



Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ

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Uniting Congregations for Ministry and Mission in Missouri, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee

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2018 Conference Annual Staff Reports

Rev. Tyler Connoley, Minister for Search and Call Discernment

I began my work with the Missouri Mid-South Conference in October of 2017. When I came on board, we already had an excellent team of volunteer Search and Call Stewards: Carol Shank, David Beebe, David Poe, Douglas Anders, Jane Fisler Hoffman, Lorin Cope, Ron Hill, and Sue Leary. I've continued to rely on this team of wise and wonderful people, and there is no way I could have staffed the churches in the MMS on a part-time basis without them. I'm also grateful for the continued work of Karen Miller, who reads ministerial profiles with me and helps recommend our churches to ministers in Search and Call.

Here are some of the Search and Call successes of the past eight months:

- St. Phillips UCC in St. Louis and Faith UCC in Wentzville successfully completed their searches, calling settled pastors this Spring. (Zion UCC in Florissant, Ebenezer UCC in Levasy, and St. Lucas in St. Louis called settled pastors just before I began my tenure in the Fall.)
- We developed clearer systems for churches calling pastors to short-term Interim and Supply positions. All short-term positions can now be posted at ucc.org.
- We began conversations with churches considering shared ministry with other local churches. David Poe helped organize two Town Hall meetings in the Eastern Association.
- Several MIDs have sought support as they move into Search and Call. I've helped with profile building and candidating, and hope to have more MIDs seek these supports in the coming year.
- We've worked to normalize the process for ministers from our Ministry Partner and Formula of Agreement denominations seeking churches in the UCC. We've also worked to build trust and encourage best-practices with our churches who are considering non-UCC candidates, getting COMs involved earlier.
- The national setting of the UCC published the Guides to Search and Call. These are short booklets that help make the paths for ministers and churches in Search and Call clearer.

Looking to the coming year, I see the following challenges and opportunities:

- We continue to work with our COMs to have better systems and clearer recommendations for churches needing substitute preachers.
- We see more pastors reaching retirement and more small churches that can no longer support full-time settled calls. This trend will continue.
- Nia Chandler and I are working with the COMs and with the national setting of the UCC to develop Webinars and supports for MIDs seeking non-traditional ministry settings.
- I will be developing Webinars with best-practices for churches seeking supply pastors, and ministers serving as supply pastors.

Rev. Nia Chandler, Minister for Authorized Ministry Development

Committee on Ministry Meetings – Attend (4) Committee on Ministry meetings each month since October 2017 with primary responsibility for oversight of the Committees on Ministry (COM) and ministry development for MMS authorized ministers.

Prepared and presented workshops at COM Retreat on Racial Justice & Equity, Alternative Paths to Ordained Ministry, and shared in presentation on New Manual on Ministry.

Worked with COMs in providing situational support to authorized ministers and churches.

Ordinations since October 2017 (2)

- **October 29, 2017** - Ordination of Bethany Meier of the Western Association.
- **November 5, 2017** - Ordination of Jacquelyne Delores Tyler of the St. Louis Association.

Installations since October 2017(6)

- **October 29, 2017** - Installation of Rev. Bethany Meier
- **November 12, 2017** - Installation of Rev. Jacquelyne Delores Tyler of the St. Louis Association.
- **November 12, 2017** - Installation of Rev. Jeanne Lischer of Western Association.
- **November 19, 2017** - Installation of Rev. Rebecca Turner of the St. Louis Association.
- **November 19, 2017** – Installation of Rev. Jodi-Furnas Wright of Western Association
- **April 4, 2018** – Installation of Rev. Gary Schulte of the Eastern Association.

