

# 31st Annual Meeting Rocky Mountain Conference UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## 2004 - 2005 Annual Reports

Friday, Saturday and Sunday • June 10 - 12, 2005  
First Congregational UCC • Grand Junction, Colorado



# 2004 - 2005 Annual Reports

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**Presented at the 31st Annual Meeting**  
**June 10 - 12, 2005**  
**Grand Junction, Colorado**

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## Moderator's Report

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This weekend I'd like to welcome each of you as we are asked to "Come Listen, Go Serve; God is Still Speaking".

A year ago God spoke to us through the Transition Task Force report: we need to reorganize our conference to better serve our churches and our Lord. We need to hear each other better, so we can work together in God's name.

The Board of Directors has taken the major directives of this report as our agenda this year.

We have revised our constitution and by-laws to streamline the Board of Directors, making the functions of the Board better defined and administrative, while giving more flexibility to the program committees and mission teams. We will be voting on these documents this meeting.

As you may be aware, we are using the Internet much more to communicate between conference and churches, between conference and various committees. Like all communications, this should be a two way street. Please turn often to the conference website [www.rmccucc.org](http://www.rmccucc.org) for information of all kinds and links to various programs that are available. Peggy Ice, our talented communications director, has made our website much more accessible and responsive.

A third directive to the Board of Directors was to form a search committee for a settled conference minister. This group was introduced and commissioned at annual meeting in Ft. Collins a year ago. Your church was sent a printed copy of the conference profile in February, and more copies can be downloaded from the website. They have read many profiles and interviewed three candidates. At this writing, the Board will be receiving their report and hopes to be introducing the nominee to you for your vote.

To reach out to many disenchanting folk in our communities, we have joined the God Is Still Speaking Initiative. The Rev. Michael Leite has put his enormous talents to the task of helping many churches learn ways to more effectively share our enthusiasm and joy in our welcoming United Church of Christ.

We also have a twofold financial challenge, which you will be hearing more about this meeting. La Foret is paying its way, but still needs underwriting of the debt encumbered by updating and maintaining its facilities.

Also, our conference needs to face up to paying rent for its office space. Our generous donor is no longer able to continue to provide space at no cost.

Information on these needs will be presented to you.

I cannot overstate the amazing cooperation among our staff in the inspiring leadership and service they provide. The Rev. JoAnne Bogart and the Rev. Michael Leite, interim associate conference ministers, as well as Rev Tom Rehling, acting conference minister, have been tireless and creative in the ways they have helped the Board address all of these tasks.

Priscilla Corsi, Office Manager, is immensely talented in keeping everyone on track and financially accountable.

As we listen for God to direct us, we must be willing to follow where God leads us to serve God's church and world.

**Alice Silver, Moderator**



## Acting Conference Minister's Report

### On The Horizon

The Rocky Mountain Conference is very well positioned to step faithfully into the future. For the past two years we have closed the financial books with a positive balance. We have a dedicated and committed staff, which has responded to challenges and served the Conference well. The La Foret Conference and Retreat Center continues to offer many campers the opportunity to experience faith-based community living and spiritual respite. Our congregations have strong pastoral leaders providing faithful guidance as they wrestle with God's call to servanthood. The spirit of trust, hope and confidence permeates the Rocky Mountain Conference.

The Board of Directors has demonstrated faithful foresight in anticipating the future needs of the Conference. We have reworked the Constitution and Bylaws in order to be better stewards of our resources. In so doing, the proposed structure will reduce the membership on the Board of Directors, clearly focus their tasks, and provide the freedom to respond to mission needs as they become known. Ministry Teams will be charged with the responsibilities of implementing the mission and ministry work of the Conference. The Conference will provide them the resources necessary to do their work.

As I look to the future of the Rocky Mountain Conference I believe that we have several areas to focus on that will help us build up the Body of Christ. Our strength is first and foremost the churches that make up the Conference. **Keeping our congregations healthy and viable** is of primary importance to a Conference like ours that has so many small and/or geographically isolated congregations. About 2/3 of our congregations are participating in the national UCC God is Still Speaking Initiative and many have reported positive responses to the TV ads. We must also continue to offer resources and training focused on increasing worship attendance and promoting our outreach to unchurched and disillusioned people in our communities. We need to remain committed to the mission of starting new churches. Over the past seven years, we have started six new churches and brought one other congregation into the fellowship of the UCC. We need to develop and activate the Congregation /Conference Liaison program to strengthen bonds

between congregations, associations and the conference. The Conference can only be as strong and faithful as the churches within it.

A second priority for our future is to **strengthen and support our pastoral leadership**. This begins with the diligent work of the Conference Staff working hand-in-hand with search committees as they seek faithful skilled leadership. We also are working to provide support for clergy through clergy clusters and clergy deans who can provide direct personal care for them. We are restarting clergy retreats to strengthen networks and offer continuing education opportunities as well as new clergy orientation gatherings. They are our front line missionaries and we must help them remain physically, emotionally and spiritually healthy.

I believe that the **financial resources of the Rocky Mountain Conference** are grossly underestimated and underdeveloped. We need to develop faithful stewardship practices to support all of our missions and ministries. We need to explore new financial resources to support our outdoor ministries and should probably consider a major capital campaign for the Conference within the next year or two. We are rebuilding a Stewardship Ministry Team and have a small core of Stewardship Associates available to work with local churches. While many volunteers have worked faithfully to promote good stewardship, I am convinced that we need the focused attention of a Conference staff person with the gifts and skills for a financial development ministry. This will help us discover new financial resources for doing more of God's work.

**We are the people of a Still Speaking God and who is speaking through us.** God speaks through our actions as well as our inaction. We are God's voice for peace and social justice and we need to speak loud enough to be heard. We are God's stewards of creation and need to advocate for the care of the earth. We are called to build a global community where everyone is cared for as one of God's children. Let the voice of our Still Speaking God resound with courage and conviction throughout the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ.

**The Rev. Dr. Tom Rehling,  
Acting Conference Minister**



## Interim Associate Conference Minister’s Report

My position could be more descriptively labeled “Interim Minister for Education and its Administration”. I work with children, youth and adults .....in education, resources and curriculum, summer camps, weekend retreats and any youth events of the wider UCC Church. I interface with UCC Iliff students and faculty and provide staff presence at the Faith Nurturing Ministries Committee (CREW). I handle registrations for the events listed above – publicity and data entry – essentially serving as my own secretary.

It has been reported recently that the Conference does nothing with or for youth. Here are figures that suggest a different recorded truth; numbers include both participants and their counselors.

Events	#
2004 Summer Camp enrollments	412 (does not include “adult only” camps)
2004 NYE – UCC Nat’l Youth Event in Knoxville	38
2004 Middle School Fall Retreat	69
2004 Senior High Fall Retreat	112
2005 Senior High Leadership Retreat (max of 4 youth per church)	75
2005 Confirmation Retreat	34
2005 Middle School Spring Retreat	86
2005 Senior High Spring Retreat	112
2005 Summer Camp Enrollment as of May 17, 2005	<b>423 . . . . .and counting. . . . .</b> (does not include “adult only” camps)
2005 General Synod in Atlanta	1
<i>In addition, under the auspices of Global Partners</i>	
2004 Youth Mission Trip to Venezuela	12
2005 Youth Mission Trip to Venezuela	15

If the report was true, it takes me more than full time to support, encourage and enable volunteer ministries that have been described as “nothing”. Please take time to re-evaluate that assessment – and profusely thank our volunteers.

**Total number of children, youth and their counselors in programs from 6/04 - 6/05 = 938.**

Two fantastic retreat planning committees design and lead the 5 weekend retreats that are held at La Foret during the school year for middle schoolers and high schoolers. **The Senior High Planning Committee** this past year was co-chaired by Sal Smith and Erin Gilmore, along with Todd Beltracchi, Ethan Hampton, Dana Salyer and 13 youth who were selected for “Committee”. **The Middle School Retreat Planning Committee** was chaired by Corbin Davis, assisted by Josh Hagin, Donna Greene, Jon Dodson and myself. A smaller separate committee plans the **Confirmation Retreat**, this year led by Rob Hundley. Without those committed volunteers, both adults and youth, it wouldn’t happen. Thankyouthankyouthankyouth!

**N.Y.E. – the UCC National Youth Event** was held last summer in Knoxville with nearly 4,000 youth and counselors in attendance. Leading our 38 member contingent were pastors and youth advocates, Steve Hoffman and Chuck Wright with 4 other adult leaders. They chartered a bus and had a grand time. Kudos to Chuck and Steve!

Following up on the success of that event, our Rocky Mountain Conference will take our turn at hosting the **Western Regional Youth Event ( W.R.Y.E.)** in June of 2006. A group of 8 adults has volunteered to plan this event; more help

*continued on next page*



## Interim Associate Conference Minister's Report

will be needed as we move into more detailed planning. Serving on the WRYE 2006 Committee are Kelly Jo Clark, Jon Dodson, Donna Greene, Steve Hoffman, Shannon Pease, Sara Weatherman and Chuck Wright, and myself as staff liaison. Date and location will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Plan now to budget funds to help your youth attend this "Once in a Youth-time Event".

General Synod 25 – July 2005 in Atlanta. Usually we take a youth contingent to Synod, but this year only one youth expressed interest, probably because they are all looking ahead to attending WRYE next summer. The one interested youth, **Robbie Carlson** from Windsor, will serve as one of our RMC Delegates to Synod, filling in a vacated slot in our delegation. He'll participate in the planned youth activities after hours. Thanks, Robbie.

Other things that capture my attention are these: monthly meetings with UCC students at Iliff; occasional cluster meetings; rounding up workshops for Annual Meeting; encouraging nominations for scholarships and Honored Gifts of Laywomen; visits with local churches; and I used my continuing education money to attend the biennial UCC Outdoor Ministry Consult at Silver Lake, CT, where I learned that La Foret is considered the premier campsite in the UCC. (Hey – we knew that all along!!) Also, my husband and I will attend General Synod 25 as visitors, using my vacation time and at my own expense.

Summer Camp Program. This, of course, is my passion. Working with the La Foret Staff is a wonderful treat and I enjoy every minute I am at the camp. Serving as Camp Directors in the Summer of 2004 were the following people: Bill and Martha Jones; *Merv and Danni Bangert*; Teddy Hampton, Deborah Voss, Andrew Baker, *Rob Hundley*, Bruce MacKenzie, Sally Palmer, Rebecca Kemper, David Popham, Joy Wills, Chris Gilmore, *Barb Cherrington*, Tim Clark, Talie Morrison, Estelle Petitt and Jim White.

Only 4 of those folks (*the names in italics*) are not returning as Directors this summer - all for very good reasons. Their slots are being ably filled by Carol Balliet, Tamara Boynton, Powell Bland and Kelly Jo Clark. Can you believe and celebrate with me that so many people return year after year to engage in ministry with our children, youth and adult campers? Volunteer counselors are still needed for 2005 - **urgent need for males!**

Youth at Annual Meeting. Organizing the activities this June are: Sara Weatherman and Margaret Hampton, with assistance from Todd Earl, Kelly Jo Clark, Bubba Stevenson, Ethan Hampton and Corbin Davis. Nancy Ruspil, educator at our host church, has worked feverishly hard nailing down service project details on site.

The Faith Nurturing Committee (CREW) is the entity that oversees all these things ..... and more. My thanks to Chair, Karen Smith, who attended to every detail and to the faithful members who dreamed creatively, planned and supported cheerfully, wrestled with one tough issue and still kept their sense of humor and committed spirits intact.

Finally, I need to state bluntly and as often as I get the chance, that this position, interim or settled, is not the ".5" job the conference hoped to get away with; nor is it the ".6" job that you signed me to initially; neither is it the ".75" job that you increased it to. It is full time and more, like any other ministerial position on the face of the earth. And the next person called to serve here ought to be able to live off the salary, and not have to work a second job or win the lottery. "Part-time ministry" is an oxymoron. It has been my observation over the last 15-20 years that the position of Educator in the RMC has been repeatedly deemed "insignificant" and has been underestimated time-wise and funded accordingly. Not one opportunity to slash the hours has ever been missed.

As my contract moves toward its expiration date, I challenge you to stop long enough to look into the faces and the hearts and souls of the youth of our conference. Talk with them. Listen to them. Observe expectantly. And take yet another close look at the very profound effect that La Foret has on our youth. Don't underestimate the power of sacred places. Be as protective as a mother bear and don't let another living soul treat our children and youth and La Foret as just so much "insignificance".

*"Redeeming the time-being from insignificance" — from the Christmas Oratorio by W.H. Auden*

**The Rev. JoAnne Bogart**  
**Interim Associate Conference Minister**



## Interim Associate Conference Minister's Report

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The annual meeting marks the 9<sup>th</sup> month of my tenure as Interim Associate Conference Minister. My position is half time (25 hrs a week) and entails the following:

1. **Coordinate and provide leadership for the God Is Still Speaking Initiative for the Conference**
2. **Assist the Conference Minister with search committees and other Church and Ministry concerns.**
3. **Visit local churches**
4. **Other projects and tasks assigned by the Conference Minister.**

### 1. The God Is Still Speaking Initiative:

- The Initiative has been very successful. In our conference, 43 of our 81 churches have opted into the evangelism, stewardship, identity initiative with varying results.
- We have had multiple workshops training growth/evangelism teams around the conference;
- We have sold identity material (cups, shirts etc.) out of the office.
- The Still Speaking Team: Walt Hart from Green River attended the national training program for GSSI and trained churches in the western portions of our conference. Moderator Alice Silver, the Rev. Nan Solo, the Rev. Mark Sirnic and I trained churches on the Eastern slope and Wyoming. The Rev. Carla Gilbert has also been very helpful in the process.
- At the end of this report is a list of churches that have join the Initiative as of April 26, 2005.
- We hosted a fund raising breakfast for the commercials and the Clergy / Partner Dinner with Ron Buford as our guest speaker.

