

**NORTHERN PLAINS CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

A monthly newsletter supporting the building of community in the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-national community of faith



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## AWARE FOR JULY 2011

### **2011 Annual Meeting Report:**

The 2011 Annual Meeting at Fargo First, was a "Good Ol' Time" and so much more. Thanks to the efforts of so many the 48th Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Conference United Church of Christ was truly a good gathering of friends. There was ample time for conversation, getting reacquainted and remembering past times. During the meeting several important pieces of business were dealt with. We talked about the budget and issued a call to the Congregations to help with the immediate short fall that we might go into the coming year with greater financial strength. More will be coming to the Conference as a result of those discussions in the coming months. One of the cost cutting measures will be to move the Conference Office in to the home of Peg and Wade Schemmel. We want to thank Bismarck UCC for being our home these past years. A full slate of officers was elected, and I would invite you to check the "Leaders Guide" which can be found on the NPC web site [www.npcucc.org](http://www.npcucc.org) under Resources and "Church News". There was a significant discussion of the proposed union with the South Dakota Conference. This Union calls on the two Conferences to begin to merge certain parts of their life. Current discussion has focused on a sharing of programs, (what happens in one Conference the other Conference is invited to attend). For example an invitation will be issued to the South Dakota Conference to share in the Women's Retreat at the Abbey at Richardton September 16 – 18. We are also talking about having a common Conference Office for the two Conferences and about having one Conference Minister. Modern innovations in technology and the use of cyber communications make such ideas possible. Both the Northern Plains Conference and the South Dakota Conference voted on the same resolution which calls for the process of exploring Union between the Conferences to continue. In both cases the resolution received a unanimous vote. We have two meetings currently scheduled to continue exploring the possibility of a Union between NPC and SDC. The meetings are a budget gathering where we would start to crunch the numbers for our joint life, and the second is a planning meeting where we would continue to expand the broad vision. One of the ramifications of the Union Conversation is that the 2012 Annual

Meeting for both Conferences will be held June 1 – 3 in Aberdeen, South Dakota. I would invite you to stay in touch for more interesting and exciting developments in this developing area.

### **Summer Camp Registration:**

On the [npcucc.org](http://npcucc.org) website under the Church News tab there is the registration form for the Summer Camp Experience, July 24-July 28, 2011. The location of the Camp Experience is at Camp of the Cross outside of Garrison, North Dakota. This camp is for ages 8-18. Come and have a great summer experience in a beautiful setting alongside of Lake Sakakawea. Many new and exciting camp experiences are planned for all participants. If you have any questions, please contact the Conference Office at 701-255-1104 or Carleton Borden at 701-845-1977 or his cell phone of 701-840-5104

### **Support your NPC General Synod Delegation as it "Rocks in the UCC":**

During the General Synod your NPC delegation will have their opportunity to "Rock in the UCC. That is using rocking chairs. They are currently receiving donations from you, their members, and friends. You can send you donations to the Conference Office in the name of any of the NPC General Synod Delegation. The delegates are: Patrick Hope, Karen Hartman, Stephen Holmes, Carleton Borden Dorothy (Darcy) Borden, Peg Schemmel and Wade Schemmel. Please send donations to the Conference Office by June 27<sup>th</sup> so that the money can be turned into a check and taken to the meeting. You are invited to send your donations to the Conference Office in the name of any of the delegation. The money raised with go towards the New and Renewing Church Endowment Fund. This money enables the Local Church Ministries Board to continue to provide financial support to churches with vision, goals and excitement for ministry.

### **Articles in longer version of the July Aware:**

The following articles can be found in the longer version of the July Aware: As I Look At It, The Hospitality Resolution for the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Voices from the Prairie by Ron Hildahl, Disaster Ministry Report, CUE Seminary Report.

**NPC Representatives to National Boards are named:**

During the General Synod which will be taking place in Tampa, Florida, July 1 – 5 we will be electing representatives from the Conferences to the National Offices. As we have been well represented in the past, we will continue to have strong representation from the following; Ron Hildahl will represent the NPC on the Executive Council, Darlene Perkins will represent NPC on the Justice and Witness Board of Directors, Evan Mandigo will represent NPC on the Office of General Ministries Board, Stephen Holmes will represent NPC on the Wider Church Ministries Board of Directors and Tammy Toepke Floyd will represent the NPC on the Local Church Ministries Board. We congratulate these NPC members on their new areas of service and look forward to supporting them and hearing from them about the ministries they are a part of.

**AWARE Available in TWO Versions:**

The Northern Plains Conference AWARE will come in two versions. Please let the Conference Office know how this works for you. There will be one version held to two pages, and may have a smaller print size to accommodate that limitation. This is especially helpful to Congregations that mail it out via the US mail. Then, there will be a second version of the AWARE which will be an expanded version and sporting a larger font and photos. This version will serve Congregations that send out the AWARE via email. Please inform the Conference Office at

701-255-1104, which version works for your Congregation most efficiently.

**All NPC Congregations and their members are invited to celebrate with the Pierce**

**Congregational United Church of Christ:**

as they give thanks to God for 100 years of praise and celebration in Jesus’ name. The service of celebration will take place on July 24<sup>th</sup> beginning with worship at 11:00 am (mt). Let us join the members of this Rural South Western North Dakota Congregation and their pastor Mary Peterson for this special time of praise and rejoicing.

**NPC Grants Medallion Award for 2011:**

The Medallion Award is given by the Church and Ministry Committee of the Northern Plains Conference to persons in the Conference who have distinguished themselves in service locally, Conference Wide and Nationally. The recipient this year is Peg Schemmel. In the giving of the award the committee highlighted Peg’s work in the Conference above and beyond her duties as Conference Office Administrator, and her work in the National Church setting. Congratulations to Peg and thanks for the good work.

**Congregations Seeking A Pastor:**

The following churches are seeking new pastoral leadership:

**Plymouth Congregational United**

**Church of Christ in Fargo** (currently with a hold on profiles), and

**United Church of Christ in Bismarck.**

**July Calendar**

Date	Time	Event	Location
7/1	-----	General Synod 28	Tampa
7/2	-----	GS 28	Tampa
7/3	-----	GS 28	Tampa
7/4	-----	GS 28	Tampa
7/4	-----	4 <sup>th</sup> of July	-----
7/5	-----	GS 28	Tampa
7/7-7/10	-----	Vacation	-----
7/11	-----	Travel	-----
7/14	1:00 pm (ct)	Financial Planning for Union Planning	Fargo/First
7/24	11:00 am (mt)	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration	Pierce Congregational UCC
7/24	-----	NPC Youth Camp	Camp of the Cross near Garrison
7/25	-----	NPC Youth Camp	Camp of the Cross near Garrison
7/26	-----	NPC Youth Camp	Camp of the Cross
7/27	-----	NPC Youth Camp	Camp of the Cross
7/28	-----	NPC Youth Camp	Camp of the Cross