

The "E Messenger"

Notes and Comments by Wade 062811

Our prayers are with the Conference and National Church Staff, the Committee members and the delegates that are attending the 28th General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Tampa, Florida. We pray that God's guiding Spirit be with the many United Church of Christ members who give of their time and energy to guide our church into the 21st century. AMEN

Peg and I will be out of the Conference Office from June 29 until July 12 when we will be returning. We will be attending the General Synod meeting in Tampa, Florida until July 6th and from July 7 – 11 we will be on vacation. Should you need to get hold of us during that time, please feel free to contact either my email (schemmel@npcucc.org) or my cell phone (701 471 3278). We also hope to have the Office phone rolling over to Peg's cell. Her cell phone number is 701-226-1196. Please hold the NPC delegation in your prayers as we seek to share in the ongoing mission of the national and local church.

Your General Synod delegation includes Patrick Hope, Karen Hartman, and Dorothy (Darcy) Borden. Along with myself we will be working to lift up the needs and desires of the Northern Plains Conference. We invite your thoughts and prayers as we share in the ongoing ministry of this meeting.

Our thanks are with Dorothy Borden for accepting the call to be a delegate from the Northern Plains Conference. When the need for surgery made it impossible for Stephen Holmes to be a delegate at General Synod, Dorothy Borden stepped in at the very last moment and filled out our delegate pool. Thanks Darcy, we look forward to deliberating with you.

For any who have not already done so, it is time to register for the upcoming youth camp to be held at Camp of the Cross. Camp of the Cross registration forms and informational fliers can be found on the NPCUCC web site at www.npcucc.org and putting youth camp in the search area.

Our prayers continue to be with the stalwart folk of Bismarck and Minot and surrounding area as they join the folk of the Red River Valley in facing the awesome challenge presented by flooding. While each of these are in different stages, the disruptive impact on life continues. The Northern Plains Conference is a community of faith that lives in covenant with others through the National United Church of Christ. As a community of faith we are provided the opportunity to stand with one another at critical times. This is

one of those times. While there is currently little that we can do with the folk of Minot or Bismarck at this time, there is much we can do to get ready. To begin we can hold one another in prayer. I do not know of a bond that is stronger or more effective in these critical times than the bond of prayer. I therefore call on the congregations and members of the NPC to hold one another in prayer.

While it is not time for us to send volunteers to help the folk of Minot or Bismarck it is time to begin to think of how we would like to help our brothers and sisters when it will be time to clean up. (Minot has 11,000 displaced folk, over 4,000 homes are underwater). Can we begin to set aside some time to help clean up houses and businesses that are under water? There will be a call for this. Are there some skilled folk who could help with rebuilding in the future?

It is time to start to put together clean up and health kits. These kits will be needed locally in large numbers. Possibly church groups could assemble them, with the items for them being collected during worship. These kits will be more important than ever as the water goes down and flooded buildings are left in the wake.

For any who would like more information or would like to check on the status and need for volunteers please contact the NPC disaster coordinator, Lindy Holt at 701 430 0727.

The NPC Church in Minot is not flooded. As long as the levees hold the church building stands a good chance of remaining dry. A large number of their members are displaced, and the church cannot be used for services since it is in an evacuated area. Our prayers continue to be with Rev. Frank Picard and the members the Congregational United Church of Christ of Minot.

We would like to hold Steve Holmes in our prayers as he has gone through back surgery Friday morning. The strongest link we can have with Steve and Kathy and the girl's right now is prayer. We pray for a quick and successful recovery for Steve at this time.