### 2. Assisting with Search Committees and Church and Ministry Concerns:

Last fall, I went to Florida to train in the search and call process. I have been supporting three of our churches in their search for permanent pastoral leadership. I have also worked with short-term supply needs.

### 3. Visiting Local Churches:

This has been a great experience to visit a variety of churches with a goal of visiting two congregations a month for Sunday worship.

### 4. Other projects and tasks:

#### Clergy/Partner/Family Retreat

From October 9 to 11 (Sunday evening to Tuesday morning), we plan on a retreat for the clergy, their partners, and children at the YMCA of the Rockies. This retreat is modeled after the retreats that used to take place after Easter in Glenwood Springs. It promises to be a time of fellowship, a time of relaxation, a time of learning. At this time we do not have a primary speaker or program. Carla Gilbert, David Popham, James Fother, Charlene Hinckley are all working on the location, and program.

#### Grant Writing Workshops

The conference is sponsoring grant-writing workshops to raise funds for clergy support. We have had one of four workshops and so far it is not producing the funds we had hoped to support a grant program for the clergy retreat

National: I have been looking for a Annuitant Visitor for the Pension Boards to replace The Rev. James Koob.

Pastoral Care for Pastors : I have worked diligently with a variety of pastors offering the love, care and support on behalf of the conference.

**The Rev. Michael J. Leite  
Interim Associate Conference Minister**



## Still Speaking Initiative Opt-In Churches

### Colorado

First United Church of Arvada	Arvada
Parkview Congregational UCC	Aurora
Community United Church Of Christ	Boulder
First Congregational UCC	Boulder
United Church of Broomfield Congregational UCC	Broomfield
Black Forest Community UCC	Buena Vista
Broadmoor Community UCC	Colorado Springs
First Congregational UCC	Colorado Springs
Vista Grande Community UCC	Colorado Springs
Union Congregational UCC	Crested Butte
Berkeley Community Cong.	Denver
Christ Congregational UCC	Denver
Kirk of Bonnie Brae UCC	Denver
Park Hill Congregational UCC	Denver
Sixth Avenue United Church UCC	Denver
United Church of Montebello	Denver
Washington Park UCC	Denver
First Plymouth Cong. UCC	Englewood
Mayflower Cong. UCC	Englewood
Plymouth Congregational UCC	Fort Collins
First Congregational UCC	Grand Junction
First Congregational UCC	Greeley
St Johns UCC	Greeley
Gunnison Cong. Church UCC	Gunnison
Hayden Congregational UCC	Hayden
Lakewood United Church	Lakewood
Columbine United Church	Littleton
First Congregational UCC	Longmont
First Congregational UCC	Loveland
Hillcrest Congregational UCC	Montrose
Union Congregational UCC	Nucla
First Congregational UCC	Pueblo
Wiggins Community UCC	Wiggins
Faith United Church Of Christ	Windsor

### Utah

Bountiful Community UCC	Bountiful
UCC Congregational	Ogden
Holladay UCC	Salt Lake City
Kingsbury Community UCC	Vernal

### Wyoming

First Congregational UCC	Casper
Union Congregational UCC	Green River
Community UCC	Pinedale
First Congregational UCC	Rock Springs

**Total Opt-In Churches for Conference 43**

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## Secretary's Report - 2004 Totals

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Basic Support	\$504,941.00
Special Support	\$157,272.00
Per Capita	\$71,599.00
Membership:	17,840
Churches:	81

The following information covers the time between Annual Meeting in 2003 and 2004.

### ORDINATIONS:

MDA - Diane Martin - 9/26/04  
MDA - Jeanne Updike - 11/21/04  
MDA - Elizabeth Pexton - 4/10/05  
MDA - Malcolm Himshoot -

### IN MEMORIUM:

MDA - The Rev. James F. Koob, 2004  
SE - The Rev. Joseph W. Carroll, 2004

### INSTALLATIONS:

The Rev. Jeanne Updike, Hospice Chaplain - VNA, Nov. 21, 2004  
The Rev. Dusty Pruitt, Minister for Outreach and Evangelism, Parkview Cong. UCC - Jan. 16, 2005  
The Rev. Daniel Geslin, 6th Avenue UCC, Denver - May 15, 2005  
The Rev. Craig Witcher, 1st Cong., Greeley, Sr. Pastor - October 31, 2004  
The Rev. Sara Weatherman, 1st Cong., Longmont, Assoc. Pastor for Christian Ed./Youth Min. - Feb. 6, 2005  
The Rev. Sharon Benton, 1st Cong. UCC, Fort Collins, Associate Pastor - April 3, 2005  
The Rev. Harvey Joyner, 1st Congregational UCC, Rock Springs, WY - Sept. 26, 2004  
The Rev. Carol Prochaska, Congregational UCC, Douglas, WY  
The Rev. Donald Wills, Gunnison Congregational UCC, Gunnison - July 18, 2004  
The Rev. Kelly Jo Clark, Union Congregational UCC, Crested Butte - November 14, 2004  
The Rev. Clairnel Nervik, Creede Community UCC, Creede - June 20, 2004

### GRANTED ORDAINED MINISTERIAL STANDING:

MDA - The Rev. Dusty Pruitt, January 16, 2005

### LICENSED: (new and renewed)

MDA - Mark Hagggar for Pilgrim Congregational UCC  
MDA - Doris Havice, in perpetuity  
MDA - Steve Johnsen for Denver Inner City Parish  
MDA - Angela Menke for Henderson Comm. Cong. UCC  
MDA - Heather McDuffee for sacraments during youth activities at 1st Cong., Boulder  
MDA - Elizabeth Pexton for Chaplaincy 12/18/04 until ordination 4/10/05  
NE - Mary Ann Anderson - renewed November 9, 2004, to Northeastern Assoc. for 1 year  
NE - Robert Bailey, February 8, 2005, retroactive to January 13th to Immanuel Cong. UCC, Brush and Zion UCC, Sterling, for 1 year  
SE - Ms. Jane Willis, to The Historic Comm. Cong. Church of Manitou Springs - March, 2005, for 1 year  
WE - Janet Babish, Hayden Congregational UCC, Hayden  
WE - Lael Van Riper, Union Congregational UCC, Nucla



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Secretary's Report - 2004 Totals

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### **RESIGNATIONS:**

MDA - The Rev. John Gaudreau from Rockland Memorial Comm.  
NE - The Rev. Jonathan Winans from 1st Cong., Loveland, effective 5/22/05  
SE - The Rev. Daniel Geslin from Christ Cong. UCC, Pueblo - 10/2004  
SE - The Rev. Linda Downey from Hilltop UCC, Parker - 10/2004  
UT - The Rev. Karen Winkel, Bountiful UCC, Bountiful, UT  
UT - The Rev. Don Poisson, Provo Community UCC, Provo, UT  
UT - Ruth de Jesus (licensed), United Church of Kanab-Fredonia, Kanab, UT  
WY - The Rev. Thomas L. Hall from 1st UCC, Torrington - 9/30/04

### **RETIRED:**

The Rev. Sandi Daniel from Chaplaincy  
The Rev. Sandra Vasel Edwards, April 1, 2005  
The Rev. Stephen R. Parke from Colorado Mental Health Institute, Pueblo - 5/04  
The Rev. James W. White from 1st Congregational UCC, Colorado Springs - 5/05

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Karen Bruno - MD  
O. Elaine Hinnant - MD  
Linda Downey - MD  
Peter Stitsinger - SE  
Pat Gamble-Hovey - UT

### **IN CARE: (new and renewed)**

MDA - Heather McDuffee - 2/15/03  
MDA - Bob Bailey - 4/19/03 (approved for Ordination)  
MDA - Powell Bland - 6/21/03  
(approved for Ordination pending a call, 10/16/04)  
MDA - Amelia Dress - 2/15/03  
MDA - Jeremy Shaver - 10/18/03  
MDA - Becky Porter - 12/20/03  
MDA - Barbara Miner - 11/16/02  
MDA - Amy Smith - 2/21/04  
MDA - David Inglis - 11/20/04  
MDA - Deb Sanchez - 2/19/05  
MDA - Kristina Lizardy - 2/19/05  
NE - Jim Vierra, 1st Cong. UCC, Longmont  
SE - Ms. Teresa V. Lewis, Black Forest Comm. UCC - 2/05  
UT - Ruth de Jesus  
UT - Nancy Piggott  
WE - Dan Wilke  
WE - Al Bratton

### **RESIGNED IN-CARE STATUS:**

MDA - Kay Krebs

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## Secretary's Report - 2004 Totals

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### **INTERIM PASTORS:**

The Rev. JoAnne Bogart, Interim Associate Conference Minister, Rocky Mountain Conference  
The Rev. Sylvia High Karlsson, serving at a Lutheran church in Logan, UT  
The Rev. Robert West at Zoar Congregational, Prospect Valley  
The Rev. Timothy Leighton, sabbatical interim at Lakewood UCC  
The Rev. Sue Gardner, Hilltop UCC, Parker  
The Rev. Jill Warner, Holladay UCC, Holladay, UT  
The Rev. Don Poisson, Bountiful Comm. UCC, Bountiful, UT

### **TRANSFERRED IN:**

MDA - The Rev. Dan Geslin, from Southeastern Assoc. RMC  
MDA - The Rev. Constance Coughlin, from Vermont Conference to Hospice Chaplain  
MDA - The Rev. Joanne Broten, from Southwest Assoc. Michigan Conference UCC to retirement  
MDA - The Rev. George Anastos, from Franklin Assoc., Mass. Conference to 1st Plymouth Cong., Englewood (in process)  
MDA - The Rev. Andrea Anastos, from Franklin Association, Mass. Conference to LOA (in process)  
MDA - The Rev. Christopher Gilmore, from Chicago Metro Assoc. to Assoc. Minister, 1st Cong., Boulder  
NE - The Rev. Donald Preslin, from Eastern Assoc. Ohio Conference, 10/04  
NE - The Rev. Dr. Craig Witcher from Essex Assoc. Mass. Conference, 10/04  
NE - The Rev. Anne Kremml from Golden Gate Assoc., No. California Conference, 11/04  
NE - The Rev. Warren Kremml from Golden Gate Assoc., No. California Conference, 11/04  
NE - The Rev. Sara Weatherman, from MDA, RMC, 1/05  
NE - The Rev. Sharon Benton, from New Haven Assoc. Connecticut Conference, 1/05  
SE - The Rev. Jerry M. Jordan (retired), from Northwest Assoc. Wisconsin Conference, 3/4  
UT - The Rev. Bob Nuhn, retired from Central Pacific Conference  
WE - The Rev. Charles Holmgren, retired, from SE Assoc, Iowa Conference, 10/04  
WY - The Rev. Harvey Joyner, from Essex Association, Mass. Conference  
WY - The Rev. Carol Prochaska, from Lincoln Association, Nebraska Conference  
WY - The Rev. John Prochaska, from Lincoln Association, Nebraska Conference

### **TRANSFERRED OUT:**

MDA - The Rev. Scott Landis, to Southwest Conference  
MDA - The Rev. Sara Weatherman, from MDA to Northeastern Association, Rocky Mountain Conf. UCC  
MDA - The Rev. Diane Martin, to Northwest Association, Wisconsin Conference  
NE - The Rev. Ronald Wunsch, to Western Assoc., Indiana-Kentucky Conference, 10/04  
NE - The Rev. Kelly Jo Clark, to Western Assoc., Rocky Mountain Conference, 11/04  
SE - The Rev. Daniel Geslin, to MDA Assoc. Rocky Mountain Conference, 3/05

### **ORDAINED MINISTERIAL PARTNER STANDING (DOC):**

SE - The Rev. Barbara G. Grear, 5/2004

### **PERMISSION GRANTED TO CIRCULATE NEW PROFILE AFTER COMPLETION OF GROWTH PLAN:**

MDA - O. Elaine Hinnant, December 18, 2004

### **ACCEPTED AS A "Congregation in Covenant Development"**

1st Samoan Cong. Christian Church, meeting at & sponsored by Parkview Cong. UCC, Aurora, Co - 8/21/04