Members in Discernment

- Worked with several MIDs in each Association to build relations, resource and equip with key information related to MID process.
 - Western Association (WA) – 8 MIDs
 - Eastern Association (EA) – 3 MIDs
 - St. Louis Association (STLA) – 11 MIDs

Boundary Awareness Training - (6) BAT Events Since CAG 2017

- WA (2)
 - October 13, 2017 – St. John’s Chapel-Springfield, MO – 8 attendees
 - April 13, 2018 – Southwood UCC, Raytown, MO – 12 attendees
- EA (2)
 - September 28, 2017 at St. Johns UCC-St. Claire, MO – 14 attendees
 - April 12, 2018 at St. Peter’s UCC, Washington, MO – 15 attendees
- STLA (2)
 - October 14, 2017 at St. Peter’s UCC, St. Louis, MO – 14 attendees
 - April 26, 2018 at St. Lucas UCC, St. Louis, MO – 19 attendees
- Successfully assisted COMs in publishing BAT dates in January 2018 for the year to assist persons in having information to schedule/plan with advanced notice.
- Worked with BAT Facilitators from each of the MMSC Associations examining existing content and delivery, exploring options for modular based training in webinar format.
- Built all on-line BAT registration platforms which included pre-survey and developed communications to promote event
- On-going work with Rev. Mark Robinson and BAT Facilitators in gathering BAT Facilitators to develop solid curriculum offered in a myriad of formats in 2019.

Racial Justice & Equity Training (RJE)

- Worked with the Racial Justice & Equity Sub Committee to identify four criteria to guide curriculum development. Worked with ecclesial partner, Disciple of Christ to offer Anti-Racism and Reconciliation training June 6, 2018 at Columbia UCC.
- Built on-line RJE registration platform eventbee and developed communications to promote event

Conference Annual Gathering (CAG)

- Built on-line registration platform through eventbee and developed communications to promote event
- Prepared and executed CAG Technology proposal to include 6 areas of focus and Technology Team
 1. Technology/AV – Pure Sound/Larry Lee, II, Dionne Boyice, LeAundra Boyice, Tammy Linningham
 2. Social Media/Live Streaming –Bethany Meier
 3. PowerPoint Presentations –Judi Privitt
 4. Camera/Recording – Rev. Mark Robinson
 5. Registration – Nia Chandler
 6. MIDs in Worship – Nia Chandler/Bethany Meier

Persons in Ministry Retreat (PIM)

- Worked with PIM Planning Team to identify new location of 2018 PIM based on feedback from PIM 2017
- Built on-line PIM registration platform and developed eCourier communication to promote event

Information Reviews (IRs)

- Worked with MMSC Committees on Ministry to develop 2018 IR Form and process for gathering information to be input in DataHub/Scanned to Cloud Based Clergy Files

Communications Consultant

- Worked with Miken Technologies to renegotiate MMSC Technology Plan
- Developed Digitized Filing System for MMS Clergy Files
- On-going updates to established MMSC web-site and COM Covenanted Ministry Landing Pages
- Oversee development of weekly MMSC eCourier; work with Nathan Fulk and Communications Covenanted Ministry
- Developed (2) new ministry landing pages – Ambassadors covenanted ministry and Council for Health and Human Services (CHHSM)
- Installed MMSC Scanner
- Coordinated set-up of MMSC Grasshopper Phone System (digital cloud based phone system)

Rev. Nathan Fulk, Interim Executive Director & Pastor, Shannondale Community Center

2017 brought many changes to Shannondale. Pastor Jeff Fulk stepped down as Director and pastor and is currently Associate Pastor at Saron UCC in Linton Indiana. I am taking his place currently as Interim Executive Director & Pastor.

Since my arrival here, we have succeeded in obtaining brand new mattresses at our most used facility, our lodge and are currently busy getting new siding and windows to help lower the cost of heating and cooling. We have also experienced multiple work groups and fellowship groups who visit and work within the community in and around Shannondale.

Additionally, we held our Annual Men's Fellowship Retreat that brought people from all over Missouri to Shannondale to relax, work, and fellowship with one another. We are excited as the year progresses as we get more and more people visiting Shannondale.

