

## INTENTIONAL NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

### Administrative Action

**Purpose:** To insist that we as a Conference begin to take seriously -- NOW -- the need to plan for intentional new church development.

**Background:**

- This Conference has received a priceless inheritance from our predecessors in faith in the form of 133 congregations (full standing plus in-care) established at great cost and with great hope during the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and during the entire 20<sup>th</sup> century, an inheritance which we do not wish to squander and to which we wish to add for our children and grandchildren in faith of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond;
- We affirm that God continues to call us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory;
- There are countless families and individuals -- of all ages, classes, tongues and races -- in Northern California and Northern Nevada who do not now profess any religious tradition whatsoever other than individualism, consumerism, addiction or despair, and who do not at this time have access to a congregation of the United Church of Christ, and who are struggling under the weight of personal aimlessness, corporate sin, old ecclesiastical wounds and life-draining empire without the saving grace of Christian community and the knowledge of God's yearning love for them;
- The unofficial anthem of this Conference claims unequivocally that "*with bold new decisions, your people arise.*"

**Administrative Affirmation and Action to be Voted:**

That the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ reaffirms its commitment to welcoming existing and newly-formed congregations into our fellowship, and also commits itself to planning for the intentional development of new congregations of various racial and cultural identities.

And that this Annual Meeting directs the Board of Directors and Staff of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ to:

- a. fill and activate the Church Formation and Transformation Team and charge the Team to bring to the 2005 Annual Meeting the first draft of a 10-year plan for new church development;
- b. budget at least \$1,000 for demographic studies or other New Church Development planning costs;
- c. secure one staff person at least 10% FTE to act as New Church Development resource and liaison, to be paid from the Visions in Ministry, Church Development, or Make a Difference Fund; and
- d. convene a meeting of all those persons who have, at any time past or present, been involved in the gathering, planting, or launching of a new congregation, with the mandate to pray heartily for the presence of the Holy Spirit in helping us to establish new congregations at this time and to brainstorm possible methods of doing so with very few financial resources, *e.g.*, seed communities, missions, house churches and daughter churches.

**Theological Rationale:** we are stewards of the gospel of Jesus Christ, having been commissioned by our Risen Lord to go and make disciples, to baptize and to teach, and having been assured of His presence with us always (Mt. 28:19-20).

**Resources:** See attached reading list

**Cost Estimate for Doing It:** \$1,000 plus 10% FTE Staff time for FY2004-2005

**Cost Estimate for Not Doing It:**

**Contact person:** Marian Conning, Amistad UCC  
735 Brookside Drive, Vacaville CA 95688  
(707)448-5415, [marian@amistad-vacaville.org](mailto:marian@amistad-vacaville.org)