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Secretary's Report

### 2004 Membership Data and OCWM and Per Capita by Church

Church	City	Members	OCWM \$	Per Capita \$
First United Church of Arvada UCC	Arvada	127	\$2,517	\$475
Mountain View Community Church	Aurora	@ 48	0	1200
Parkview Congregational UCC	Aurora	229	9,614	1430
First Congregational UCC	Boulder	129	5,847	575
Community United Church of Christ	Boulder	884	61,171	4,420
United Church of Broomfield	Broomfield	176	3,893	0
Immanuel Congregational Church UCC	Brush	@ 138	650	0
Congregational United Church of Christ	Buena Vista	301	14,070	1,380
Congregational United Church of Christ	Collbran	74	825	380
Black Forest Community Church UCC	Colorado Springs	218	2,170	1,050
Broadmoor Community Church UCC	Colorado Springs	541	19,450	2,950
First Congregational UCC	Colorado Springs	671	34,950	3,355
1st Samoan Cong. Christian Church	Colorado Springs	82	0	0
Vista Grande Community Church UCC	Colorado Springs	55	2,456	283
First Congregational UCC	Craig	171	8,400	855
Creede Congregational UCC	Creede	@ 48	1,200	300
Union Congregational UCC	Crested Butte	197	3,000	985
Berkeley Comm. Congregational UCC	Denver	@ 107	4,000	510
Christ Congregational Church UCC	Denver	245	13,000	1,200
Kirk of Bonnie Brae UCC	Denver	188	9,000	751
Park Hill Congregational UCC	Denver	211	13,200	1,060
Pilgrim Congregational UCC	Denver	14	25	65
Salem United Church of Christ	Denver	126	764	650
Seventh Avenue United Church UCC	Denver	@ 26	0	114
Sixth Avenue United Church UCC	Denver	45	2,305	225
United Church of Montbello	Denver	154	1,822	0
Washington Park UCC	Denver	@ 233	15,400	1,185
First Congregational UCC	Eastlake	@ 156	750	745
First Plymouth Congregational UCC	Englewood	1,119	50,000	5,595
Mayflower Congregational UCC	Englewood	117	3,865	90
Wild Rose United Church UCC	Evergreen	25	808	157
Plymouth Congregational UCC	Fort Collins	457	25,000	2,364
Christ Congregational UCC	Fort Morgan	346	3,406	1,730
New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist	Fountain	@ 651	0	0
Rockland Memorial Community UCC	Golden	@ 748	0	0
First Congregational UCC	Grand Junction	297	21,005	1,455
First Cong. Church of Greeley UCC	Greeley	1047	45,805	5,235
St. John's United Church of Christ	Greeley	@ 263	2,750	1,300
Church in Wildwood Comm. Church UCC	Green Mtn. Falls	224	0	0
Gunnison Congregational UCC	Gunnison	106	6,067	0
Hayden Congregational UCC	Hayden	48	3,823	620



## Secretary's Report

### 2004 Membership Data and OCWM and Per Capita by Church

<b>Church</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>OCWM \$</b>	<b>Per Capita \$</b>
Congregational UCC	Henderson	@ 81	\$458	\$535
St. John's United Church of Christ	Idalia	@ 106	1,090	550
Zoar Congregational UCC	Keenesburg	67	0	375
Lakewood United Church of Christ	Lakewood	219	15,000	1,200
St. Paul's United Church of Christ	Lakewood	61	121	310
Columbine United Church	Littleton	361	11,345	2,883
First Congregational UCC	Longmont	403	15,005	2,000
First Congregational UCC	Loveland	260	5,677	1,275
Community Congregational UCC	Manitou Springs	290	1,400	1,400
First Cong. Church of Maybell UCC	Maybell	0	100	0
Hillcrest Congregational Church UCC	Montrose	88	3,711	440
Congregational Church in the Valley	New Castle	@ 25	1,710	945
Northglenn United Church of Christ	Northglenn	@ 143	3,650	540
Union Congregational Church	Nucla	@ 24	600	125
Hilltop United Church of Christ	Parker	180	1,500	900
Christ Congregational UCC	Pueblo	49	50	255
First Congregational UCC	Pueblo	125	0	0
United Church of Christ	Silverton	@ 29	0	0
Zion United Church of Christ	Sterling	101	522	600
Wheat Ridge Congregation of the UCC	Denver	@ 106	767	390
Wiggins Community UCC	Wiggins	@ 325	170	1,385
Faith United Church of Christ	Windsor	325	0	2,393
Bountiful Community UCC	Bountiful	@ 141	0	0
Holladay United Church of Christ	Holladay	@ 351	\$10,500	\$1,500
United Church of Kanab-Fredonia UCC	Kanab	@ 55	100	0
Ogden UCC Congregational	Ogden	@ 37	1,000	190
Ogden Japanese Christian Church	Ogden	83	2,200	415
Orem Community UCC	Orem	45	1,417	225
Community Congregational UCC	Provo	@ 99	578	0
Japanese Church of Christ	Salt Lake City	78	0	0
Kingsbury Community UCC	Vernal	40	2,263	228
First Congregational Church UCC	Casper	59	\$3,600	\$275
Congregational UCC	Douglas	245	755	1,225
Union Congregational UCC	Green River	170	7,072	870
St. Paul's United Church of Christ	Laramie	125	2,145	0
The Congregational Church of Lusk UCC	Lusk	135	1,800	506
Community UCC	Pinedale	116	3,300	580
First Congregational UCC	Rock Springs	212	4,258	1,655
First Congregational Church UCC	Torrington	296	693	0
United Church of Christ	Wheatland	149	1,500	740
<b>82 Churches</b>		<b>17,840</b>	<b>\$489,927</b>	<b>\$82,749</b>



## Committee Reports

### Finance Committee

The role of the finance committee is to develop and oversee the operating budget of the conference, to review and alter policy to meet the changing needs of conference program and staffing patterns. The committee meets regularly, with the help and guidance of our treasurer, Steve Haskins, to respond to changes in the conference's financial circumstances.

"It was a dark and stormy night.....It was the best of times and the worst of times....There is good news and there is bad news. What do you want first?"

You undoubtedly have heard these familiar phrases. They do describe the conference budget process and the budget itself.

The 2004 budget did work. We were able to contribute 30% to OCWM. We finished the year with a slight surplus. Unfortunately, the surplus was due to decreased staff and some extraordinary income. The surplus was not, I repeat *not* due to increased pledging from our individual churches. I know that some of the churches in the conference *did* increase pledging and to them we extend a grateful "thank-you."

The 2005 budget and the projections for the 2006 budget could end up as "the best of times or the worst of times." Which outcome we have depends on the churches in our conference. Everyone wants better and more services from the conference office. These services require people, and people increase the budget. The 2005 budget at this point projects a small deficit. It can be covered out of surplus. The 2006 budget will require increased contributions from all of our churches.

The conference staff has done a good job and we thank them! Thanks are also due the Finance Committee and Steve Haskins, our treasurer. Everyone asks good questions at meetings and has the best interests of the conference at heart.

It is up to the individual members of the Rocky Mountain Conference to determine if our future is the "Best of Times!"

**Scott Thomas**  
**Finance Committee Chair**



## Committee Reports

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### Treasurer's Report

The 2004 financial statements and Finance Committee Meetings reminded me of the "classic" movie, 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly'. Although Clint Eastwood never attended a Finance Committee meeting (and no cigars were smoked there), here is the lowdown:

#### The Good

The 2004 statement of activities shows an *increase* (a.k.a. surplus, net income) of \$45,454 in unrestricted net assets. The 2004 Conference budget projected a balanced budget. Therefore, the conference exceeded its budget by \$45,454. This was accomplished in two main ways.

The 2004 actual revenues exceeded the budgeted revenues by \$12,049. This "excess" revenue was entirely the result of Program (Camping) revenues being \$15,500 more than budgeted.

In addition, the 2004 actual expenses were \$33,404 less than budgeted expenses and most of these were from operations. As in 2003, this was a result of everyone (staff, committee members, etc.) trying to economize as much as possible knowing it was going to be a tight year

#### The Bad

Per Capital Dues. Per capita dues revenue hovered

at around \$83,000 for 2002 and 2003 but plummeted to \$71,599 in 2004. Thus, per capital dues revenue was under budget by \$11,400 in 2004. This amount represents a decrease of 2,280 paying members conference wide. If per capital dues were paid for every member conference wide, it is estimated that per capital dues would be around \$89,200.

#### The Ugly

In the past three years, OCWM contributions have decreased from \$540,467 in 2002 to \$504,942 in 2004. At the last annual meeting, the delegates voted for a 2005 budget with a 10% increase in OCWM contributions to raise OCWM to about \$557,000. Unfortunately, pledged OCWM contributions for 2005 were only around \$500,000. This made it difficult to revise the 2005 budget, which you will observe at this annual meeting.

#### Epilogue

The Statement of Financial position shows the various assets, liabilities and funds as of December 31, 2004. The assets and funds include the allocation of realized and unrealized gains and losses from the investments.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Haskins, Treasurer**

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### Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is entrusted with the responsibility of recommending to the Board of Directors of the Conference policies which pertain to the employment and/or dismissal of all Conference employees, as well as job descriptions for the employees. This project was completed by the Personnel Committee in 2004 and adopted by the Board. In the intervening months a staff evaluation was completed for the Acting Conference Minister, and, in consultation with the Acting Conference

Minister, the other employees were evaluated. From time to time, the Personnel Committee is also consulted on salary and benefit issues, for consideration and/or adoption by the Board of Directors. The committee completed its tasks and is up-to-date on all of its responsibilities.

**The Rev. Jerry Eslinger,  
Personnel Committee chairperson**



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### Church Development and Renewal Committee

**Role and Function:**

The committee oversees, proposes and evaluates programs for strengthening and renewing existing congregations and develops and carries out plans for new church starts including pastoral search and site selection. We offer support and training in each of these areas.

**Changes in 2005:**

This year we returned to meeting as one group (last year new church and renewal groups met separately). We felt meeting once with everyone would make the most of Tom's time.

**2005 Accomplishments:**

We are continuing to build a significant number of resources for local churches seeking ways to foster growth and renewal. A number of churches are using the Natural Church Development. We renewed our subscription to Percept, an online demographic resource.

Paul Borden's book Hit the Bullseye has been used in discussion and we would like to offer his growth and renewal ideas to the Conference in the coming year, including having the Rev. Borden come in person to work with us. We are also looking into the possibility of offering an Easum/Bandy workshop on church growth in conjunction with First Congregational Church of Greeley, UCC in late summer or early fall.

One of our goals for next year is to make all the churches in the Conference aware of all the

resources available for church growth and development. Resources include books and videos that on file in the conference office and active ongoing programs (Percept, NCD etc.)

We held an Evangelism Lab at La Foret to help churches work with "Church Bullies". Twenty people benefited from the workshop. We are in agreement, as a committee, that this information should be offered again- either at an annual conference meeting or offered to associations.

We have discontinued the search for a new church start pastor until we have a settled conference minister in place.

We continued work with Vista Grande UCC to sell their building and find new pastoral leadership.

A memorandum of understanding has been drawn up by the United Church of the San Juans in Ridgeway, Colorado. This is an interdenominational congregation of about 60 members who are seeking ties with UCC, PCUSA, ELCA and UMC

We are looking forward to serving the conference in the coming year with support and resources to help each church reach its fullest expression as the Body of Christ. We also look forward to the vision and insights of our new conference minister and will continue to look for new ways to provide assistance to our congregations.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Nan Sollo, Chair**

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### Faith Nurturing Ministries

AKA - Faith CREW (Camps, Retreats, Education, and Workshops)

The Faith Nurturing Committee exists to provide opportunities for spiritual growth to all members of the conference. We strive to meet the needs of all people for education and inspiration in all aspects of faith and leadership within the church. Because our goals revolve around Camps, Retreats, Educational

functions, and Worship, we are known as the Faith CREW. We strive to represent all areas and groups within the Conference.

Members of the Faith CREW "adopted" churches to

*continued on next page*



## Committee Reports

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### Faith Nurturing Ministries (continued from previous page)

contact as reminders of upcoming events. Comments and requests for programs were also solicited from these churches.

The very successful camping program for 2004 offered camps and retreats for all ages and for some specific groups. Campers with disabilities were welcomed at La Foret. Evaluation forms tell us many people felt God's presence and spiritual growth while at the center. Rates for camps for 2005 will have to be raised again, but are well within the range of costs for camping across the country. Scholarships were and are available for those who need them. The committee reviewed principals related to camping and to choosing camp staff, and strengthened them as needed. We appreciate all those who contributed funds and work to build the Labyrinth at La Foret.

Two members (one lay person, one staff member) attended the National Outdoor Ministries Consult in Connecticut. Every church was sent a camping packet and Camp Sunday worship resources, including a DVD video.

We have tried to remain in contact with the La Foret Board. This led to our learning of the advisability of

reducing the indebtedness of the camp, and the idea to collect large donations to be paid directly against the principal. This idea will be promoted at the June 2005 annual meeting. We felt God's hand in this inspiration.

Information on resources for leaders of youth groups was sent to all churches. We are seeking input on a retreat or camp for college age adults.

A Couples Enrichment Event was held for all couples in committed relationships. The Rev. Dr. Ralph Datema, a UCC minister and qualified marriage counselor, led this event. Attendees appreciated the experience and the diversity of the group, and asked that such an event be offered on a regular basis.

A Justice Alive! event in Denver, organized and executed by the Peace and Justice Task Force, was well received and may lead to further joint action.

Rocky Mountain Conference has agreed to host the Western Regional Youth Event in summer 2006, and many of our congregational youth leaders have offered help. The Western Region is eight UCC conferences; location and dates for the event are being finalized.

