

# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE

## “Just Facts”

### WHO WE ARE

The Northern California Nevada Conference is one of 38 Conferences of the United Church of Christ, USA. NCNC comprises **117 full-member congregations, 12 churches in care, and 3 churches in preliminary exploration, 363 ordained ministers, 5 commissioned ministers, and 7 licensed ministers.** We have **53 persons-in-care**, preparing for ordained or commissioned ministry. The Conference covers **137,094 square miles**, from the Oregon border to the southern boundaries of the California counties of Monterey through Inyo; from the Pacific Ocean east to the 117<sup>th</sup> meridian in Nevada; and is grouped into **6 Associations.**

Korean, Japanese, Samoan, English, Tagalog, Spanish, Cantonese, and American Sign Language are regularly spoken in worship in our congregations. Twenty-six of our full-member congregations and ten of our in-care congregations affirm an ethnic identity: 5 African American, 2 Chinese-American, 8 Filipina/o-American, 2 Japanese-American, 1 Korean-American, 17 Samoan, 1 Volga German. Eight others are intentionally and effectively multi-racial/multi-cultural in their constituency and their approach to worship and ministry. Sixty-six of our congregations are declared open and affirming. A Multi-Racial/Multi-Cultural Transformation Team is at work to enhance the diversity of our life as a Conference. We are in mission partnership with the Christian Church/ Disciples of Christ Region.

### MISSION

The mission of the Conference is to “be a community of diverse congregations which nurtures, supports and unites local churches in faithful covenant in Christ to carry out ministry and mission in the world.” As the Northern California Nevada Conference we are called by God to support, unite, and nurture our local churches and authorized ministers, so that their ministries and the ministries of the whole United Church of Christ will be enhanced and strengthened.

### MINISTRIES

- **Authorization for Ministry:** Provides the assurance that those who are authorized have a call from God, sound education, and a combination of gifts, talents, and traits of personality to allow for the gracious and trustworthy performance of ministry. NCNC is unique in having one Committee on the Ministry serving six Associations. Associations ordain, install, and take congregations into membership, but the standing of authorized ministers is held in the Conference. Sections A and B of the Committee on the Ministry authorize ministers and oversee the maintaining of ministerial standing, respectively. Section C reviews credentials for churches seeking affiliation. Section D, “Congregations and Covenant” explores with congregations their understanding of being in covenant with one another, and provides assistance and support in church conflicts and offers such services as a first-year review for a newly-called minister and congregational leaders.

- **Crisis Response:** In accord with our mission to support congregations, we respond to crises within our member churches.

- **Search and Call:** There are generally about 25 congregations in the transition period between pastoral leaders at any one time. We receive approximately 215 ministerial profiles per year from ministers searching for new positions and deliver about 525 profiles to Search Committees.

- **Outdoor Ministries:** NCNC owns two camping and retreat facilities which are administered through United Conferences Camps and Retreats.

- **Support for New and Affiliating Congregations:** We have initiated a system of support for newly-forming and affiliating churches in-care of the Associations in an effort to be faithful to the commitment that is made when taking a church into care. Associations take responsibility for the mentoring of congregations new to the UCC so that the in-care period can be a time of engagement and mutual discernment.

- **Financial Development:** In 2007 we began our program of Financial Development, to emphasize the connections between faith and giving, and to cultivate the gift of generosity within our local churches, so that each church's ministry may be strengthened, and we all move with the rhythm of abundance.

- **Church Vitality:** Following up on the "Ready, Set, Grow!" training events, church coaches have been trained and will focus on enhanced growth for clusters of congregations, beginning in 2008.

## STAFFING

We are staffed by 1 full-time Conference Minister; 1 full-time Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship & Finance; 8 part-time ACMs; and 3 full-time Support Staff. Six of the ACMs provide staffing to the 6 Associations, working with local churches in the search process, responding to needs in church formation and transformation, as well as to crises. One of the ACMs serves quarter-time as ACM for Ministry Authorization. Another ACM serves as half-time Search and Call Coordinator. A half-time Director of Development and a half-time Director of Outdoor Ministries are also part of the program team. The editor of *The Pacific* is a contracted employee. The Web Steward is a volunteer. A stipend for the Disaster Response Coordinator is provided through a grant from One Great Hour of Sharing.

## FINANCES

Our Goal Budget for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year is \$1,190,000. This increase of \$182,000 (or 18%) over the 2007-2008 goal, was made by vote of the Conference Annual Meeting. The primary goal continues to be to provide fair and just compensation for the Conference Staff. New in this year's Goal Budget is \$112,000 from Special Funds to provide local churches with resources for Spiritual and Financial Development as well as a new look at Outdoor Ministries programs.

For the year ended June 30, 2007, churches gave \$825,000 to the wider United Church of Christ through UCC Share. This is an increase of \$47,000 over the previous year. 20% of UCC Share giving supports the ministries of the national setting of the UCC, 2% supports the ministries of the Associations and 78% supports the ministries of the churches and authorized ministers of the Northern California Nevada Conference. Churches of the Northern California Nevada Conference also contributed \$160,566 to the 4 special offerings of the United Church of Christ.

The national setting of the UCC provided \$33,375 in grants to NCNC for church development and revitalization, low-interest loans of \$1.8 million to four churches for first time land purchase and \$1.3 million in loans to 9 churches for building repairs.

*More information on Conference website: [www.ncnuc.org](http://www.ncnuc.org)*

07/23/08