

## CONFERENCE NOTES

Continued from Page C9

1215	Sunnyvale	Filipino-American UCC	0	800	0	800	400	0
1220	Sunol	Little Brown Church of Sunol UCC	1,000	0	2,000	2,256	0	1,800
1225	Olympic Valley	Squaw Valley Chapel UCC	1,000	1,000	2,000	504	504	672
1230	Tulare	First Congregational UCC	1,480	960	681	1,728	840	800
1235	Vallejo	United Church of Christ in Vallejo	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,422	1,088	824
1240	Weaverville	Trinity Congregational UCC	2,250	1,750	5,250	0	568	0
1247	Walnut Creek	Rossmoor Pilgrim CCC UCC	0	0	0	0	0	344
1250	Woodland	St. John's UCC	1,000	0	50	2,128	0	0
1260	Woodside	Woodside Village United Church of Christ	6,000	2,525	1,250	1,248	1,344	1,504
1270	Reno	First Congregational UCC	588	98	0	2,264	2,264	2,528
			<u>625,746</u>	<u>608,492</u>	<u>586,518</u>	<u>135,012</u>	<u>134,824</u>	<u>132,107</u>

## A SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITIES 2003-2004

In a historic move, the NCNC Board of Directors reconfigured itself into three working groups in order to create a more thorough issue review process and decision-making apparatus.

This reconfiguration has allowed the board to cut through a backlog of issues and matters and resolve them and, for other issues, create a process for their resolution in the near future. In addition to meeting as a full board, members are divided and assigned to working groups that vet issues appearing before the board and making recommendations to the full board for action.

The working groups focus on three major areas – Asset Management & Development, Ministries & Personnel, and Communications & Constituencies, so individuals assigned to these working groups have an opportunity to hone their skills in these critical areas and provide knowledgeable advice to fellow board colleagues at decision-making time. Since members serve four year terms, each member will have an opportunity to serve on all three working groups. To date, the members are pleased with the results of this new arrangement.

Social justice issues continued to gain wide support from the board during this term. On several occasions, the

board supported new California legislation, notably, recognition of same-sex marriage in California, the strengthening of domestic partnership legislation, and other related LGBT issues. It also sent a letter to the Boy Scouts of America lifting up the sentiment expressed in a General Synod XXIV resolution.

Because of the on-going need for quality advice and decision-making information, the board continued to define its relationship with the Administration and Finance Committee. As a leading Committee of the Board, it is paramount that timely research and information flows between these two bodies and that the activities of both bodies function in concert with the other. Board president Louis Knox worked diligently to provide vehicles and opportunities for collaboration and urged the use of best practices. To this end, the board also worked to tightened up financial controls in the Conference and to evaluate internal systems and proper staffing needs.

In what may be its most memorable action, the board voted overwhelmingly to eliminate the Conference's long-term debt in December 2003 by use of a portion of the Carlota Alexander Bequest. The past few years have been marked by conversation revolving around the debt – at times it seemed to be all consuming. This courageous action removed a long-

standing financial impediment, both actual and psychological, in the Conference and provides an opportunity for the Conference and Conference leaders to move forward with a fresh start.

Similarly, the board agreed that the holding and management of the Ralston White property was not central to the mission of the Conference and therefore took steps to establish, approve, and implement a long range plan and process and its ultimate resolution.

And in a related matter, the board received and approved a Forest Management Plan for Camp Cazadero that will enhance the site and selectively cut trees to reduce fire danger. The proceeds from the sale of timber will be returned to the Conference coffers and provide for the proper management of the facility.

In sum, the board experienced a truly productive, engaging, and enriching term with many accomplishments at hand and many exciting plans for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Louis C. Knox  
President of the Board of Directors

### Where our paths cross: a look at Buddhist and Christian traditions and practices for today's world

Classes and lecture

May 19 and 26  
June 2 and 9  
7:30 - 9 p.m.

free - everyone is invited  
Hillcrest Congregational Church  
404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill

### Actions of the Committee on the Ministry

March 19

Section A  
Taken In Care  
Pamela Shepherd  
New Spirit Berkeley  
Bay Association

Recommended for Ordination  
Elena Larssen  
The Community Church UCC, Sebastopol  
Golden Gate Association

Licensed  
Pisa Tuitasi

Section B  
Transfers of Standing  
Don Gall to Central Pacific Conference  
James Llewellyn to Northeast Association, Vermont  
Conference

Ministerial Standing Dropped  
Bonnie Bloom

Section C  
Recommended two churches for in care status:

Vaiola Fremont Samoan  
Oasis Fellowship Church

### Need a place to turn?

As a person of faith, do you need someone to help you with:

- fear or loss • grief • relationships
- life transitions • complicated dilemmas

Ordained UCC minister, pastoral counselor, licensed psychologist for 19 years, sensitive and easy to work with, welcoming to people of all ages, walks of life and situations

**Rev. John Hughes, Ph.D. (PSY 12648)**  
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