**Karen Smith, Chair**

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### Senior High Retreat Planning Committee

This "Committee" is composed of 5 adults and 13 youth, all selected by an application process in the spring of the year. This year the co-chairs Erin Gilmore, Holladay UCC and Sal Smith, Kirk of Bonnie Brae, were assisted by Todd Beltracchi, Dana Salyer and Ethan Hampton. Thirteen youth rounded out the planning team: Katie Allman, Isaac Brown, Coreen Callister, Robbie Carlson, Trevor Davis, Brian Eley, Jessica Faulkner, Richard Leeds, Nicole Perdue, Curtis Reid, Danielle Reid, Kelly Ryan, and Kate Westlund.

They planned 3 retreats last year for youth in Grades 9-12.

**October 22-24, 2004 – Senior High Fall Retreat**

**January 14-16, 2005 – Senior High Leadership Retreat** (limited to 4 youth per church)  
"Be the change you want to see in the world."  
Gandhi and MLK as change agents.

**April 1-3, 2005 – Senior High Spring Retreat**  
Theme was: "God is Still Speaking - Are You Listening?"



## Committee Reports

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### Middle School Retreat Planning Committee

Corbin Davis stepped up this past year to chair this committee that plans two retreats for middle schoolers each school year. Serving with him were Donna Greene, Plymouth Congregational UCC, Ft. Collins; Josh Hagin, First Congregational, Boulder; JoAnne Bogart. Jon Dodson, from Ft Collins, joined them for the Fall Planning.

**October 8-10, 2004 – Middle School Fall Retreat**  
Peace Theme - What does it mean to be a peacemaker and to offer hope to others in our world? Non-violence and Shalom were prominent topics.

**March 4-6, 2005 – Middle School Spring Retreat**  
Creation theme - focused on Psalm 8. "Who are we that God is mindful of me?"

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### Ministry Committee

Members of our committee this year were Ralph Datema (NE), Chair, Steve Brown (SE), Carla Gilbert (UT), Jane Nelson (MD), and Harley Tripp (WE). The Committee met three times – September 17, 2004, January 21, 2005, and March 11, 2005.

Tasks accomplished this year include the following:

**Boundary Training at the 2004 Conference in Fort Collins, complete with certificates to all attendees.**

A total of thirty people attending Part I of this training last year (2004). Part II will be offered at the RMC Conference in Grand Junction this year (2005). The material used is developed by the Center for Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence in Seattle, Washington. It includes four videotapes. Part I deals with relationships, power, dual relationships, dating, friendships, and gifts. Part II deals with the Pulpit, transference, hugging, touching, and intimacy. Either workshop, Part I or Part II, meets the requirement for boundary training in the Northeast Association. All pastors are encouraged to take both workshops. Certificates will again be awarded for attendees.

#### **Salary Guidelines**

Thanks to Harley Tripp, the committee has generated very impressive guidelines for salary planning, which are based on both conference salaries and national trends. Suggested salaries are listed in curves and ranges, allowing for more choice than tables. Variables for salary include years of experience, expectation and performance, and size of the

church. 45 of our 82 churches have less than 150 members. The committee is very proud of this work. We appreciate you, Harley!

#### **Survey of Association Church and Ministry Committees to assess needs.**

For our January meeting, we surveyed the Association Church and Ministry Committees to assess their needs and ways our committee might help. Our findings included the following:

- A. Boundary training has been well received.
- B. Leadership development, orientation, and training were requested by some associations.
- C. Additional support with the search and call procedure, though we felt the conference staff was working well with this.
- D. Attention to clergy accountability and congregational accountability, including retired pastors and pastors in specialized ministry.
- E. Clergy care and support for active as well as retired ministers.
- F. Conflict management skills.
- G. Training for Pastoral Relations Committees.

#### **Bully Workshop Supported**

The Bully Workshop was held in February. Focus of this workshop was to identify church bullies and to deal with this by not sacrificing personal worth through identification with the negative energy of the bully dynamic, to name it, and tie the dynamic to behaviors.

*Continued on next page*



## Committee Reports

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### Ministry Committee (continued)

#### Clergy Retreat

This function has been turned over to Michael Leite. Conference staff plans are well underway for this event.

Looking ahead, for the 2005-2006 year, the committee will endorse a training workshop on M.O.M. (Manual on Membership), to be sponsored by the Committee on Parish Life and Leadership. Also, the committee plans to expand the work fur-

ther on the salary guidelines, and offer additional workshops on boundaries.

The Ministry Committee appreciates serving the conference, and have appreciated working with our very competent conference staff who are always a joy.

**The Rev. Dr. Ralph S. Datema, Chair**

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### Mission Committee

The Mission Committee is responsible for programs relating to the wider mission of the conference. It can also offer support to the wider mission of local congregations and it stands ready to deal with any mission concerns that may arise. The Peace and Justice Task Force and the Global Partners Committee report to the Mission Committee in the conference structure, although they function autonomously.

The major function of the committee continues to be the determination of grants to a variety of Mission Partners, as well as the support of these partners in non-monetary ways. In 2005, the Committee has granted a total of \$52,450 to 33 organizations consisting of 2 ecumenical ministries, 5 campus ministries, 26 other agencies assisting constituencies such as the rural and urban poor, youth affordable housing, peace, AIDS, etc. In 2005, seven new agencies were funded. New applications are always welcome and can be made through applications distributed to all local congregations in the fall. Full descriptions of the work of our Mission Partners are to be found in the annual report.

In addition to funding our Mission Partners, the committee makes small grants to the Peace and Justice Task Force and the Global Partners Committee.

This year, the committee is also implementing a new policy of our Global Board on visiting missionaries. Instead of a few days, assigned visiting missionaries will be in the conference for from two to four months, thus enabling much greater visibility for our global mission. The committee is currently meeting with its counterpart in the Rocky Mountain Region of the Disciples of Christ to plan this new program.

Knowing that budgetary restrictions have caused many conferences to eliminate mission funding, the committee is grateful for the OCWM support of our churches and the determination of the conference to continue funding its important work.

**The Rev. Stuart Haskins, Chair**



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Committee Reports

### Global Partners Committee

Since the official beginning of our Global Partnership between the United Church of Christ (UCC) Rocky Mountain Conference, the Disciples of Christ (DOC) Rocky Mountain Region and the United Evangelical Pentecostal Church of Venezuela (UEPV) in 1998, many individuals have traveled back and forth between our two countries with a goal of finding joy in new friendships, cultivating and understanding of each others' cultures including similarities and differences, and trying to help each other change the face of the world.

In 2004-2005, we sent nineteen persons from twelve different congregations to Venezuela to participate in the UEPV ministries to their people. At this Annual Meeting, UEPV representatives the Rev. Elida Lugo, UEPV seminary instructor and president of the national UEPV Women's Association, and Roman Castillo, educator, former national legislator in Venezuela, and one of the authors of the new Venezuelan Constitution are our guests bringing the story of their churches' struggles and dreams to share with us. As these visitors and returning delegates share their stories and we grow in our understanding of mission, churches in this conference are enriched and challenged.

At last year's annual meeting in Fort Collins, we commissioned and sent our first youth team off to Venezuela. Leaders of that team included the Rev. Ben Broadbent, the Rev. Malcolm Himshoot, Brook Bell, and Karen Smith. Youth participants were: Sarah Blessing, Gabriel Espiro, Ashley Jennings, Ellen Thompson, Kristie Parrinelle, Melissa Gardner and Gracy Huntley. For 10 days they experienced life in Venezuela with youth from the UEPV.

Returning from Venezuela with the youth team was Dorian Singh who had been there since March working on an internship. (A youth mission is

planned for July '05 with the Rev. Steven Hoffman leading and a third youth mission will occur in July '06.

In August '04 a referendum election was held to recall Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's president. Our UEPV partners asked us to send an election observer who would help determine the fairness of those elections. Walter "Joe" Shaw went as your representative in this very important election.

The Rev. Stuart Haskins and Kat Haskins were to serve as our representatives at the UEPV Annual Meeting in August. Upon arrival Kat suffered a medical emergency that hospitalized her and kept the tow of them from the annual meeting. In spite of Kat being ill and having emergency surgery, Kat and Stuart had a very positive experience because they were surrounded by love and kindness by our UEPV partners.

A September '04 visit here from an UEPV delegation had to be canceled due to their inability to obtain US visas.

A Medical Mission Team consisting of Alice Silver and Pat Smatla, co-leaders, Donna Nelson, Beth Eha and Della Lane went in November '04. They worked beside the UEPV medical volunteers providing medical clinics, medical supplies and health education.

The Inter-generational Construction Trip planned for March '05 was canceled because of scheduling complications. A similar trip is planned for April '06.

There are many opportunities for churches and individuals in this conference to participate in this important ministry. Pick up materials at the Global Partner table in the display hall. Recruiting for '06 is going on now.

**Merv and Danni Bangert, Co-Chairs**



## Peace and Justice Task Force

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The Peace and Justice Task Force (PJTF) met every other month on Saturday mornings. Participants came from four of our six associations, although not all were represented at every meeting. We're grateful to Berkeley Church for providing space for many of our meetings.

The PJTF enthusiastically supported the "Rock the Boat" on September 24 and 25, 2004. "Rock the Boat," organized and hosted by the Peace and Justice Ministry Team of Plymouth Church in Fort Collins, brought in national and regional Justice and Witness staff. Over 90 concerned members of conference churches, as well as many from churches of other denominations in the Fort Collins area, attended this event.

The task force's key event of this year was to plan and hold Justice Alive!, a conference-wide event focusing on justice and peace issues. Between 80 and 100 people attended this two-day event over President's Day Weekend, February 2005. The PJTF extends thanks to the members and leaders from Park Hill Church, who were generous and indefatigable hosts, and to all from the conference who worked on planning this event and who attended it. It was a great success, with regional and national speakers. The best news is that we came in on-budget, funding almost the entire event through the modest registration fees, which included three meals.

During this year, the PJTF continued to re-evaluate its structure and mission and rotated leadership at our meetings. Thanks to all who convened and took minutes, and especially to Ed Hawley who does a lot

of the work behind the scenes. The PJTF remains committed to helping individuals and congregations incorporate the principles of just peace into all aspects of life, including worship, education, fellowship, stewardship, and relationships. "Membership" in the PJTF is open to all who are committed to peace and justice issues

The PJTF promotes the Just Peace Offering in local churches. Part of that money stays with the local church and part goes to fund PJTF work. With this fund and other conference funds, we helped fund folks going to the School of the America's Watch, and also to the Justice and Peace Network's Western Regional Meeting, as well as paying dues to other organizations such as the Colorado Coalition for the Prevention of Nuclear War and other occasional task force expenses

Each year at the Annual Meeting of the Conference the PJTF presents a Peacemaker Award based on nominations from churches. In 2004, the award was given to Berkeley Rich, Blair Chambliss and Jim Vandermiller, all members of First Plymouth in Englewood, for their work in founding Housing Justice! They arrived at the RMC annual meeting in Fort Collins to receive the award in the early stages of an 800-mile walk around Colorado to call attention to housing needs. The PJTF also helps determine who shall receive the Robert and Lucille Inglis Fund scholarship, which is available for a UCC minister every three years to study issues of peace and justice.

**Submitted by Kate Goodspeed,  
with the approval of other PJTF members**



## La Foret Conference and Retreat Center

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The La Foret Conference & Retreat Center has belonged to the Rocky Mountain Conference of the UCC for over 50 years. In that time, it has been a holy place where our children, our youth, and our adults have repeatedly experienced a sense of wholeness, of oneness with the divine, and of transformation.

From the covered wagons where the first campers slept, to the cabins which were built in the 1950's, to the village of yurts erected in 2000, La Foret has served the UCC community faithfully through three and four generations of our church families. In 2004, that amounted to nearly 15,000 user days, and we expect a 17% increase to over 17,000 user days in 2005. In fact, at the end of March, we had more reservations for 2005 than we booked in all of 2004.

One of the highlights of 2004 is the new labyrinth. The materials were donated by Don and Marilyn Seymour, and Don oversaw its construction on the banks of Kettle Creek near Blue Spruce. Labyrinths have become an important contemplation and worship tool, and La Foret is fortunate to now have a beautiful one on its grounds. Many thanks to Don and Marilyn and all the volunteers who made it happen!

In 50 years, of course, any facility needs a lot of attention, both to keep it in good repair and to bring

it up to date with the increasing expectations of its users. La Foret managed to incur a substantial amount of deferred maintenance in its fourth and fifth decades, and the Rocky Mountain Conference came very close to selling off the property because revenue from camper and user fees was not enough to even cover operations, much less catch up with all of the undone repairs.

A dedicated group of individuals agreed to serve as a founding Board of Directors for a wholly separate La Foret corporation and to see if they could bring the facility back from the brink. That has largely happened.

Significant financial challenges remain, though. Bringing La Foret up to date and making it safe and functional has resulted in a mortgage debt of just under \$700,000. In addition, although camper and user fees now cover day-to-day operations, they fall about \$60,000 short each year of the amount needed to pay for debt service and long-term maintenance.

That is why the Rocky Mountain Conference is proposing an increase in its annual per capita assessment of its churches to help support this incredible treasure that is La Foret.

**Susan R. Lander**  
Executive Director



## Rocky Mountain HDC, Inc and MUCH

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Two related entities, Rocky Mountain Housing Development Corporation (RMHDC, Inc.) and Mountain United Church Housing, Inc. (MUCH), continue the more than quarter century involvement of the conference in providing affordable housing and related services. Currently, RMHDC is the operating entity for our development and management efforts. MUCH continues to manage the significant proceeds of a sale of MUCH property which took place in 2003.