We are also excited about our upcoming Annual Native Craft Workshop which will be attended by 175 people this summer, using all of the facilities at Shannondale. We also are quite proud of our management of our "Wobus Native Craft Center" where local artisans can sell handmade crafts and supplement their income.

Jeremy N. Force, Director of Outdoor Ministries, Camp MoVal

Summer Camp & Outdoor Ministry Programs

- Camp programs were very successful this summer. The Volunteer leadership has done an excellent job and our campers had a meaningful and great camp experience.
- The paid staff did a wonderful job. Having a program coordinator and an Activities Coordinator has made the program run well. I am very appreciative for all their challenging work to make camp a wonderful experience for all our campers.
- Our ACA visit went very well. I am very pleased with how the entire process went this year. The pre-visit went well, the staff and campers did an excellent job on visit day and overall, I believe that ACA accreditation is a wonderful asset for Camp MoVal.
- Attendance for our 2017 camping was 393 campers, we hosted 79 participants at CMSE, 91 participants at CYE and 79 women at this year's Annual Women's Retreat.

Financials

- Camp registrations met budget expectations in 2017 and our rental business did very well in 2017.
- The 2018 financials are looking fine at this point and we expect another descent year at Camp MoVal.
- I want to lift-up and thank everyone for their contributions to OCWM, we are very grateful at camp because OCWM allows Camp MoVal to keep our programs affordable. Without your generosity, this would not be possible.
- We are also starting the process to put together a long term strategic plan for Camp MoVal. We hope this process will put Camp MoVal on path for success long into the future.

Operations

- Physical plant is in good shape overall. Projects that have been completed in the past year are following:
 - Updates and expansion of our High Ropes Course.
 - New septic tanks at Red Cedar.
 - Two hundred feet of new water line from valve to front side of lakeside cabins.
 - Floors were stripped and waxed in Dinning Hall and Lakeside Cabins.
- . Projects that we are working towards in the next year:
 - Update and renovate Hilltop Lodge for more, large meeting space.
 - Exterior painting of Lakeside Lodge.
 - New sidewalk and lighting connecting Dinning Hall to Health Center.
 - Updates to our Challenge Course.
 - New Mattresses for Red Cedar.
- There is still many maintenance projects and general site upkeep that is continuous and ongoing. Many of these projects can be accomplished by volunteers and we are grateful for all the volunteer we receive.

Staffing

- I am blessed to have Marci and Jay on staff all year long with myself. Marci is our camp registrar, is my assistant when needed, and responsible for menus and food ordering outside the summer camp season. Jay is responsible for guest services, which includes housekeeping, guest hosting, and providing program support to our guests and assists with our summer camp program. Without the two of them, the ministry we provide would not be possible.
- I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to take sabbatical this past December. It was a wonderful time, I was able to relax, read, visit new and wonderful places. I have also been afforded to see life and ministry through a new lens. I really am grateful for this opportunity.
- I want to make time to travel to different regions of our conference in the next year to have conversations with our churches and members to hear their hopes, dreams and wishes for Camp MoVal and our outdoor ministry programs.
- I am also having a focused attention in the next year, especially around our website, social media and general communication needs for Camp MoVal. I hope to be rolling out some current updates in the next few months and start a monthly newsletter.
- Lastly, I just want to say thank you to everyone for the opportunity to serve all of you in this conference in our Outdoor Ministry Programs and at Camp MoVal.

Rev. Courtney Montgomery Chandler, Youth Events Coordinator

During the past year I have had the opportunity to worship with six congregations. I have also been able to attend one Association meeting and participate in planning meetings for the Youth Covenanted Ministry Team, CAG planning committee and the RYE planning committee meetings. I anticipate, and am excited about the opportunity for continued expansion and involvement.

Cindy Birkner, Youth Ministry Resource Coordinator

While still new to the Conference, I have kept busy attending the monthly Youth Covenanted Ministry meetings. I have certainly enjoyed my time thus far and look forward to furthering my involvement as the year progresses. Thanks to all for your continued support.