

## Communications Covenanted Ministry Report

The Communications Covenanted Ministry is a “new” Covenanted Ministry, recently chartered by the Conference Council. We held our first meeting on October 15, 2015 and have been meeting monthly ever since.

The vision for our ministry came directly from the Visioning Process this Conference experienced with Dr. Dick Hamm. The Vision Team Report, which was received at the 2015 Conference Annual Gathering, articulated certain challenges. These challenges have guided the formation of the Communications Covenanted Ministry and have shaped our identity.

Our proposed Charter (not yet approved by Conference Council) is “To develop and maintain an infrastructure for communications activity in the Missouri Mid South Conference, and to discern means of communications support and interaction among our churches.” What this means is that we hope to develop **WEBS OF COMMUNICATION**, connecting all aspects of the Conference; from Covenanted Ministry Teams to all church members. These webs of communication may be electronic, they may be print or they may be some other form we have yet to envision.

We hit the ground running! We have identified 2 tracks where we feel there is an opportunity for communications activity to be enhanced in this Conference. Our work is structured around those 2 tracks:

### **Track I- Communications infrastructure: Electronic and Paper Media**

Under this track, we are evaluating our Electronic Communications infrastructure: the Conference website, the e-Courier, Facebook and other social media. We are developing Communications Centers in churches across the Conference, and setting policies and standards for their usage. Our first Communications Center has been set up at Columbia UCC. Our second Communications Center will be at Emmanuel UCC, Jackson and will be in use at our Eastern Association Fall Meeting in September. We hope to follow up with at least one more Communications Center this year and 2-3 centers in 2017. We are also developing periodical mailings to be sent to Conference churches and leaders, with information about upcoming activities. The first such mailing was sent March 15; the next one will be in August.

### **Track II- Communications Support**

Under this track, we will develop an intentional series of educational materials; a series of training events to help our local congregations and church members utilize communications technology and print media that are available to enhance their ministries.

Please keep us in your prayers as we work to develop **WEBS OF COMMUNICATION** connecting each one of us, one United Church of Christ. *You will be hearing more from us!*

**Our Team:** Rev. Bob Atkinson, Rev. Carole Barner, Rev. Ken Ulmer, Linda Stenger, Rev. Liz Deveney, Mona Smith Herberg, Rev. Phiwa Langeni, Pastor Cherie Stolze, Rev. Rick Oberle- Chair; Renee Cordes, Joyce Bathke & Rev. Ginny Brown Daniel- ex officio

Submitted by Rev. Rick Oberle