Our business and mission is “building & managing affordable work force family town homes and apartments as well as providing on-demand family supportive services, including recreational and educational activities for our children.”

RMHDC has built and manages two large multifamily properties, Foothills Green at 72 unit complex in Lakewood completed in 1997 and Arapahoe Green a 60 unit property completed in 2002. On December 20, 2004 - following two year effort at annexation to Arvada, rezoning, and financing - we broke ground on Willow Green Town Homes at 70<sup>th</sup> and Sheridan Boulevard. Willow Green will be 60 town home style apartments to be run in generally the same manner as Foothills Green and Arapahoe Green.

An ongoing effort to expand our activities continues in pursuing suitable acquisitions of existing properties that can be made to fit into our operations and sites to build new projects. During 2004, we had a site in Idaho Springs under contract because we thought there was a need there. We let the site go because the project simply was not feasible, especially because of the lack of interest in the city government in helping us.

Years ago we learned that, to make our communities successful; we needed to provide significant on-site social services in addition to affordable, decent housing. These services include making referrals to outside public and private agencies to assist families with various needs and providing recreational and educational activities, organized by on-site staff and provided by staff and volunteers. This type of program has become known nationally

as “services enriched housing.” We started doing it long before it was a popular concept, simply because it was needed.

Volunteers are crucial in the services we provide. On-site computer tutorial labs at both Foothills Green and Arapahoe Green are staffed by volunteers who assist children with homework and at learning computer skills. Last year we also offered computer-training classes to interested adult residents to improve their work skills. Another successful program for our children is the “Peacemakers Club”, through which volunteers train grade school aged children in conflict resolution skills. Volunteers also provide coaching to children in soccer.

Other services and activities in our communities include Boy & Girl Scouts, Bookmobile, School Supply drive, holiday celebrations and food baskets during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Following a successful fund raising effort associated with the Open House for the new RMHDC offices in December 2004, we gave each of our families a \$25 food gift card to make the holiday season a little brighter.

RMHDC has established an in-house Financial Development Department to methodically solicit grants and donations. During 2004, they raised over \$100,000 in outside support.

Please follow our progress by reading “Plant a Seed and Help a Family Grow”, our newsletter the first edition of which is due out in June 2005. The first fundraising effort of 2005 will on the same theme of the “Plant A Seed: *Plant Sale*” at the RMHDC office of 1720 Emerson St, in Denver on June 16, 2005. If you can’t attend, please consider sending a contribution for our family services program directly to the Rocky Mountain HDC at PO Box 9189, Denver, CO., 80209. Also, take a look at our new RMHDC web-site, [www.rockymountainhdc.org](http://www.rockymountainhdc.org).

**Submitted By:**  
**Joyce Alms-Ransford, Executive Director**  
**Thomas C. Woodruff, President**



## Covenanted Ministries Reports

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### Office of General Ministries and Executive Council

The Office of General Ministries (OGM) of the United Church of Christ is one of the four covenanted ministries. It cares for the spiritual life and well being of the church, nurturing its covenantal relationships and facilitates the visioning, planning and implementation of the UCC's total mission. The General Minister and President and the Associate General Minister are the OGM members of the Collegium. Each of the 39 Conferences has a representative on the OGM Board of Directors and each serves on a committee. I serve on the Budget and Finance Committee.

For another year, we have struggled to do the ministry of the church with declining dollars. We have continued to cut staff, have not filled vacant positions, will publish only 6 issues of UCNews and have proposed a change in the membership of the OGM Board.

The Executive Council acts as General Synod ad interim and serves as the Business Committee during General Synod. The Executive Council is composed of the members of the OGM Board of Directors, ecumenical partner representatives, representatives of the other Covenanted, Affiliated and Associated Ministries, and representatives of the historically underrepresented groups in the UCC.

The Form and Function of the General Synod has been one focus of our work this past year. As a result, recommendations will come before this General Synod (2005) proposing that for the 2007 General Synod each church be invited to bring its pastor and three additional persons including youth and young adults. The focus of this meeting will be the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ. Following this meeting an evaluation will be done to determine the form and function of future synods.

The General Synod Program and Planning Committee on which I serve, worked on the agenda for the event in July of 2005 in Atlanta, Georgia. All registration and materials will be available on the web site - it will be a paperless meeting as we work to make GS self supporting.

It has been a joy to represent the Rocky Mountain Conference on the Executive Council and the Office of General Ministries Board of Directors for these six years as we have lived into the new structure. There have been many painful times during our meetings. We have shared in meaningful worship and we have celebrated good times together.

**God is still speaking,**

**Bernie Bliss**

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### Justice & Witness Ministries [www.ucctakeaction.org](http://www.ucctakeaction.org)

The Justice and Witness Ministries Corporation is one of the Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Its purpose and mission are to enable and encourage Local Churches, Associations, Conferences and national expressions of the UCC to engage in God's mission globally by direct action for the integrity of creation, justice and peace. Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) encourages all expressions of the church to speak prophetically on matters of justice, power and public policy, as well as to confront racism, sexism, ageism,

classism and other expressions and embodiments of injustice and alienation in the Church and in the society. It provides support for the Church's ministry of service on behalf of the poor, those marginalized by stigma and discrimination. JWM provides public witness on behalf of the justice and witness policies and resolutions of the General Synod and works in partnership with all aspects of the UCC, as well with ecumenical groups and community organizations

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## Covenanted Ministries Reports

### Justice & Witness Ministries (continued from previous page)

Over the last year one of the chief initiatives of the Public Life and Social Policy Office of JWM, located in Washington, D.C., has been the Our Faith Our Vote Campaign. The campaign focused on two areas of action, voter registration and election protection. Members of the network totaled 1107 people throughout the nation, with 348 team leaders in local churches (5 within the Rocky Mountain Conference). Members received packets detailing how to register people in their churches and communities, resulting in thousands of individuals being registered to vote. With the creation of an Our Faith Our Vote website, the staff organized E-Advocacy to investigate election actions (2311 participants) and end voter suppression (656 participants). This effort also built relationships and many local organizations sprang up along the way.

In the last 9 months, I served on the search committee for the new Executive Minister for JWM after Bernice Powell Jackson's decision not to pursue a second appointment. We are now proud to introduce as our candidate Linda Jaramillo. Linda's rich history with the UCC spans every aspect of church life. Currently the President of the UCC Council for Hispanic Ministries, she was recently a

delegate to the World Council of Churches Assembly representing the UCC. Linda has extensive experience in communication and public relations, grant development, budget management and staff supervision. What struck me most about Linda, however, was her clear and articulate passion for justice work. I found her interview emotionally moving to the point of tears and I truly feel as though God has spoken through her call to this position.

Lastly, in April, Vanessa Owens and I attended the Western Regional Leadership Conference as representatives from RMC. Organized by the staff of JWM, it was the first of several that will take place across the country to gather together local leaders of the Just Peace Action Network (JPAN). We shared how each Conference was organizing to do justice, what issues it was working on, gave feedback on JWM staff involvement and brainstormed around the future of this work. While it was only 2 days, I believe this event and others like it will be significant in the future development of justice ministries in the RMC.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
David J. Claypool**

### Local Church Ministries

Local Church Ministries (LCM) is one of the four Covenanted Ministries of the UCC. Its purpose is to encourage and support our churches in the fulfillment of God's mission. LCM develops resources, offers staff support and consultation, and helps our churches do their work more effectively and faithfully by supporting local congregations in their concerns about growth, finances, liturgy and education, by supporting ministers in their vocations, and by managing the UCC's publishing and resource houses.

#### Finances

Finances continue to be of grave concern at all levels

of church. So, a Financial Health Implementation Collective was formed to develop recommendations, most focusing on decreasing spending, by decreasing staff and finding new ways to share program funding. Other options under consideration are restructuring the Boards of Directors of the four Covenanted Ministries, and shifting Pilgrim Press and UCC Resources to status separate from LCM. A Stabilization Plan was also approved, to provide a stable level of program dollars to carry out the mission of LCM for a three-year period.

More important than reducing spending, however, is increasing income. That effort will be primarily

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## Covenanted Ministries Reports

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### Local Church Ministries (continued from previous page)

through the UCC Identity Campaign - "God is Still Speaking" (GISS). The UCC television commercials which aired during Advent and Lent have received very positive responses. All our churches are encouraged to become GISS churches, to help spread the good news our denomination has to offer, and to re-energize and revitalize ourselves.

#### **National Worship Project**

Last year, all UCC churches were surveyed about the nature of their worship services, with questions like: "how often do you celebrate Communion, and how do you do so? What kind of music do you use? What music or liturgy resources do you need?" Based on data received from 1600+ churches, new worship resources were developed, including some original contemporary UCC worship music, which was sent to all local churches, along with study materials to help churches reflect on their worship. Churches are encouraged to use these, and provide feedback to National. Further resources are to be developed and made available at General Synod 2005.

#### **New Models of Church Leadership**

Most (60%) of our UCC churches are smaller than 200 members. These churches often find it hard to get full-time ordained clergy to serve as their pastors. And, some new churches coming into the UCC have traditionally raised up leadership in ways other than via seminary. So, we must change our

thinking about preparation of church leadership. (In the RMC, we're already doing this with TEI.) Conversations about a "learned" clergy vs. an "educated" clergy led to a Pronouncement by Parish Life & Leadership entitled "Ministry Issues: Forming and Preparing Leaders for God's Church", to be presented to General Synod 2005.

#### **Call to Action & Invitation to Dialogue on Marriage**

A document has been developed to encourage our churches to enter into an informed discussion and dialogue on marriage - its nature, its history and evolution, theological understandings of it, legal and economic aspects, and the role of the church in developing societal debates about who the meaning of and access to marital status. Please encourage your members to read and discuss the document.

#### **National Women's Event ("Dream on, Sisters")**

This important national event will be held in Indianapolis in July of 2006. The planning committee is working on what will be a tremendously exciting joint event for UCC and DOC women across the country. Keep your eyes open for the promotional materials, and start encouraging women in your congregations now to start planning - think about setting aside a line in your budget so you can help women attend this event!

**The Rev. Sharyl B. Peterson**

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### Wider Church Ministries

The Wider Church Ministries (WCM) of the UCC is the ministry that focuses primarily on the church in international settings. Through WCM and our partnership with the Disciples of Christ, embodied in the Common Global Ministries Board (CGMB), your church is engaged in mission in five distinct regions of the world, including Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America/Caribbean, Middle East/Europe, and Southern Asia.

In 2004, we had approximately 105 full-time missionaries and over 200 total mission personnel

representing you and me in mission around the globe (the larger number includes 41 volunteers, 14 interns, and 59 mission associates, who are UCC/DOC members serving with other organizations but also relating to CGMB). It is impossible to briefly describe the wonderful work that they do around the world; I would encourage you to read about some of it in the *Calendar of Prayer* and at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org). The website also includes many missionary reports and stories.

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## Covenanted Ministries Reports

### Wider Church Ministries (continued from previous page)

In addition to the CGMB, WCM also includes a number of ministries that have global implications but that are largely conducted within the U.S. These include disaster relief, refugee resettlement, refugee sponsorship, volunteer ministries, and health and wholeness advocacy ministry. The health and wholeness advocacy ministry focuses especially on HIV/AIDS, which is increasingly a global issue as the disease ravages Africa and other lesser-developed countries.

WCM and CGMB have recently gone through a goal-setting and prioritization process, with the decision being to focus on ministries of “critical presence.” We understand Critical presence to be timely and appropriately meeting God’s people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally, and/or economically. In particular, we are emphasizing ministries in developing countries that involve “capacity building” (equipping people

with tools, infrastructure, and education) and health-care. We continue to work with our partner churches around the world in identifying the needs in their churches and countries.

This past year has been a challenging year for the WCM Board with the resignation of our Executive Minister, Olivia White. However, Rev. Bennie Whiten has been doing a tremendous job as our Acting Executive Minister, and we look forward to General Synod’s election of Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte as our new Executive Minister.

Thank you for the privilege of representing the Rocky Mountain Conference on WCM. If you have any questions regarding WCM or would like to schedule a time for me to visit with your church about our mission programs, please contact me at 303-466-5056.

**Submitted by:  
Curtis Rueter, WCM Chair**

### Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries (CUE)

Thank you to the churches of the Rocky Mountain Conference for your faithful support for Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries in 2004. During this past year we have received a total of \$16,269 from 17 churches within your conference. These gifts are helping to prepare future leaders for our churches and helping to maintain the strong tradition of theological dialogue and growth within the UCC. These are exciting times at our UCC seminaries, and you are a vital part of that!

Gifts from churches like yours made to Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries through the CUE seminary support program are essential to our seminaries. Overall support dollars received in 2004 totaled \$943,536, a decline of \$40,000 from 2003. We are deeply grateful for those who continue to keep as a high priority the support of theological education, and are particularly grateful for those churches which have been able to increase their support.

Special thanks to the following churches who

increased the amount of their support to Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries in 2004:

- Denver, Christ Congregational
- Denver, Park Hill Congregational
- Denver, Washington Park
- Fort Collins, Plymouth Congregational
- Longmont, First Congregational
- Rock Springs, First Congregational

Through the faithful work and support of all our churches we will continue to maintain a strong sense of connection to theological education at Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries. You are helping to prepare future leaders for our churches and our communities. You are helping our seminaries maintain their critical role as vital centers of faith and growth.

