

# CONFERENCE TREASURER

## Treasurer's Report John Meermans

### FY 2007-08 Goal Budget

Annual Meeting 2007 adopted a goal budget totaling \$1,008,000 in revenue and expenditures. As of the end of March, ongoing revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June, 2008 is conservatively projected to be \$899,000, which is \$109,000 or 11 percent less than challenged by the goal budget. Thus the Jan. 1 staff salary adjustments that were built into the goal budget could not be realized.

In addition, board of directors approved \$39,000 in supplemental ministry funding from Special Funds for limited duration programs. See the background material for the 2008-9 Goal Budget for more details.

### Gift Policy

In April, 2007 subsequent to the submission of Annual Meeting 2007 Report, the board approved a Conference gift policy to guide the acceptance, processing and acknowledgment of various types of gifts. This policy that was

largely the work of Tony Lewis is one more tool in developing and implementing an appropriate financial development program.

### Conversion of God Is Still Speaking Loan to Grant

At the time of the 2004 launch of the God is Still Speaking identity, branding, and advertising campaign by the National UCC, conferences were asked to make loans to the national UCC in support of the initiative. Our Conference loaned \$30,000.

In early 2007, we received a letter from UCC President John Thomas asking our Conference to forgive the loan by converting it into a grant. In September, 2007 the NCNC board voted to forgive the loan. The now \$30,000 grant will be funded from monies realized from the 2005 transfer of the Ralston L. White Retreat Center from the Conference to the Ralston L. White Retreat Foundation.

### Financial Development Team

In October, 2007 our long planned Conference financial development team (FDT) was formed, co-

chaired by Laura Barnes and Kevin Manz. The primary purpose of the FDT will be the oversight, support and nurture of our newly hired part-time financial development director, Ron Buford.

Ron, the spirit and first director of the UCC God is Still Speaking initiative, is an accomplished and multi-faceted business and religious leader. With Ron, the FDT and pent-up interest in the whole Conference for church revitalization and financial development, I think our efforts in common to increase both funding for local congregations and the Conference will be well blessed.

### Acknowledgments

I want to thank all persons who worked on our financial matters in the past year. Particular thanks are due Tony Lewis, chair, assets management and development working group; Geoff Van Loucks, Conference attorney; Laura Barnes and Kevin Manz, financial development team; and David Bergman-Hill, Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship and Finance.

# CONFERENCE COMMITTEES AND OVERVIEW BOARDS

## Section A, Committee on the Ministry: Authorization for Ministerial Standing in the NCNC

**Carmelle Knudsen and James Kosko,  
co-chair, Carol Barriger, staff**

Section A of the Committee on Ministry acts on behalf of the NCNC/UCC board of directors and the associations in examining and qualifying candidates for UCC ministerial standing. We are responsible for licensed ministry, granting privilege of call, making recommendations to the associations for installation via transfer of ministerial standing, dual standing, or ordained ministerial partnership standing, transferring into the Conference authorized ministers with leave of absence or retired status, and determining readiness for reinstatement of ministerial standing. COM-A receives persons into in-care status as they discern their call to ordained or commissioned ministry, and recommends to the associations candidates for ordination or commissioning who are "fit for ministry." We assign in-care advisers and COM-A Liaisons to help them along their journey. COM-A meets monthly with a full interview calendar that is usually scheduled 12 months in advance.

COM-A also deals with inquiries, correspondence and policy development.

From February 2007 through February 2008, 10 individuals were recommended to their associations for ordination; 16 candidates were received or renewed in care. There were five persons granted privilege of call or licensure. Six UCC ministers transferring their standing to NCNC were recommended to the associations for installation, and three UCC ministers transferred their standing to NCNC with leave of absence.

As of February 2008, there are 48 persons in care of the NCNC and 12 that have been

approved for ordination-pending call. COM-A has continued to work hard at shortening the time it takes to get an interview. We again focused our attention on educating ourselves regarding "fitness for ministry" issues and how we might better partner with in-care students as they discern their readiness or call to be ordained. Although the work of COM-A takes considerable time and energy, members find it is challenging and satisfying because dealing with candidates in ministry is a privilege and it is important, valuable work. It is energizing to sense the movement of the Spirit in a person's journey in ministry. We have been especially challenged this year with a series of vacancies, so each of us has given way beyond "the call."

I want to thank the wise, loving and generous folks who are currently serving on Committee A. They are all experienced, hard-working and dedicated people who have served the NCNC/UCC well. We continue to invite the clergy of our Conference to partner with us by saying yes when asked to be an in-care adviser as we work together to strengthen the ministry of the UCC. Thank you for this privilege and opportunity to serve.

## Section B, Committee on the Ministry: Support, Review and Maintaining of Covenant for Authorized Ministers Dave Klingensmith and Melinda McLain, co-chairs; Julie Bright, scheduler; Mary Susan Gast, staff

Section B of the Committee on Ministry is elected by our Annual Meeting to serve the ordained and commissioned ministers of NCNC by providing support, accountability and opportunities for growth. Over the past year we have met at least once each month, meeting with more than 60 authorized ministers, completing ecclesiastical

endorsements for chaplaincy in hospital and military settings, assisting with the revision of the salary guidelines, and offering support to our ministers who were affected by situations. With the able assistance of the Ethics Sub-committee, we have responded to questions regarding fitness for ministry.

Implementation of the Lifelong Learning requirement continues, including an upgrade of the website and addition of resources for completion of these tasks. As all should be aware, the initial three-year requirement period expired on Jan. 1. The committee is currently working with authorized ministers who have not yet finished reporting their life-long learning to comply with the requirement. The committee is grateful for some part-time staff support from Ann Muir on life-long learning.

## Committee on the Ministry Section C, Committee on the Ministry Authorization for Churches Seeking Membership in the NCNC UCC Tauoa Head, chair David Bergman-Hill, staff

Section C of the Committee of the Ministry works to welcome new congregations into the NCNC. We are currently working with 15 congregations to establish connections with local associations and follow the various steps required before full standing can be granted. Eleven churches are in care and four churches in preliminary exploration. Seven of these congregations are in the Bay Association, four in the Sacramento Valley Association, two in Santa Clara, one in Golden Gate and one in Mountain Valley. Please keep these 15 blessed and diverse congregations in your prayers as they continue on their journey of service and discernment.