of it. [Register now!](#)



New Boundary Training!

Registration is still open for upcoming Boundary Training sessions on September 20 and 21, each day from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time). Cost is \$60 per person. [More information](#). [Register](#). If Boundary Training is required for authorization, please check with the appropriate authorizing body to make sure this training qualifies for your requirements. If you need information from me in order to receive approval, please email [Rev. Dr. Weible](#). Two additional Sessions have been scheduled for October 10 & 11 or November 7 & 8, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day (Pacific Time).

New Racial Justice Training Sessions!

Two additional Sessions have been scheduled for October 10 & 11 or November 7 & 8, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day (Pacific Time). [More information](#). Cost is \$60 per person. [Register](#). Questions? Email [Rev. Dr. Weible](#).

Request for Feedback

We are requesting feedback on our Facilitated Conversations program. If you could spare a few minutes to fill out the survey to assess interest in this program, we would appreciate your help. Click [HERE](#) for the five question survey.

Visit Rev. Dr. Weible's Website!

Please visit her [website](#) to learn more about the services Enkei Resolutions can offer to support you and your ministry.

Previous versions of the Together Newsletter can be found [here](#).