Thank you for your many gifts in support of theological education at Chicago, United and Eden Seminaries in 2004!



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Mission Partner Reports

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### Advocates – Crisis Support Services Moffat County, Colorado

Advocates-Crisis Support Services (ACSS) is a Rocky Mountain Conference United Church of Christ (RMCUCC) Mission Partner. This year we have been fortunate to receive \$2,000 from RMCUCC.

Advocates-Crisis Support Services is a private non-profit organization that provides crisis/victim services in Moffat County. ACSS is committed to the empowerment of individuals and to the elimination of emotional and physical abuse. ACSS currently has five programs that fulfill the organization's mission. We offer a domestic violence program, a sexual assault program, a trauma/crime victim program that partners with local law enforcement agencies to help people, a teen-driven prevention program for teens and a Latino outreach program.

This year, ACSS used RMCUCC funding for client services that included the following: safe shelter, transportation, meals, crisis counseling, 24-hour crisis line, 24-hour program accessibility, personal and judicial advocacy, protection order assistance, follow-up, information, referrals, support and weekly counseling groups.

With your help, ACSS has been able to assist 236 new clients and 21 continuing clients for a total of 257 since January 1, 2005.

Thank you for your help, it is greatly appreciated.

**Sincerely,**  
**Shelly Spackman, Latino Coordinator**

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### Aurora Interchurch Task Force Aurora, Colorado

The sole purpose of Aurora Interchurch Task Force (AITF) is to provide substantive emergency assistance to the needy residents of Aurora. We currently provide emergency food, clothing, transportation, (including bus tokens and gas vouchers), pharmacy assistance, housing, and utility assistance. Aurora Interchurch has never charged a fee or assessment to anyone requesting assistance. Help is given on the basis of need alone, with no regard to race, creed, age, religion, sex, or any other criteria.

#### Current Programs

##### Emergency Assistance

Aurora Interchurch, primarily a food and clothing bank, helped a total of 14,791 Aurora residents in 2004. Over 7,700 people were assisted with food and over 3,800 were given clothing and household items. Each family receives enough food to feed their family for approximately seven days and receives toiletry items including toilet paper, hand and dish soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Each family receiving clothing assistance is allowed to select five changes of clothing, from underwear to outerwear, for each member of their family. In 2004, over \$546,000 worth of food and clothing items were given to needy

Aurora residents by AITF.

In 2004, Aurora Interchurch provided almost \$53,000 of emergency housing and rental assistance to 891 persons. We provided utility assistance of almost \$115,000 to 1,041 individuals. Aurora Interchurch received a large grant from Energy Outreach Colorado which allowed us to pay more money towards a family's utility bill. In addition, we provided \$2,700 of transportation assistance, primarily bus tokens and gasoline, to 955 persons and \$2,800 worth of prescriptions and other medications to 163 persons.

##### Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels (MOW) has been sponsored by Aurora Interchurch since 1975. The Volunteers of America prepare the noontime meals and volunteers organized and supervised by Aurora Interchurch deliver the meals to homebound seniors and other medically needy individuals. An average of 75 hot meals per day, Monday through Friday, is delivered from two sites in Aurora. Currently, 75 additional people are delivered 5 – 7 frozen meals each week, an increase from 40 people in 2001.

**Karen Hahn, Executive Director**



## Mission Partner Reports

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### Caring Ministries Morgan County, Colorado

The mission of Caring Ministries shall be to coordinate the outreach ministries of local churches, to serve those in need in our community with the compassion and dignity of Christ himself, to help them obtain their greatest level of self-sufficiency.

Last year in 2004, Caring Ministries literally help thousands of people. The food pantry served 1370 families consisting of 5355 people for a total of 98,111 meals.

The new CHARA house has been open one full year, 146 people received shelter for a total of 1672 nights. The basement at CHARA is in the process of being completed, and we look forward to being able to house even more homeless in our community. The pantry also supplies two meals a day for the CHARA house. CHARA is a Greek word, meaning "peaceful" or "joyful", which I hope our clients feel while staying there.

Caring Ministries housed 253 nights in local motels. The ministry helped 59 families with rent and 94 families with utilities. The clothing bank gave away 33,445 pieces of clothing and household items. A total of 6866 people were helped in 2004!!!! In addition, Caring Ministries also has 'The Santa Shop' at which 182 families received gifts and a food box.

It astounds me that God enables Caring Ministries is able to serve so many people, it also saddens me that there is such a need for a ministry like ours. I see God's hand move daily in this ministry, and I will continue to see His mighty hand as long as we continue to do His will.

Thank you for letting me share with you; if you need anything else please do not hesitate to let me know. Also thank you for helping us help others in His name.

**Bobbi L Meng, Executive Director**

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### Colfax Community Network Denver, Colorado

The purpose of the Colfax Community Network is to provide children and families residing in low-income, transient housing (primarily residential motels) along Colfax Avenue in Denver with information, programs and services that will strengthen and improve family and community life.

In 2004, Colfax Community Network was able to serve 2,301 individuals through our eight programs! These programs include: Family Nights once a month, the Children's After School and Summer Camp program, Teen Girl's Support Group, Moms and Toddlers Group, the Athletics Program which includes 2 basketball teams, the Access to Services Project, the Emergency Food Pantry, and the Housing Partnership Program.

Our newest effort, the Moms and Toddlers Group, is becoming a lifeline for moms who need knowledge of local resources, information of appropriate child rearing, and companionship. Their toddlers also are beginning to show the benefits of early, supervised socialization and relaxing time with their mothers.

For just pure fun, though, nothing beats lunch with the moms and toddlers after the group meets. There are always birthdays to celebrate and good food to share. Toddlers look at cupcakes with wide eyes, and moms share recipes and clean-up with a spirit of friendship and community. It is a time the whole staff enjoys.

When asked how we observe God's hand in our work, I am tempted to answer that there is never a moment when we *do not* see and feel God's touch. From the miraculous changes in behavior that we observe in our children in the after school program to the laughter and warmth that permeates each Family Night - God is present. Our program space, the donations we receive, and the volunteers that share their love and care with our kids - all are gifts from God.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.

**Maggie Tidwell, Executive Director**



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Mission Partner Reports

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### Community Ministry Denver, Colorado

Community Ministry's mission is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ by helping to meet the needs of the people within the community who are experiencing economic hardship and related problems both physical and spiritual.

This is accomplished through Community Ministry's distribution of food, clothing and other outreach services. CM is made up of 28 member churches that provide financial, in-kind and volunteer support to the outreach ministry. CM relies on the member churches as well as the community at large to assist with its mission of serving those in need within southwest Denver.

Last year, more than 22,400 individuals came to CM for food assistance. This was a 29% increase from the year before. Last fall, like many food banks and pantries throughout Colorado, CM experienced a drastic increase in the number of people in need of our food bank services because of the CBMS computer problem. This is the State of Colorado's new computer system that is used at the county level to assist individuals with food stamps and other government programs.

There were and are still problems with the new computer system so the counties were referring their clients to the nonprofit sector for assistance

because many were not able to receive food stamps. Fortunately, we were able to provide assistance without cutting back on what we provide through our food bank. Luckily the number of people in need of our services has subsided and we're not seeing record numbers like we were in the fall otherwise we could be in trouble financially.

Last year, we also became a satellite location for one of the federal commodities programs. Every Friday, Food Bank of the Rockies who has taken over this contract, sets up shop at CM and provides commodities to mothers who are pregnant and with young children as well as seniors. On average 100 people each Friday are able to receive assistance at our site.

God continues to work through CM by showing us that even when money is tight and we're not sure how we're going to continue serving so many in need, that we need to have a faith (he does provide what is needed). When we're not sure how we're going to continue without a particular volunteer, God provides someone else with those very same talents. If we pay attention, we can see the work God is doing through CM as well as other outreach ministries.

**Christy Ziemba. Director**

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### Crossroads Urban Center Salt Lake City, Utah

Crossroads Urban Center is a nonprofit, grassroots organization which assists and organizes low income, disabled, and minority Utahns to meet basic survival needs and to address essential issues affecting quality of life. Established in 1966, Crossroads is a multi-faith, community based project related to the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Crossroads operates the Luisa E. Lema Emergency Food Pantry, the busiest food pantry in Utah, which served 30,371 households containing 76,640 members in 2004. The Crossroads' Thrift Store in Salt Lake City distributed clothing and household goods

free of charge to families containing a total of 16476 people in 2004. Holiday Food Distributions at Thanksgiving and Christmas and our emergency fund program also served thousands of Utahns in 2004.

#### **Community organizing efforts in 2004 included:**

The Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC) is a coalition representing 17 denominations and faiths whose purpose is "to work for constructive change on issues affecting economically disadvantaged people" by influencing public policy.

The Anti-Hunger Action Committee (AHAC) is a group

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## Mission Partner Reports

### Crossroads Urban Center continued from previous page

of low income people who rely on food stamps and food pantries to help feed themselves and their families. AHAC is working to improve the quality of life for all Utahns experiencing food insecurity.

The Utah HUD Tenant Association (UHTA) is a group of tenants in HUD assisted housing striving to protect and improve existing affordable housing.

The Utah Poverty Partnership is an alliance of grassroots, community groups that share a common

commitment to end hunger and poverty through coordinated action.

Crossroads began developing a new project in 2004 that will benefit the working poor. The Community Food Co-Operative of Utah will offer access to low cost food, while promoting community building and volunteerism. Our first food distribution will be in early 2006.

**Glenn Bailey, Executive Director**

### Denver Inner City Parish Denver, Colorado

The past year has been an exciting one at the Parish and one of great growth. Some of the changes are listed below:

1. We have grown into our new building at 1212 Mariposa Street. Located there are Parish Programs: The Senior Citizens Program, The Emergency Food Bank, Project ReNew, and Faithworks!, and programs to which we rent office space and which serve our community. This summer, Day Camp will also be located at 1212, while our original building is rehabilitated.
2. Faithworks! is a new program, funded by the City and County of Denver. The purpose of the grant is to help those who are difficult to employ. Our network provides opportunities to prepare for and find work. Under this grant, we were able to fund a network of 16 faith-based groups in West Denver. Included in this network is Berkeley United Church of Christ. They received a sizable sub-grant to provide transportation (bus tokens) for those looking for work. It was surely a change for the Parish to be able to provide funding for other churches!!!
3. La Academia School continues to grow and change- we now enroll 75 students in grades 6-12. Our entire graduating class has received admission to and scholarships for college. New this year has been our participation in the Mock Trial Contest. Our school's team came in 3<sup>rd</sup>

place in the region, and we were competing against much larger schools. Judge Jack Smith, of First Plymouth UCC, coached our team.

4. Planning has been completed and funding received from the rehab of our building at 910 Galapago. This building holds La Academia School, Night School, and the Parish Community at Worship. Work will commence in June, and will be completed by the time school starts in the fall. We'll be working on projects including: heat and air conditioning, plumbing, and electricity.
5. We've received great help from our Associate Pastor Rev. Malcom Himschoot, during the year. Parish folds attended his ordination, and he's been greatly loved by members of the parish community. As many in the UCC know, Malcom will be moving to Minnesota this summer. We wish him well, and will miss him greatly.
6. Volunteers from the U.C.C. have been a great help to the Parish this year. Among them are: Judge Jack Smith, Kat Haskins, Phyllis and Dan Porter, and board members John Fox and Bruce Thumm. All of them worship at First Plymouth and are much appreciated at the Parish.

We appreciate very much the support of the Conference and individual U.C.C. congregations. Thanks!!!

**Steve Johnsen, Pastor**



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Mission Partner Reports

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### First Steps Spirituality Center Colorado Springs, Colorado

First Steps Spirituality center is located in Colorado Springs. Our mission is to provide spiritual support to hurting children and teens at no cost. It is also our mission to provide educational events for people wanting to learn more about the spiritual needs of children and teens.

This past year has been an exciting year for us. We have provided one-on-one spiritual support to over 200 children and teens and group spiritual support and spiritual growth to 500 children and teens. We have partnered with local schools providing care to grieving children and with Suicide Prevention providing after care for teens surviving a suicide of a family member. We are currently working out an arrangement with the homeless teen shelter in Colorado Springs to provide spiritual support at their location for their teens.

In addition to the direct support we have offered to children and teens, we have had 31 people complete our certification course and nearly 3,000

attend workshops and lectures. Our newsletter, Stepping Stones, which is educational in nature, now reaches 1750 families across the nation. We have developed a new insert for the newsletter called, "Simple Gifts" which gives families and grandparents spiritual activities to do at home, church and school. This has been reproduced in a variety of settings as well as going to each family on our mailing list.

We are currently producing a video, "Stepping Up to Wholeness" which will be targeted at parents, grandparents, teachers and pastors to help them work with hurting children and teens at home, school and church.

The grant we received helps this ministry to continue and it is with a grateful heart that I submit this report. May God bless each of you and the children and teens in your life!

**The Rev. Leanne Hadley,  
Founder and President**

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### Full Circle Alternatives Colorado Springs, Colorado

Full Circle received a grant in the amount of \$500.00 to help with our Life Skills classes. These classes are offered to women as part of their development in becoming self-sufficient.

