## 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Metro Denver Association Submitted by Peter Sawtell (MDA Rep. to the Conference Board) Peter@RevSawtell.org

Along with the other associations of the Rocky Mountain Conference, the Metropolitan Denver Association has been exploring what we're called to be and do, now that the Conference-wide Committee on Ministry is at work. Broadly, we're stepping into several new and expanded ways of supporting clergy and congregations.

The Association Executive Committee has met close to monthly for reflection and planning. An email newsletter is sent occasionally to a diverse email list.

A new set of programs for retired clergy has been offering monthly meetings – one an in-person gathering, and also a Zoom-only meeting which has some involvement by clergy in other associations.

Sessions are being offered to provide support and training for church members who are serving as delegates to Association and Conference meetings.

Association leaders are making Sunday-morning visits to many of the MDA congregations.

In August, the MDA had an association-wide shared worship service, with UCC General Minister Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson as the guest speaker. The event was both well-attended and well-received.

At least eight MDA congregations, and over 100 people, participated collectively in the Denver PRIDE march last June.

The Annual Meeting of the MDA, held last October on Zoom, featured brainstorming breakouts on multiple topics, as we seek input on how to serve and support members of the Association. Minor By-Law amendments were accepted as we finalized the transition to the Conferencewide Committee on Ministry.

A Financial Resources committee has been formed to consider how the MDA's financial assets can be used creatively for support of scholarships, special events and new ministries.

The MDA is looking forward to conversations and explorations – within the Association, and across the Conference – of the role of associations, and of other ways of building relationships and partnerships within the RMC.

Members of the Association Executive Committee are: Chuck Wright (Moderator), Linda Trantow (Assistant Moderator), Connie Feist (Registrar), Jan Hepp (treasurer), John Evans-Klock, Marcia Meier, Kevin Pettit, Peter Sawtell, and Candace Woods.