Funds received the first quarter were used to purchase pens, note pads and supplies for the women to keep notes on the classes, and to print the handouts and materials from the presenters. We also paid for a speaker from the American Red Cross who taught basic first aid to the women. It is amazing just how many of these women lack some of this basic knowledge; many will be regaining custody of their children and lacking in first-aid skills.

Another class offered this quarter was nutrition and we hosted several community-based agencies that spoke about their services and how our women can access them.

Over the last year, we have increased the success

rate of women staying sober after completion of the program. We are reporting through follow-up surveys a 58% success rate. This is great considering that the national average for success after treatment is 22%. We are very proud of our program and remain committed to providing services to homeless women who would otherwise be unable to access help.

The program's base is anchored in a 12-step recovery. Spirituality and the continued growth of spirituality is key to successful sobriety. We have a loving and supportive recovering community that helps these women, and the staff encourages them to explore their beliefs and build that foundation.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to continuing our relationship with you

**Sincerely,  
Paula Stock, M.A. Executive Director**



## Mission Partner Reports

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### Housing Justice! Denver, Colorado

Housing Justice!, reaches out to diverse faith communities of Colorado with an invitation to join and give voice to the struggle to secure decent, affordable housing for all. We educate and mobilize people of faith to address the affordable housing crisis in Colorado through advocacy and lasting housing solutions.

In order to raise awareness and to promote solutions to this crisis, we organized and led an 850 mile *People's Walk for Housing Justice* around Colorado between June 5 and August 21, 2004. Blake Chambliss, one of Colorado's leading affordable housing authorities and Joe Giron, founder of Brother's Redevelopment Inc, walked the entire distance, joined by enthusiastic advocates along the way.

The walk visited 45 communities, from the heat of

low-lying cities like Grand Junction to the chilly heights of Vail Pass. Blake and Joe facilitated over 40 community forums, attended by over 800 people of all ages and walks of life, where housing needs and potential solutions were explored. It became very clear that the affordable housing shortage affects the entire state. Not a single community was able to say, "We don't have a housing problem here."

At Housing Justice!'s September board retreat, the board accepted the challenge to begin working with communities identified on the walk and to help them build the capacity to meet their own housing needs. This year we will be working with the groups we talked with during the walk to identify communities willing to work together with us to develop local initiatives for decent and affordable housing.

**Mary Hupp, Executive Director**

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### Inter-Church ARMS Metro-Denver area, Colorado

Inter-Church ARMS: provides financial aid to help people pay grocery, rent and utility bills, shelter for homeless families, free tutorial services to students who struggle with reading and school supplies for underprivileged elementary students.

The ARMS Emergency Service Program expended \$82,152 to pay grocery, rent, utility, and medical bills for 1608 individuals in Arvada, Wheat Ridge, Westminster, Golden, and portions of Lakewood, Denver, Aurora, and Broomfield. Additional emergency outreach served approximately 100 individuals through our collaborative activities with Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). In 2004, our three member churches served as shelters for several weeks (in rotation) throughout the year. During these times, our remaining member churches provide staffing support to the host church. Our emergency outreach served a total of 1708 people during 2004.

Inter-Church ARMS sponsored a school supply drive June through August of 2004. During these months, congregations of our 13 member churches collected a variety of school supplies. In September of 2004,

our agency donated these supplies to underprivileged students at Weber Elementary School. Our agency recruited, trained, and placed ten new volunteers in our literacy education programs. Teachers and principals have mailed letters of support and appreciation of our educational outreach.

Success in the ARMS Emergency Service Program is measured based upon the number of people served and the immediacy with which we met clients' needs. During 2004, our agency served more people than in any previous year. We expanded our Emergency Service office staff. This enabled us to provide telephone resources to more people than in past years. More people received funds to pay food, rent, utility, and medical bills than in any other year since the program was initiated in 1984. We served 108 more individuals in 2004 than in 2003. This work would not have been possible without funding from The Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ.

**Ivy J Malden, Executive Director**



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Mission Partner Reports

### Interfaith of Natrona County, Inc. Casper, Wyoming

Interfaith of Natrona County is a non-profit faith based agency that provides emergency services to the poor in our community. Our primary focus is to prevent homelessness by providing direct payments to landlords and mortgage companies, as well as providing for various emergency needs that allow families to sustain their shelter.

From July 2004 thru February 2005, Interfaith has interviewed 1,559 people, serving 3,527 total people. During this time, 1,988 services were given, a slight increase over last year at this time.

We continue to see the effects of the increases in rental, gasoline, prescription and utility costs. The working poor and those on fixed incomes are the most seriously affected. A larger amount of financial assistance is required to meet their basic needs. Twenty Seven percent of last year's rental/mortgage payments exceeded \$500.00 per month. The lesser amounts were either subsidized or substandard housing rates. Requests for shelter assistance remain high, 1009 last year.

Interfaith hired a part time housing counselor in January to assist the full time counselor. Projections for shelter assistance indicate 1003 families will request help this year. We anticipate that Interfaith

will pay 180 shelter assists this year.

Interfaith is planning a series of fund raising events with our local congregational supporters to commemorate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation. We hope to raise \$20,000 plus during this time. These funds will assist with client needs and, we hope, allow for our staff to receive a health benefits plan. The agency has been blessed through a donor's estate with seed money to establish an endowment fund to provide for the future needs of the agency.

The staff continues to be moved by the plights of the families that we serve, establishing on-going relationships with many families who stop in to report, thanking us personally. Last month, Interfaith hosted an open house for community members to meet and talk with our clients. One person was so moved by the plight of a wheelchair bound single father that she left a donation to cover his rent, groceries and birthday gift for his daughter.

There are so many lives that we touch and many who touch us. We could not do what we do without guidance from God-His is the final word. We sincerely thank you for your support our organization.

**Sincerely,  
Sandra Hoffman, Executive Director**

### La Puente

Action Against hunger and Malnutrition manages our gleaning project. The gleaning project works with area farmers to recover and distribute produce left in the fields after harvest. In 2004 our gleaning project produced the following results:

- 11 groups from throughout Colorado participated in our 2004 gleaning project
- 14,400 pounds of fresh produce was gleaned, which included carrots, spinach and potatoes
- 4 local farmers made their fields available for the gleaning project

While church congregations from throughout Colorado were the majority of groups that participated in the project, students from Cottonwood Christian School and the Alamosa high school participated

also. The produce provided through our project is distributed to programs feeding hungry throughout Colorado. In addition to managing the gleaning project, Action Against Hunger and Malnutrition also provided 18,445 food boxes to people in need throughout San Luis Valley. Each food box contained enough food for 3 days for one-person.

La Puente has been very blessed to receive support from church congregations, community people, foundations and others who believe in La Puente's mission and support our work. We believe that God provides his guiding hand as we continued to serve the people of the San Luis Valley.

**Report respectfully submitted by:  
Michael Vigil, Community Advocate**



## Mission Partner Reports

### Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) Yampa Valley, Craig, Colorado

The Mission Statement (purpose) of Love INC of the Yampa Valley:

Love In the Name of Christ of the Yampa Valley mobilizes the Church, in collaboration with area service providers, to meet the unmet needs of individuals.

What has transpired within this past year?

#### 2004 Clearing House Overview

Total number of requests received	700
Number of requests served	686
Number of single adults served	291
Number of families served	227
Number of children (0-18) served	419
Number of churches serving	29

#### In what ways has God worked through Love INC?

This year, Love INC organized a Community Coat Drive. Yampa Valley churches worked with the community to collect, clean, and distribute over 500 coats to needy adults and children in three communities in Colorado.

Although the Love INC strategy used by area churches stresses aid to clients in non-financial ways, it is often determined that financial aid is appropriate. In 2004, Love INC recorded over \$11,000.00 in financial aid given from churches to

the needy in our community.

#### Giving to the Community

**Estimated value of Goods, Services, and Referrals**

Volunteer time: 945.5 hrs./est. value \$15,175.28

Clearinghouse: 1,485.5 hrs./est. value \$23,842.27

Estimated value of physical goods: \$14,651.00

**Total: \$53,668.55**

#### Some Acts of Generous Giving in 2004

- The free furniture donations went to 21 families.
  - 2 families were referred to budget mentors.
  - Personal needs were given to 70 men, women, and children for a total of 758 days of help..
  - Fresh food was given to feed about 122 needy individuals for representing 1,222 days of food.
  - 30 new backpacks filled with school supplies were given to children in the Yampa Valley.
  - 106+ families were visited by church members.
- This is a priceless gift given to the community.

Other services such as transportation, personal counseling, diapers, prayer, moving assistance, cutting firewood, processing wildgame, house cleaning, free laundry and showers, and more were provided to those in need by the volunteers sent from our area churches.

### Natrona County Homemakers - Comforts for Kids

#### Natrona Cty, Wyoming

Natrona County homemakers have made over 1500 comforts and quilts since 1987. Our group of 9 to 11 members meets the last Monday of every month and has, since January, completed 9 comforts every month.

We meet at the Agriculture Resource Learning Center, an extension of the University of Laramie. The center has a sewing lab, closets for storage and tables to work on available for our use.

We donate the comforts to various service agencies in town, including: Seton House, a shelter for single mothers; Safe House, a shelter for abused women and their children; Life Steps campus, transitional

housing apartments; Interfaith, a Christian supported organization that assists families with rent, gas bills, food, etc.; and a Head Start program. Children taken out of their homes, often with only the clothes they are wearing, by the Department of Family Services also receive comforts. Comforts, donated to an extension office program that teaches troubled teens, are given to the teens when they graduate.

I truly believe that God is working through our program in giving these children and teens hope that there are people out there who really care.

**In His service,  
Jody Reed**



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Mission Partner Reports

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#### Pikes Peak Justice & Peace Commission

##### Colorado Springs, Colorado

The 2005 award of \$500 was used to help support the Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission's Dynamic Peacemaking Program directed by Dennis Apuan. This program is at the heart of democratic principles and is core to the fulfillment of the Commission's mission of promoting Gospel principles of peace and justice. We trust that God works through us in these efforts.

Dynamic Peacemaking includes community organizing around issues of local, national, and global concern; educational forums to raise public awareness of social issues and public policy; rallies, demonstrations, and nonviolent radical resistance. Through education and dialogue, we bridge racial and cultural divisions in our community.

To date, our 2005 Dynamic Peacemaking Program has accomplished the following:

- Organized a Martin Luther King, Jr., Film Festival and Community Fair at First Congregational Church
- Mobilized the Colorado Springs community for peaceful nonviolent demonstrations including a Counter-Inaugural Demonstration, Global Day of Coordinated Action on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the U.S. Bombing and Invasion of Iraq, annual Way of the Cross/Way of Justice—Good Friday pilgrimage

through downtown Colorado Springs and a Counter-Recruitment demonstration at a military recruiting station. All events were covered by media.

- Fostered broad-based community dialogue around current issues including "Challenging Christian Zionism", "The Roles of War and Propaganda in Modern Society"; and "Framing Political Arguments".
- Represented southern Colorado in the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of United For Peace and Justice in St. Louis, MO
- Organized a coalition for military counseling and counter-recruitment; Organized a Military Counseling Training and a forum on "The Iraqi War and Conscientious Objection"
- Participated in the "International Walk for Peace, Justice and Freedom," a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reenactment of Gandhi's 1930 Salt March in India

The Commission continues to engage the public in the struggle for a world of peace with justice.

**Peace and All Good,  
Dorothy Schlaeger, Director**

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#### Plateau Valley Faith in Action Collbran, Colorado

Plateau Valley Faith in Action was started in 2001 with the help of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Faith in Action is a nationwide network of interfaith volunteer care giving programs.

This program brings together volunteers of all faiths to help the frail, elderly and disabled. Our program continues to grow with the help and support of our community.

Each program is unique in the population it serves as well as the services provided. Faith in Action serves the entire Plateau Valley, Mesa and

DeBeque.

The entire population is approximately 3,500 and encompasses over 800 miles. Many of the people we serve may not be able to remain independent without the help of our volunteers.

##### These are our numbers for 2004:

- Total number of people served - 167
- Total number of hours provided - 1,823
- Total number of miles driven - over 10,000

**Vicki Benning, Director**

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## Mission Partner Reports

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### Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) Denver, Colorado

In 2004, RAIN Colorado served 38 carepartners (people living with HIV/AIDS) and their families with consistent individual non-medical assistance from more than 50 volunteers. This support has enhanced their quality of life. Most of these carepartners are long term survivors who are on medications that control the replication of virus in their bodies, but have serious side effects that are somewhat debilitating. RAIN volunteers provide a minimum of 8-10 hours per month to assure that medical appointments are met, shopping and other errands are accomplished, basic housekeeping is maintained and socialization occurs in the general community. One carepartner died in 2004.

Special RAIN activities included Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, summer picnic, Denver Botanic Gardens tour of sculptures from Zimbabwe, and our holiday party. We published two editions of the newsletter and trained 10 new volunteers.

RAIN has been very involved in a statewide coalition of AIDS service providers (Colorado Organizations Responding to AIDS), annual AIDS Walk Colorado,

and in the planning and observing of World AIDS Day in various venues and faith communities.

Every other Tuesday, 8 long term survivors of HIV infection meet at Sixth Avenue United Church in a support group to discuss preventing depression, overcoming isolation, aging, finding meaningful ways to live life with or without employment, keeping safer sex behaviors, and exploring spiritual questions. Some face end of life issues as their medications become ineffective and new options are few. Some are on research drugs and appreciate the support of this group to continue their difficult journey. This group has been an important part of RAIN's 2004 ministry offering compassion, encouragement and friendship to those living with HIV/AIDS.

We are very grateful to be a Rocky Mountain Conference mission partner and for the continuing relationship with individual congregations (Parkview, Sixth Avenue, Wild Rose, in particular) as we minister to those infected and affected by HIV in Colorado and beyond.

**David Cooper, Executive Director**

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### Room at the Inn Greeley, Colorado

Room at the Inn is focused on increasing the long-term success of families who suffer from the trauma of homelessness. Our mission is to help homeless families with minor children return to independence. Homelessness comes to families through the loss of a job, major illness, abandonment of a spouse and a wide variety of other personal factors. It is a crisis of logistics and emotions and can be severely traumatic for parents who may feel helpless and hopeless over their temporary inability to provide food and shelter for their children.

It can be equally traumatic for children who can see and feel the pain of their parents because they have nowhere to live. With the assistance of Greeley churches, Room at the Inn provides the means and the support to help homeless families to regain their self-confidence and work through whatever is needed to get back on their feet.

Through the guidance of God, our program has been largely successful. In 2004, we served 40 families or 128 people 4044 nights of warm, safe shelter, and 12,132 meals. Our success rate of moving families from homelessness to permanent housing was 85% in 2004. Our average length of stay was 28.3 days.

As our community continues to suffer an economic crisis, Room at the Inn has documented an increase of requests for shelter and other assistance. Recent local layoffs and a delay in the availability and distribution of government aid have hit Weld County especially hard. In partnership with Rocky Mountain Conference UCC, we are meeting this urgent need head-on and directly increasing the success of many homeless families. Together we alleviate the traumatic crisis of homelessness for many Colorado families.

**Stacy Romero, Director**



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Mission Partner Reports

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### Salt Lake Interfaith Hospitality Network Salt Lake City, Utah

**Recipient of:**

Governor's Initiative for Families Today Award  
Salt Lake Volunteer Center's Silver Bowl Award  
Salt Lake Community Action Program's Outstanding Partner Award

Utah Non-Profits Hands and Heart Award  
Utah Woman's Alliance Building Communities Award  
Governor's Points of Light Award

Catholic Community Service Humanitarian Award  
The purpose of the funding provided was to bring information about housing homeless families into the Orem/Provo community in an interfaith network. Monthly, ministers from the Utah County area meet to discuss hardships, community needs, and ideas on getting the Utah community commitment. Included in our meeting are pastors from many faiths, as well as representatives from National IHN and some parishioners. We are taking this before churches involved in our monthly meetings to bring forth written commitments.

The greatest challenge is the multiple square mileage distance between our churches. We have 400,000 people in our area with no homeless shel-

ter! With 10 hosting churches coming together to serve the homeless needs of our community, we will do what our individual faiths have called us to do, reach out to the poor. As Christians are called in the Gospel of Matthew to personally witness Christ as we feed, clothe and provide a home for those without. The Jewish community is prepared for Elijah to come in disguise and sit at their table. The Hindu religion is ready to meet God in Children. Buddha encouraged that compassion to be shared with all we meet. God is speaking to all Faiths to reach out of our selfishness.

We *must* come together as people of faith and do what our faith has taught us. To Christians and other faiths, God is giving us an opportunity to reach out to him through the lives of individuals here on earth. "To feed the hungry, Cloth the naked and bring those without in our home." It is our goal to have Interfaith Hospitality Network up and running in the year 2006, here in our home, Utah County.

**Submitted by:**  
**Rev. Charles Hines, Orem UCC**  
**Vicki Neumann, Executive Director**

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### Westside CARES Colorado Springs, Colorado

Greetings! Westside CARES, as a partner in mission of the Conference, is alive, well, and serving the needy of western El Paso county, to the greater glory of God. We have managed to meet record levels of requests for emergency assistance including: eviction prevention, utilities assistance, medications, eye exams and glasses, bus passes, backpacks filled with school supplies, and lots of food.

As a coalition of 20 congregations, including Broadmoor Community Church and the historic Community Congregational Church of Manitou Springs, we seek to serve human needs in order that the love of God in Christ may be tangible. In the last year we have expanded our open hours to include one evening, so we may better serve those who are employed. In this year we are working toward opening a small soup kitchen in one of our member

churches that could serve up to 100 persons each weekday.

Last November, when the Department of Human Services computer system failure became a major roadblock to many needy families, and the State was slow to fix the problem, our food pantries and their volunteers quickly agreed to extend their open hours so we could meet more needs for food.

With your help and by God's grace we are granted entry into the lives of many people who struggle to keep their lives together. With your help and God's grace we are able to ease some burdens and share life with neighbors we would otherwise not know.

We give thanks to God for all the graces we receive.

**Rev. Stephen Brown, Executive Director**



## Mission Partner Reports

### Agency for Campus Ministry in Utah (ACMU) Logan, Utah

The Agency for Campus Ministry in Utah (ACMU) receives partnership funds (thank you so much) to support three campus ministries in Utah.

The Campus Christian Ministry (CCM) University of Utah, Salt Lake City, did not have student programs. The CCM board is seeking a new financial arrangement with partners in the CCM House, expanding the Board of Directors, and developing programs along with finding a person to direct them.

The Faith and Fellowship Center (FFC), Utah State University (USU), Logan has added members to the Board of Directors, and continues with student oriented religious and civic activities on campus and at the FFC house. They continue to develop a "Quiet Garden" with private funds. Programs include the Woman's Spirituality and Personal Growth group and Listening Post on campus. Programs at the FFC house include Friday night dinner and movie; Bible Study; Prayer Circle; and Pathways-Connecting Mind, Body and Spirit. The house is used regularly by 8

civic and religious groups. Annual service projects include the Alternate Gift Market, held at First Presbyterian Church and the Mitten-Tree Project sponsored by the Women's Center at USU.

The Interfaith Student Association (ISA) at BYU and Utah Valley State College, in the Provo and Orem areas continues to grow on very difficult campuses. Major programs include: pursuing donations for the library in the new Dept. of Religious Studies; producing a student directory for e-mail communication; publishing and distributing an interfaith directory to inform students of churches and religious organizations available to them (promoting connections between students and churches); and holding brown-bag lunch forums featuring speakers from various faiths.

God continues to bring us new students and allows our ministries to provide them avenues for expressing Christian outreach.

**Richard Burns, Chair**

### Wyoming Ministries in Higher Education Wyoming

Wyoming Ministries in Higher Education provides for and supports ecumenical ministries at the institutions of higher education in the State of Wyoming. Visit our website: [www.wmhe.org](http://www.wmhe.org)

We are an umbrella organization. We are an ecumenical organization giving partial funding to the Campus Ministries organized by local Christian people working with students, faculty, and staff from different religious and secular backgrounds, fostering understanding among different churches and creating networks with campus ministers, pastors, and communities to provide an environment for the integration of faith and learning that is open to everyone.

These ministries reflect the historic traditions of the Christian faith, are flexible and experimental, striving to remain open to change, support diverse people, recognize God's presence on the campus and in people's lives, reflect the presence of God and the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Our Campus Ministries help people acquire a personal

faith in Jesus Christ, nurture people in that Christian faith; being accessible to people in loving, caring, encouraging ways; apply the Christian faith to settings of human concern, and encourage people to engage in worship and celebration in churches and on campus.

We are involved with four active Campus Ministries: Alethea Campus Ministry in Sheridan, Campus Ministry in Torrington, Campus Christian Community Ministry in Cheyenne, and University Common Ministry in Laramie. All are truly a "Ministry of Presence". All have some form of a Listening Post, Bible Studies, Food for Sharing, Snacks, Dorm Suppers or Coffee Houses, Praise and Worship Services, Prayer Groups, Social Activities, Volunteer Work Groups, even one provides a form of child care while parents attend classes.

How are we meeting our purpose? *We are doing and living it We thank you for your support!*

**Charles Bixler, Director**



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Mission Partner Reports

### United Campus Ministry Ft. Collins, Colorado

United Campus Ministry is the only mainstream ecumenical Christian ministry within the context of the Colorado State University community. We provide an opportunity to explore and develop faith in a safe, supportive and caring environment and to help people integrate that faith into the realities of secular university life. We encourage college students to utilize critical thinking skills, to grow in understanding and compassion for diverse peoples, and to hold their education and work to high ethical standards.

We expanded our student program director program into a residential Internship in Spirituality and Leadership in which students who demonstrate promise in Christian leadership are invited to explore various areas of ministry, choosing projects to organize and lead that they are particularly passionate about, and committing to an intensive exploration of various spiritual practices in order to strengthen and deepen their own spiritual lives. This year, we have had FIVE very gifted and committed participants, who are each developing tremendous leadership skills in various areas of ministry, including seminary, the Peace Corps, a school guidance counselor, leadership in music in worship, and Restorative

Justice.

We developed a working Task Force on Spirituality in Higher Education at CSU, which has earned the ear of the President and is also exploring the possibility of creating an Interfaith Spirituality Center.

We are working with a number of CSU professors to develop a Certificate Program in Peace and Reconciliation Studies at the university. This is an extremely exciting and much-needed project in today's terribly conflicted world.

This year, nine of our students learned and performed a very challenging play about the life of Jesus "The Anointed", by Prof Matthew Bolton. They performed the play 5 times at 5 different congregations.

We have raised \$30,000 for a service-learning trip to Russia, where twelve participants will spend 9 days in an orphanage in Moscow and 3 days in St Petersburg.

All of this is in addition to our regular programs, which includes dinners, meditation services, retreats, and local service projects.

**Rev. Peggy Christiansen, Director**

### United Ministries in Higher Education Boulder, Colorado

UMHE is an ecumenical campus ministry at CU-Boulder sponsored by local Christian and Unitarian Universalist congregations and regional judicatories. We offer students of all backgrounds a welcoming, safe, and supportive community and encourage them to explore their faith, deepen their spirituality, build meaningful relationships, and put faith into action to make a better world.

In the past year, we have grown immensely – in spiritual depth, closeness of community, clarity of faith, and numbers. We graduated 13 students but made new contacts with three times as many as the 2004-5 academic year progressed. Our programming and worship themes for the year were: Vote Your Faith, Breaking the Cycle of Poverty, -isms,

Spiritual Discovery, Theologies of Peace and War in the Abrahamic Traditions, and What Does it Mean to Be the Church?

We participated in the AIDS walk, the CROP walk, and a Hats and Gloves drive during the cold months. We volunteered at a BCAP dinner, Community Food Share food drive, and Volunteer Day of Boulder County.

To close the year, we hosted an incredibly professional, delicious, and successful fundraising dinner to fund our May worktrip to Colorado Springs for eco-justice ministry in the Garden of the Gods and human service ministry at Manna Food Ministry, New Hope Shelter, and the Salvation Army.

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## Mission Partner Reports

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### United Ministries in Higher Education continued from previous page

God's presence is powerfully felt in the UMHE community. We are a place in which students are invited to meet God in new ways. And the miracle of God's presence in their lives shows forth in the tears of graduating seniors, the confident faithfulness of a gay Christian, the authentic spiritual search of an unchurched freshman, the prayer circle of two friends in conflict, the discerning of a call to

seminary, and the love that binds the community together. UMHE truly offers college students something all of us seek: a place to ask, grow, serve, and belong. And they do.

We offer many thanks for your faithful support of this life-giving and life-changing ministry.

**Tamara Boynton, Director**

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### Wyoming Association of Churches Wyoming

The Wyoming Association of Churches (WAC) serves as the United Church of Christ's ecumenical presence in the state of Wyoming.

The WAC is made up of nine denominations and has a long history of facilitating ecumenical presence and working to carry out a social justice ministry. We have long been one of the front line organizations in promoting positive change in Wyoming.

The organization recently underwent a major re-structuring in preparation for its future ministry. In November, the Rev. Warren Murphy and Pam Noesner were hired to administer the WAC from a new office in Cody. The Rev. Murphy is the WAC's first full time director since the mid 1980's.

Under the new structure, the WAC has partnered with numerous state organizations to enhance efficiency. These organizations include Alternatives to Violence, Church World Service, Faith Initiatives Wyoming (which administers Wyoming's federal "faith based" money) and the Equality State Policy Center. Our goal in these partnerships is to enable local congregations to actively participate in the state's future.

The new rejuvenated WAC has planned several exciting events in the coming year. These include a September lecture series in Cody featuring Dr. Jonathan Reed of LaVerne University in California speaking on "In Search of Paul: Peace, Empire and Christianity." Also in September there will be a "New Pastor's" conference held at scenic Ring Lake Ranch.

This year's annual meeting (Sept 29 – Oct 1) will center on the theme "Earth, Wind and Spirit: A Healing of the Earth from a Spiritual Perspective." This will feature three excellent presenters including Dr. Peter Sawtell of "Eco-Justice Ministries" in Denver.

The WAC has also produced a new on-line newsletter and is developing a "Web Forum" to discuss contemporary issues that affect our community life.

We feel God is very much calling us to this exciting ecumenical ministry and we are appreciative of the United Church of Christ's ongoing support.

Find out more by checking our website at [www.wyomingassociationofchurches.org](http://www.wyomingassociationofchurches.org).